

Hard-Hitting Nationalist Will Not Head Interethnic Youth Commission

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Bosykh, in the black knit hat and olive jacket, is seen getting into a scuffle with filmmaker Taisiya Krugovykh during a protest in March against the detention of the punk band Pussy Riot.

The prime minister's spokeswoman on Monday dispelled a rumor that Alexander Bosykh, a controversial nationalist best known for punching a woman in the face, would head a state commission for interethnic youth relations.

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev "has never had and will never have" any plans to appoint Bosykh to that position, spokeswoman Natalya Timakova [told](#) Ekho Moskvy radio.

Bosykh, 33, is youth policy director at the Congress of Russian Communities, a nationalist political group. He is also an aide to Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin.

In March, Bosykh was photographed punching a woman in the face outside a Moscow

courthouse during a protest against the detention of punk band Pussy Riot.

Izvestia [reported](#) Friday that Bosykh might head the interethnic youth commission under the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs.

The commission will "establish contacts" in Russia's ethnic republics and first convene in Chechnya and Dagestan, Izvestia reported.

It will also help determine a new direction for its parent agency, likely to get a sizable budget cut following the departure of its leader, Vasily Yakemenko, Izvestia reported.

The commission is tasked with bringing youth groups and the annual Seliger summer camp, which Yakemenko had previously run as a personal fiefdom, more firmly under government control.

Izvestia cited a source close to the Kremlin and a United Russia lawmaker in the State Duma.

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