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Russian Court Sanctions Arrest of Ukrainian Nationalist Leader

By The Moscow Times

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A Moscow city court has sanctioned the arrest of a Ukrainian nationalist leader whom Moscow has accused of publicly encouraging acts of terrorism, while a Communist lawmaker urged Russian security services to send agents to Ukraine to "eliminate" the man.

The Basmanny court on Wednesday issued a warrant for the arrest of Dmytro Yarosh, leader of the Ukrainian paramilitary organization Right Sector, "in absentia," RIA Novosti reported. The court's ruling provides police with a simplified procedure for taking Yarosh into custody if he comes to Russia.

Yarosh was already on Russia's wanted list, along with fellow Right Sector leader Oleksandr Muzychko, for making "public appeals to commit acts of terrorism" on the group's page on the popular VKontakte social network.

Yarosh said that the message — which appealed to Chechen terrorist leader Doku Umarov —

was posted by hackers who broke into Right Sector's VKontakte account.

A State Duma lawmaker and deputy chief of the Communist Party, Valery Rashkin, said that the international arrest warrants Russia had issued for Yarosh and Muzychko were insufficient.

Moscow should begin "eliminating terrorists and [other] individuals who have committed major crimes against servicemen and civilians," he said in comments published on the Communist Party's website on Tuesday.

Yarosh and Muzychko are leaders of the Right Sector nationalist paramilitary movement, which was a major force in street protest movement that toppled former-Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych.

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