

Putin Toughens Bomb Hoax Punishments

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President Vladimir Putin has signed a law stiffening the punishments for those responsible for bomb scares.

The new <u>law</u>, published Monday on the government's legal information website, says that people convicted of causing the state "significant losses" by relaying false information about terrorist attacks now face a maximum of five years in prison and a fine of up to 1 million rubles (\$28,000).

Previously, culprits could get a maximum prison term of three years, while fines were capped at 200,000 rubles, Gazeta.ru reported.

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