

Man Detained for Pepper Spray Attack on Pro-Ukraine Rocker's Gig

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The  Moscow Times

Police said Friday they had detained a man suspected of releasing pepper spray at a concert by Russian rocker Andrei Makarevich in protest at the musician's stance on Moscow's actions in Ukraine.

The suspect, who hails from Russia's Komi republic, was detained following a joint raid at a property on Leninsky Prospekt by FSB operatives and local law enforcement officers, Interfax news agency reported, citing an Interior Ministry spokesman.

The suspect was later identified by an unidentified law enforcement source as 27-year-old Oleg Mironov, the report added.

Mironov is reportedly a member of the banned National Bolshevik Party, an opposition group established by writer-turned-politician Eduard Limonov that has staunchly backed the Kremlin's policy on Ukraine.

Makarevich, who found fame as the frontman for Soviet rock group Mashina Vremeni,

recently criticized Moscow's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine, drawing widespread condemnation at home.

His Yiddish Jazz show was disrupted for two hours last week after pepper spray was released at the Moscow venue, though the concert was eventually resumed at the audience's request, Interfax reported.

Following the attack, police opened a criminal investigation into hooliganism, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison.

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