Russian Police Frame Man as Nazi to Boost Stats

July 06, 2016

A policeman in Russia's Rostov region attempted to frame a man as a ⊠Nazi in order to boost local prosecution rates, a statement released by ⊠the Moscow-based SOVA Research Center said Tuesday evening.

The incident took place in January of last year, when the officer ⊠used a police database to find a Rostov resident previously convicted of⊠ inciting hatred online. The two struck a deal by which the officer ⊠would use the resident's VKontakte social network profile to post the ⊠swastika, and then pay the resident's inevitable fine.

However, the officer was unaware that the Rostov resident recorded ⊠their conversations. A local court found the officer guilty of abusing ⊠his power and of forgery. His sentence was eventually commuted and he ⊠was quickly pardoned.

The court heard that he had wanted to improve arrest statistics ⊠related to Russia's anti-extremism laws, which carry fines and jail time⊠ for spreading hate speech on the internet.

Ninety percent of all extremism–related convictions in 2015 involved ⊠internet activities, Alexander Verkhovsky, head of the SOVA Center, told⊠ the Moscow Times in March. More than half of those involved VKontakte.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2016/07/06/russian-police-frame-man-as-nazi-to-boost-stats-a5446 9