

Russian Activist Detained For Posting 'F-- the Church' Three Years Ago

April 14, 2017



Anton Vaganov / TASS

A teenage activist in the Siberian city of Irkutsk has been detained for “insulting the feelings of religious believers” in a social media post published more than three years ago.

Nineteen-year-old Dmitry Litvin said that police arrived at his home at 6 a.m. on Saturday morning. Officials interrogated him for nine hours before charging him in relation to a photo he had posted on Russian social network VKontakte, [the Deutsche-Welle news site reported](#).

The post showed an image of a raised middle finger superimposed onto a photograph of a church.

Related article: [Patriarch Kirill: From Ambitious Reformer to State Hardliner](#)

Litvin claims that the charges are being used as a pretext to hamper his work as an activist, including initiatives related the anti-corruption rallies which swept Russia on March 26.

"Offices seized items from me and my friends which couldn't have had anything to do with insulting the feelings of believers: megaphones, anarchist literature, anti-fascist stickers," Litvin said. "Most of the questions I faced were not related to the criminal case on which I was formally detained. It was obvious [that they were] were interested in our public activities."

If found guilty, Litvin [could face three years behind bars](#) or a fine of up to 500,000 rubles (≈\$8,900).

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2017/04/14/teenage-activist-jailed-for-social-media-post-offending-church-a57727>