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Russian Federal Agents Say They Have a New Jihadist Under Arrest

May 24, 2017



Valentin Tkachev / AP

Russian federal agents in Bashkortostan say they've arrested a man suspected of fighting with a Russian-speaking group tied to the terrorist organization al-Qaeda since at least 2014, the newspaper Kommersant reports. The Federal Security Service (FSB) has not named the individual, but a spokesperson says the suspect was detained earlier this month by guards while crossing the Turkish-Syrian border, before being returned to Russia.

The FSB says the man in custody has confessed to fighting with jihadists and is now cooperating with its investigation.

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The suspect allegedly fought with a small group called "The Army of Emigrants and Their Helpers," which two years ago pledged its allegiance to al-Qaeda, while also fighting with the Islamic State (another terrorist group outlawed in Russia).

According to Kommersant, Russian authorities in Bashkortostan also arrested a recruiter for the Islamic State.

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