

Tanzanian Detained at Russia-China Border While Posing as 'American Hacker'

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A citizen of Tanzania posing as an "American hacker" was detained by Russian border guards after attempting to illegally enter the country from China.

The 26-year-old man was fleeing from Chinese prosecutors attempting to arrest him for violating migration rules, the RIA Novosti news agency [reported](#), citing sources in the security services. He was captured 16 minutes after crossing the Russian border.

“The young man did not enter our country like all law-abiding citizens, using valid documents at a proper entry point, but by crossing fencing at the Russia-Chinese border under the cover of darkness,” a regional representative of the Federal Security Service (FSB), which controls border security, told RIA Novosti.

He was detained using a video locator and a service dog named Zhom, the representative

added.

Initially the Tanzanian national told border guards that he was an American citizen working in the IT-sector. Later he changed his story and said he was born in the United States and worked as a professional hacker, breaking into U.S. government websites and carrying out commercial espionage.

However, the U.S. Embassy in Russia informed the FSB that the man was not a U.S. citizen. Additionally, the detainee's Tanzanian passport appeared to be real. Russian authorities are currently investigating the matter.

If found guilty of illegally crossing the border, the man faces a fine of 200 thousand rubles (roughly \$3,300), two years in prison or two years of compulsory labor.

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