

'Godfather' of Russian Internet Nossik Dies of Heart Attack

July 09, 2017



Anton Nossik **Aleksandr Plyushchev / Wikicommons**

Anton Nossik, a Russian Internet entrepreneur who is often referred to as the godfather of the Russian Internet, died on Saturday night.

Nossik, 51, was with friends at a dacha when he suffered a sudden heart attack during the night of July 9, his wife confirmed to [RT](#) on Sunday. A prominent public figure and blogger, the news of Nossik's death was met with shock on social media.

"It's impossible to believe," opposition politician Ilya Yashin wrote on [Twitter](#). "Rest in peace, my friend."

Nossik was a widely respected media entrepreneur and the founder of several large news websites such as Lenta.ru and Gazeta.ru.

"It was Nossik who came up with [a vision for] Russian online media, and almost every single big outlet is still the same," fellow blogger and colleague Maxim Kononenko wrote on

[Lenta.ru](#).

"Nossik was a family friend," reacted opposition activist Alexei Navalny on his [blog](#). "He greatly influenced my views and actions related to the Internet and journalism. I'm sure many others will say the same. He didn't like it when people called him 'one of the founders of the RuNet,' but that's what he was."

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In recent years, Nossik became a prolific blogger, often writing posts that were critical of the government.

He was charged with inciting hatred for an online post "warmly welcoming" Russian air strikes in Syria in April last year. Prosecutors had asked for a two-year prison sentence for Nossik's post on his blog, titled "Erase Syria From the Face of the Earth," but he eventually got away with a [fine](#).

In the post, released the day after Russia started military operations in the country, Nossik compared Syria to Nazi Germany.

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