

Head of Prisoner Rights Group Romanova Flees Russia After Fraud Charges

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Olga Romanova (Zurab Javakhadze / TASS)

The head of the prisoner rights group Russia Behind Bars has fled to Germany after claiming she was falsely accused of embezzling state funds, the RBC business portal [reported](#) Wednesday.

Russia Behind Bars, a non-profit group founded in 2008, documents the mistreatment of prisoners in Russia.

Russia's Federal Corrections Service accused Olga Romanova of stealing state funds after searching her office in June.

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The NGO head, who does not believe she will get a fair trial, traveled to France and Italy after the searches this summer. She is currently in Germany where she has reportedly received a job offer from a German foundation.

Referencing a Russian proverb, Romanova [wrote](#) of the accusations on Facebook on Wednesday: "to prove that you are not a camel, it is good to be a non-camel in freedom."

"That's why I immediately left after the searches," Romanova wrote.

Although she has taken a leave of absence, Romanova said the group will continue its work.

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