

## **Russian Students Face Eviction During World Cup to House Security Forces**

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Artem Geodakyan / TASS

Students at Russian universities could be forced out of their dormitories during the 2018 World Cup to make room for military and police.

Russia will hold the World Cup between June 14 and July 15 in 11 host cities. Rental fees are expected to sky-rocket around and during the tournament.

Security forces are expected to move into the dormitories in mid-May, one month before Russia hosts the international football tournament, and to remain there until the end of July, the Kommersant newspaper <u>reported</u> on Friday.

The proposal to evict students comes from Russia's Education Ministry and the World Cup organizing committee, the report says.

The heads of the largest universities in host cities Nizhny Novgorod, Yekaterinburg and

Samara have already started to change their education programs and exam schedules to give students more time to move out before the World Cup.

Students from these cities, as well as Saransk, have sent calls for help to the Russian Student Union and the union's representatives responded by sending a letter to Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, asking him to prevent the eviction.

"Forced eviction of students from residences, including during vacation time, when many are doing internships or working, is illegal," wrote Vasily Mikhailov, head of the Russian Student Union.

He added that, if evicted, students will also miss the opportunity to attend the World Cup because they will be unable to find low rental prices elsewhere during the tournament.

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