

Russia's Supreme Court Overrules Deportation of Gay Journalist

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Ali Feruz **Alexander Avilov / Moskva News Agency**

Russia's Supreme Court has overruled the decision to deport Khudoberdi Nurmatov, a gay journalist who writes under the pen name Ali Feruz for the investigative Novaya Gazeta newspaper.

A Moscow city court ruled in August to forcibly deport Nurmatov to Uzbekistan, where he holds citizenship, for violating migration law, while his Russian asylum application was turned down by a court in October. The journalist's supporters say that he risks persecution and torture in Uzbekistan and have launched an international campaign in his defense titled: "We Don't Have the Right Not to Save Him."

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Russia's Supreme Court overturned Nurmatov's deportation order Monday, ruling that his case "had not received the necessary legal evaluation."

It urged the Moscow City Court to review a letter sent from the German Embassy confirming that Nurbatov has permission to reside in Germany.

The Supreme Court also said that the city court's indefinite extension of Nurmato's stay in a temporary holding facility for foreigners was "an unjustified restriction on his freedom."

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