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# Reports: Newspaper Edition Seized for Covering Unpopular Pension Reform

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**Sergei Vedyashkin / Moskva News Agency**

Copies of a newspaper in rural southern Russia were reportedly seized by authorities after it covered the government's controversial proposal to raise the retirement age, sparking censorship fears.

The government announced on June 14 its plan to increase the retirement age in the next decade, arguing that the reform would ease pressure on the national budget. But critics say the announcement was timed for the opening day of the World Cup in Russia to bury the highly unpopular news.

**Embed:**

> Правительство Ставропольского края настойчиво порекомендовало редакторам газет ничего не писать про пенсионную реформу, из-за

> «неправильной» статьи был снят целый тираж «Благодарненских вестей», – сообщил NewsTracker источник в правительстве края.https://t.co/h2SdqxHVVz pic.twitter.com/WMwmTPIze6
>
> — Newstracker.ru (@NewstrackerSMI) 25 июня 2018 г.

Authorities in the North Caucasus region of Stavropol "strongly recommended" that local newspaper editors avoid covering the reforms in case of unrest, a source in the regional administration told the local Newstracker.ru website Monday.

Many residents in the rural area rely on the local newspaper as their main source of information.

A regional publisher later reportedly withdrew copies of the Blagodarnenskiye Vesti newspaper after it was sent to print with an article headlined "Goal: Live to Retirement."

The publication was re-printed without the offending piece, the unnamed source told Newstracker.ru.

**Related article**: With Eyes on World Cup, Russia Moves to Raise Retirement Age

A search on the newspaper's website for the article yielded no results. The last time the publication covered the pension issue was in March 2017.

The regional administration source said Stavropol's elderly population, whose news diet largely relies on state-run outlets and who will be disproportionately affected by the pension reforms, can easily fall prey to state censorship.

With moves like the destruction of the newspaper, "they find themselves in an information vacuum," he told reporters.

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