

Russian Blogger Gets Suspended Sentence for 'Extremist' Religious Joke

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Ilya Maddison / Youtube

A Russian blogger has received a 1.5-year suspended sentence for hate speech over jokes that reportedly offended the country's Muslim population.

Last year, Russia blacklisted [two videos](#) in which Ilya Davydov, who performs standup comedy and blogs under the alias Ilya Maddyson, jokes about the Quran. Davydov was [reportedly](#) forced to flee Russia temporarily last year after receiving threats following the publication of one of the videos.

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A court in Moscow found Davydov guilty of criminal extremism charges for one of the two blacklisted videos, the state-owned Ren-TV broadcaster [reported](#) Monday. [Court records](#) indicate it took effect on May 29.

Davydov's admission of guilt served as a mitigating circumstance, a court spokeswoman [told](#) the state-run RIA Novosti news agency.

The sentence follows a high-profile incident last year in which a popular comedy show was [forced to issue a public apology](#) after facing online threats for a sketch [depicting](#) an escort from Russia's Muslim republic of Ingushetia.

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