

Siberian 'Mobster' Killed After Attacking Soldiers at Train Station

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Yuri Smityuk / TASS

A man described as a local Siberian “criminal kingpin” has been killed in a shootout with troops guarding a train following an altercation at a local station.

Military investigators said the guards opened fire at a group of 10 men armed with rocks who ignored warning shots and attempted to storm the train on a stopover in Zabaikalsky region. The killed man had a criminal record and was drunk when he was shot dead early Monday, the Russian Investigative Committee’s military branch [said](#).

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Local media said a conflict with troops en route to the Vostok-2018 military drills broke out at a Petrovsk-Zabaikalsk train station cafe where the victim was celebrating his 29th birthday.

“After an argument, two soldiers were stabbed [at the cafe], and they ran back... The locals chased them and were met by a sentry,” the Chita.ru news website quoted the head of the city, Alexander Taranov, as [saying](#).

“One shot in the air, but they apparently weren’t convinced and kept rushing toward the train carriage,” he added.

“The sentry fired: one dead body, one wounded.”

The city’s emergency dispatch center [told](#) Interfax–Siberia that the victim, nicknamed “Zhdanchik,” was a high-profile figure in the local criminal underworld. The state-run RIA Novosti news agency [identified](#) him as Anton Zhdanov.

Witnesses told the outlet that Zhdanov had gotten into a tussle with the soldiers, who had reportedly tried to strike up a conversation with women at the station.

“Anton felt like he ran the city,” a Petrovsk–Zabaikalsk resident named Andrei was quoted as saying. “He got away with a lot of things.”

Some 4,000 miles from Moscow, Zabaikalsky region has been [described](#) as “ground zero” of the underground criminal culture that goes by the slogan AUE, which stands for "Arestantsky. Uklad. Edin," or "Prison. Order. Universal."

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