

Siberian Region Bans Migrant Workers Amid Tensions Over Rape Case

March 28, 2019



Moskva News Agency

A Siberian region rocked by allegations that Central Asian migrants raped a local woman has banned foreign workers from being employed in 33 fields.

Earlier this month, three suspects believed to be from Kyrgyzstan were detained on charges of kidnapping and raping a resident of Yakutsk, sparking [rallies](#) and raids against migrants.

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Sakha Governor Aysen Nikolayev on Wednesday [signed](#) a decree that bars migrant workers from sectors including transport, commerce, construction and agriculture.

The bans apply to migrants who hold special work patents, as well as [citizens](#) of Azerbaijan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine.

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Regional employers have been given three months to fire migrant workers employed in the specified fields, the decree said.

Officials in the republic of Sakha [said](#) the employment bans are unrelated to the recent surge in anti-migrant sentiments, adding that such bans [date](#) back at least two years in the region.

The bans, [designed](#) to boost native employment in specific lines of work, [expanded](#) from 14 areas of activity in 2017 to 16 in 2018.

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