

Russian Celebrity Stylist Fined for Lake Baikal Bottling Plant Picket

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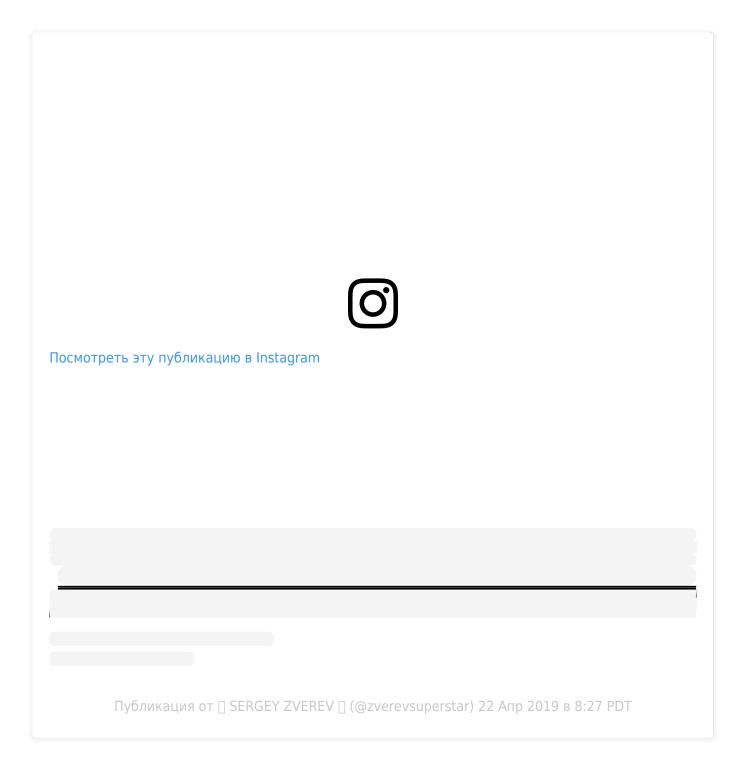


Sergei Zverev Moskva News Agency

Famous Russian stylist Sergei Zverev has been fined for staging a one-person picket in Moscow against a Chinese bottling plant near his hometown on Lake Baikal earlier this year.

Zverev was <u>described</u> as an "unlikely activist" against the bottling plant in the world's largest freshwater lake outside a village where he was born 55 years ago. Construction of the controversial plant in Irkutsk region was <u>suspended</u> after the issue gained international attention, an accomplishment that some Russian outlets <u>credited</u> Zverev for achieving.

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"The mass construction of plants bottling water for China should be stopped, otherwise it'll become a global catastrophe for all of humanity," he said at the time.

On Monday, a Moscow court fined Zverev 15,000 rubles (\$230) for his <u>protest</u> on Red Square against the bottling plant in March.

He was found guilty of violating picket rules for delivering his message outside the Kremlin's walls, Interfax <u>reported</u>.

"If any actions were required for my homeland, my country and everyone would understand that a lot depended on them for the people, then I think I would have done the same thing," Zverev told reporters outside the courthouse.

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