

Russian LGBT Activist Killed After Being Listed on 'Saw'-Inspired Gay Hunting Site

July 23, 2019



Yelena Grigoryeva **Dinar Idrisov / Facebook**

A prominent Russian LGBT activist who had been featured on a blocked website that encourages people to “hunt down” sexual minorities has been killed in St. Petersburg.

The website, inspired by the “Saw” horror film franchise and which encourages visitors to track down and assault people believed to be LGBT, was [blocked](#) in Russia last week.

Related article: ['She Was Not Afraid to Tell The Truth': Russia Reacts to LGBT Activist's Gruesome Killing](#)

Yelena Grigoriyeva was found with multiple stab wounds and signs of strangulation near her home over the weekend, fellow activists said on social media.

The activist had regularly received death threats and reported them to the police, who did

nothing to protect her before she was murdered, fellow activist Dinar Idrisov [wrote](#) on Facebook on Monday.

“A reminder: Yelena was listed on the homophobic ‘Saw’ website which has long threatened LGBT activists across the country,” photojournalist Georgy Markov [wrote](#).

Grigoriyeva had been stabbed at least eight times, the St. Petersburg Fontanka.ru news website [reported](#).

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On Thursday, Russia's Investigative Committee said it had [detained](#) a 38-year-old native of Kyrgyzstan as the main suspect in Grigoriyeva's killing. Investigators said they had evidence to prove that her death was the result of a domestic dispute and that she had been familiar with the suspect.

Grigoriyeva had maintained an active stance on a range of issues, according to the Mediazona news website. It [reported](#) that over the past year she had been detained at rallies against torture and the Chechen–Ingush land swap, as well as at LGBT protests.

Rights activists [say](#) violent homophobic attacks have become more frequent since Russia banned “homosexual propaganda” toward minors in 2013. Recent polling [suggested](#) that Russian attitudes toward equal rights for LGBT people were at a 14-year high.

This story was updated on July 25, 2019, to add details about the detained suspect from the Investigative Committee's statement.

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