

Russia Orders Deportation of U.S. Academics Over University Lecture

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A Russian court has ordered the deportation of five U.S. academics for allegedly giving a lecture at a university on a tourist visa, according to local media reports and court [documents](#).

The deportation order in the city of Ryazan 200 kilometers south of Moscow comes months after a government order which advised state-affiliated scientists to avoid contacts with foreign colleagues. Russia's Education Ministry later [backtracked](#) on the advisory, while the Kremlin [said](#) that Russia must be vigilant in protecting its industrial secrets against foreign intelligence.

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Ryazan's Sovetsky district court fined and ordered to deport five University at Buffalo professors and executives within five days, the city's Vid Sboku news website [reported](#) Wednesday.

“The Americans were charged with teaching activities that don’t correspond to their status in the country,” the outlet reported. “They were taken to a temporary detention center for foreign citizens, then put on trial.”

A student and a professor at the Ryazan branch of Moscow’s Polytechnic University reportedly told the court that the academics had given a lecture there.

The Ryazan-based business support group that organized the American academics’ visit had [billed](#) last Friday’s talk by Molly Anderson, head of the University at Buffalo’s leadership and organizational effectiveness center, and Charles Lindsey, its school of management’s marketing professor, as a lecture.

Anderson and Lindsey, as well as UB school of management instructors Mary Ann Rogers and Courtney Walsh and sports medicine executive Maria Gambino, “met with the students of Ryazan’s universities,” the Delovaya Rossiya business group [said](#) afterward.

Delovaya Rossiya [did not mention](#) the deportation order in a statement canceling Monday’s talks with Ryazan’s business community, writing only that “the delegation was forced to leave Russia.”

Court documents say the judgment was handed out Tuesday.

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