Jailed Russian Neo-Nazi Found Dead in Apparent Suicide

September 16, 2020

Maxim Martsinkevich **Anton Novoderzhkin / TASS**

A convicted Russian neo-Nazi has been found dead in what appears to be a suicide inside his jail cell in the Urals region of western Siberia, prison authorities [confirmed](#) Wednesday.

Maxim Martsinkevich, who went by the nickname *Tesak* (Russian for machete), was serving a 10-year sentence for a violent attack on synthetic cannabinoids dealers. Martsinkevich, 36, had three prior convictions relating to extremism and inciting hatred.

Related article: [Anti-Gay Russian Vigilante Arrested in Cuba](#)

Martsinkevich was found dead in a pre-trial detention center in the Chelyabinsk region, where he was due to be transferred to Moscow for questioning as part of a criminal case opened in 1999, Interfax reported.

Investigators have launched a [preliminary inquiry](#) into Martsinkevich's apparent suicide.

Martsinkevich's lawyer Ivan Sidorov told Interfax that his client had "no reason" to commit suicide and alleged that "someone may have helped him."

The state-run RIA Novosti news agency cited regional human rights officials in saying that neither Martsinkevich nor his friends had any complaints prior to his death.

Conflicting reports said that Martsinkevich may have left a suicide note allegedly [asking](#) to give a private diary and a book on communism to his wife, according to the Meduza news website.

During his lifetime, Martsinkevich had gained notoriety for founding a group that organized vigilante attacks on gay men and alleged pedophiles.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/09/16/jailed-russian-neo-nazi-found-dead-in-apparent-suicide-a71461