

'Blame the Russian Federation for My Death,' Journalist Writes Before Self-Immolation

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Irina Slavina died at the scene. **Irina Slavina / VK**

A Russian journalist has died after setting herself on fire outside police headquarters in the city of Nizhny Novgorod, Russian media [reported](#) Friday.

Irina Slavina, the editor-in-chief of the KozaPress news outlet died at the scene, the Baza and 112 Telegram channels [reported](#).

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“I ask you to blame the Russian Federation for my death,” Slavina, 47, [wrote](#) on her Facebook page about an hour before her death.

The previous day, she [said](#) local security forces raided her home in search of evidence of her involvement with the opposition.

“They were looking for brochures, leaflets, invoices of [pro-democracy movement] Open Russia, possibly an icon with the face of [exiled oligarch] Mikhail Khodorkovsky,” she wrote following the early-Thursday raid.

“I don't have any of this,” she wrote in her Facebook post. “But they took away what they found — all the flash drives, my laptop, my daughter's laptop, the computer, phones — not just mine, but also my husband's — a bunch of my notebooks that I scribbled on during press conferences. I'm left without the means of production.”

Regional investigators [confirmed](#) Slavina's death and are now investigating the circumstances surrounding it.

Pavel Chikov, head of the international human rights group Agora, [wrote](#) that the organization previously worked with Slavina after the authorities opened cases against her for "disrespect for the authorities" and spreading "fake news." The group had filed a complaint to the European Court of Human Rights on her behalf, he added.

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