

Russia Dismisses Links to Chechen Accused of Beheading French Teacher

By [AFP](#)

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Flowers at the school in a Paris suburb where 47-year-old Samuel Paty was killed Friday evening. **AP / TASS**

An 18-year-old Chechen accused of beheading a teacher near his school in a Paris suburb received asylum in France and had no links to Russia, a Russian diplomat said on Saturday.

"This crime has no relation to Russia because this person had lived in France for the past 12 years," the spokesman for the Russian embassy in Paris, Sergei Parinov, told state news agency TASS.

Identifying the suspect — who was fatally wounded by police — as Abdulkh Anzorov, Parinov said his family arrived in France when Anzorov was six and requested asylum.

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The young man received a residence permit this year, he added.

"He had no contacts with the [Russian] embassy," Parinov said.

He said it was "important not where a person was born" but when and why he embraced "terrorist ideology."

On Friday, 47-year-old teacher Samuel Paty was decapitated outside his school in Conflans-Sainte-Honorine, northwest of the French capital.

The attacker was shot by police as they tried to arrest him and later died of his injuries.

The teacher had been the target of online threats for having shown pupils cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed in class.

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