

Russian Actor Stirs Controversy By Comparing Unvaccinated Public to Jews in WWII

June 23, 2021



Yegor Beroyev compared the Russian capital's latest measures to the Holocaust. **Instagram / egorberoev**

A famous Russian actor sparked criticism after he took to the stage to slam Moscow's restrictions for unvaccinated people while [wearing](#) a yellow Star of David badge at an awards ceremony Tuesday night.

Yegor Beroyev compared the Russian capital's latest measures to the Holocaust at the World War II-themed TEFI TV awards on the 80th anniversary of the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union.

"I woke up in a world where [the vaccine has] become an identification mark," Beroyev said, donning a gold Star of David patch on his breast pocket similar to those that Jews were forced to wear during the Holocaust.

Related article: [Russia Reintroduces Coronavirus Restrictions: All You Need to Know](#)

Earlier that day, Moscow announced that restaurants will restrict entry to either vaccinated patrons or those with documented proof that they're Covid-free starting from next Monday, June 28. More than a dozen other regions have mandated vaccinations for certain categories of workers or introduced restrictions for unvaccinated residents.

Beroyev criticized the restrictions as a form of discrimination that will determine “whether you're a citizen or you'll be sent to a reservation, whether you'll be allowed to attend places and events, and whether you'll enjoy all your rights and benefits.”

“How could we, the descendants of [World War II] victors, allow that?” the actor, famous for his leading role in the 2005 blockbuster “[Turkish Gambit](#),” said to applause.

“Don't allow us to be separated from you, don't allow the segregation of society,” Beroyev said, according to a video published by the Ura.ru news website.

Leaders of Russia's Jewish community criticized Beroyev's speech as “[extreme](#)” and “[unethical](#),” saying anti-coronavirus measures are incomparable to the Holocaust, during which 6 million Jews were killed.

The Kremlin [warned](#) of “inevitable discrimination” for Russians who refuse to get vaccinated as it oversaw an abrupt policy shift from promising voluntary vaccinations to mandating jabs for certain workers within the span of a week.

“The reality is such that discrimination will inevitably set in,” President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Tuesday, according to a Reuters translation.

“People without vaccination or immunity will not be able to work everywhere. It is not possible. It will pose a threat to those around them.”

Peskov followed up on Wednesday with remarks that Russia does not plan to reintroduce a nationwide lockdown to curb the country's “explosive” spread of Covid-19.

Hours after his daily briefing, the Far East republic of Buryatia 6,000 kilometers from Moscow became the first of Russia's federal subjects to reintroduce its region-wide lockdown.

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