

## Russian State Media War Reporter Defends Nazi Tattoos

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## **GLEB ERVE / instagram**

A Russian journalist covering Moscow's invasion of Ukraine for state media has said that he "doesn't regret" his time in a far-right group after being pictured with Nazi tattoos.

Gleb Erve currently covers the conflict — which the <u>Kremlin claims</u> was launched to "denazify Ukraine" — for the state-run RIA Novosti news agency.

Ukrainian news outlet Kyivskaya Pravda <u>published</u> images showing fascist and nazist symbols tattooed on Erve's head and arm. They are the emblem of the Italian National Fascist Party <u>tattooed</u> on the back of his head and the Algiz, or Life rune, widely <u>used</u> in Nazi Germany, on <u>his hand</u>.

Writing on the Telegram messaging app, Erve did not deny having the tattoos but <u>said</u> he left the far-right three years ago after feeling "<u>disappointed</u>" in the movement.

"Do I regret this story? No. Simply because it was an experience, a very unusual one," Erve

said in an interview with the state-run news outlet Sputnik.

He also claimed that his background helped him interview captives from Ukraine's Azov Battalion — a group with far-right roots that has since been incorporated into the Ukrainian military — and search for "nationalist" literature in Ukraine.

Before joining RIA Novosti, Erve worked at a Moscow tattoo salon alongside Andrei Dedov, an ally of Russian Nazi activist Maxim "Tesak" Martsinkevich, Novaya Gazeta Europe <u>later</u> reported.

Martsinkevich has been charged twice with inciting ethnic or racial hatred, while unconfirmed reports have linked Dedov to several murder cases.

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