

Russia Opens First Criminal Draft-Dodging Case

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Russian military service card. **Sergei Kiselev / Moskva News Agency**

The first criminal case for evading mobilization opened in the southern Russian city of Penza on Wednesday, human rights lawyer Pavel Chikov [wrote](#) on his Telegram channel.

The case centers on a 32-year-old man who allegedly refused to sign a summons to the local conscript office and was subsequently detained by the OMON, a special police force commonly described as the riot police.

The man, who has now been in detention for two days, faces a fine of up to 200,000 rubles (\$3,407) or up to two years in prison if convicted.

According to Chikov, the case was brought under a criminal law that applies only to citizens who evade standard military conscription rather than mobilization.

The suspect's lawyer has filed a petition for the termination of the criminal prosecution.

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