

State TV Journalist Who Denounced War in Ukraine Flees Russia

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Marina Ovsyannikova. **Annette Riedl / dpa / picture-alliance / TASS**

Former Russian state television journalist Marina Ovsyannikova, 44, has escaped house arrest and left Russia, her lawyer Dmitry Zakhvatov [told](#) Russian media outlet Avtozaklive on Monday.

"Marina Ovsyannikova was forced to leave Russia and is now safe, under the protection of a European country," Zakhvatov said.

The former editor on Russian state TV's flagship news program Vremya ('Time) shot to fame around the world in March when she interrupted a live broadcast holding up a poster reading "No war, stop the war, don't believe the propaganda, they are lying to you here," in an act of protest seen by millions.

Related article: [Russian Court Places TV Protester Ovsyannikova Under House Arrest](#)

While Ovsyannikova's protest got her fired from her job and fined, she remained at liberty until August, when she was placed under house arrest for staging a solo anti-war protest near the Kremlin in which she held up a poster reading "Putin is a murderer. His soldiers are fascists."

Ovsyannikova was later accused of disseminating "fake news" with the protest, a criminal offense in Russia punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

Ovsyannikova escaped house arrest with her 11-year-old daughter, who was ordered to live with Ovsyannikova's ex-husband, a journalist for state-run channel RT, by a [Moscow court](#) on Monday. Ovsyannikova's disappearance led to her being [put](#) on Russia's wanted list, with many subsequently speculating that she had left Russia.

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