

Funeral of Senior Russian-Installed Kherson Official Held in Crimea

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Senior Russian-installed officials in occupied Ukraine attend Kirill Stremousov's funeral. **Sergei Malgavko / TASS**

Kirill Stremousov, the deputy head of the Moscow-installed administration in the occupied Kherson region of Ukraine, was buried in the Crimean city of Sevastopol on Friday, state-run news agency RIA Novosti [reported](#).

Stremousov, 45, died in an apparent car accident near the town of Henichesk on Wednesday, [according](#) to local officials.

The funeral ceremony was attended by the Kremlin's first deputy chief of staff, Sergei Kiriyenko; the Russian-appointed governors of the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions, Vladimir Saldo and Yevgeny Balitsky; and the head of Russian-annexed Crimea, Sergei Aksyonov.

Stremousov is the most senior Russian-appointed official in occupied Ukraine to die since the start of the invasion. Known for being an anti-vaxxer before the war, he enthusiastically

welcomed the arrival of Russian forces in Kherson in March.

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"His main task was to serve the people, serve his country, his city. He walked the path of service honestly to the very end," Kirienko [said](#) at the funeral ceremony.

Known for his extreme anti-Ukrainian rhetoric, Stremousov was one of a group of officials that the Kremlin had instructed state-run media outlets to quote less frequently just days before his death, independent media outlet Meduza [reported](#).

Last month Stremousov openly criticized Russia's Defense Ministry and its actions in Kherson in a Telegram [post](#), condemning the country's "mediocre military leaders."

As the deputy head of the pro-Russian Kherson administration, Stremousov was involved in the holding of a referendum on whether the region should join the Russian Federation in September.

The referendum, in which joining Russia was backed by some 87% of those who voted, was widely-criticized as a "sham" by the international community.

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