

Pro-War Russian Nationalist ‘Executed’ in Eastern Ukraine

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Igor Mangushev. t.me/BeregTime

A Russian pro-war nationalist mercenary has died from a gunshot wound to the head in eastern Ukraine in what his family called an assassination, state media [reported](#) Wednesday.

Igor Mangushev, 36, was [hospitalized](#) over the weekend after an apparent “execution-style” shooting at close range at a checkpoint in the Russian-occupied Luhansk region.

Citing his friend Akim Apachev, the Russian state-run RIA Novosti news agency said Wednesday that Mangushev has succumbed to his gunshot wounds.

Mangushev’s colleagues among Russian pro-war correspondents and military bloggers [said](#) he died at 6 a.m. Moscow time.

His wife [claims](#) Mangushev was the victim of an execution, while friends and colleagues criticized the lack of a proper investigation into his shooting.

Mangushev was described as a political strategist who had done disinformation work for

Wagner mercenary group founder Yevgeny Prigozhin's media arm and co-founder of the Russian nationalist mercenary outfit Enot.

During the war in Ukraine, media outlets have referred to Mangushev as the commander of a pro-Russian Luhansk region unit and commander of the Russian army's "anti-drone" platoon.

He gained notoriety for a standup routine last summer in which he brandished what he claimed was the skull of a Ukrainian soldier.

The British defense ministry [said](#) in December that Wagner "likely" threatens its fighters with summary execution for deserting or deviating from their assault routes.

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