

Russia Deports German Citizen on 'LGBT Propaganda' Charges

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Eduardo Pastor / unsplash

A German national convicted of "LGBT propaganda" has been deported from Russia's Far East, state media <u>reported</u> Tuesday, citing regional prison authorities.

Media in the Kamchatka region identified the man as Alexander Daniel Roth, 40, according to the state-run RIA Novosti news agency. Roth reportedly coordinated the German language program for the education ministry of the German state of Baden-Württemberg.

The foreigner will return home via Moscow and Turkey on Tuesday evening, RIA Novosti quoted the regional branch of Russia's Federal Court Marshals Service as saying.

A Kamchatka region court found the man <u>guilty</u> in early April of promoting homosexuality to a local resident via social media.

The defendant, who pleaded guilty, was ordered to be deported and fined 150,000 rubles (\$1,900).

Related article: Russian Court Rules to Deport Chinese LGBT Blogger

The incident is at least the second deportation of a foreign national from Russia on charges of LGBT propaganda in less than a month.

A court in central Russia ruled in early April to deport Chinese blogger Haoyang Xu for documenting his openly gay lifestyle with a Russian partner.

The rulings come months after Russia expanded its controversial "gay propaganda" law — which in its first iteration aimed to protect minors — to ban nearly all public expression of LGBT relationships and lifestyles.

The new rules allow Russia to expel foreigners who violate the so-called "gay propaganda" law.

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