

Russian TV Comics' Kazakh Tour Canceled After Visit to Occupied Ukraine

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Azamat Musagaliev **Social media**

Organizers in Kazakhstan have canceled a popular Russian sketch comedy group's tour following backlash over its visit to Russian-occupied Ukrainian territory, Kazakh media [reported](#) Thursday.

Kamyzyaki, veterans of Russia's longest-running comedy television show KVN, [performed](#) and gave [interviews](#) last weekend at a World War II event in Donetsk, an eastern Ukrainian region partially controlled by Russian forces.

Social media users accused Kamyzyaki of supporting Russia's invasion of Ukraine and [demanded](#) that the group scrap its shows in Kazakhstan scheduled for early October.

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"In view of the high-profile negative feedback on the public actions of Kamyzyaki, the team

of organizers has decided to completely cancel its tour in Kazakhstan,” organizer Olga Lee [said](#) on Instagram.

Kamyzyaki’s leader, Azamat Musagaliyev, is an ethnic Kazakh from southern Russia’s Astrakhan region.

Kazakhstan and its Central Asian neighbors have regularly [canceled](#) entertainment events involving pro-war figures since the start of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

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In Russia, a number of prominent cultural figures who publicly oppose the invasion of Ukraine while remaining in the country have faced backlash, canceled performances and fines.

Kazakhstan has walked a diplomatic [tightrope](#) of maintaining friendly ties with Russia while staying neutral on the conflict.

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