

Russia Detains Passport-Burning Singer Upon Arrival in St. Petersburg

November 22, 2023



Singer Charlot. [sharl.ot](#) / [Instaram](#)

Russian singer Eduard Sharlot was [detained](#) upon his arrival in St. Petersburg from Armenia, where he had published a video of himself burning his Russian passport, media reported Wednesday.

In the passport-burning [video](#) published on Instagram in June, Sharlot, 25, uses a lighter to set his passport aflame before addressing the Ukrainian government, saying in the caption that he opposes the war and wants to go to Kyiv.

The video's caption was later edited to simply say “I HAD AN ORGASM.”

His arrest follows a complaint filed by Yekaterina Mizulina, head of the Kremlin-aligned Free Internet League, to Russia’s Investigative Committee and Interior Ministry this month, the U.S.-funded Radio Svoboda news outlet [reported](#).

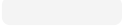
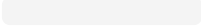

The complaint asked them to investigate “the actions of the blogger Sharlot, who publicly


discredited the Russian army, offended the feelings of believers and deliberately burned the passport of a Russian citizen.”

Sharlot was [sentenced](#) to 13 days of administrative arrest on charges of swearing and harassing citizens Wednesday.

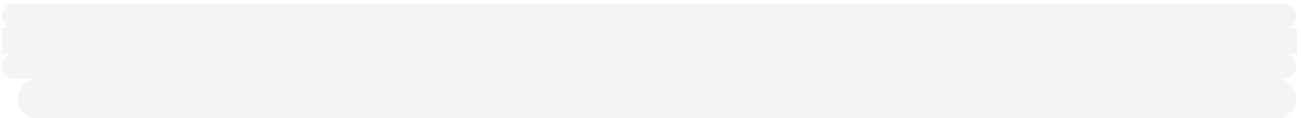
On Friday, authorities opened criminal cases of justifying Nazism and insulting religious believers' feelings against the singer, Mizulina [said](#).

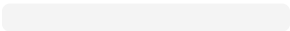
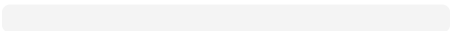
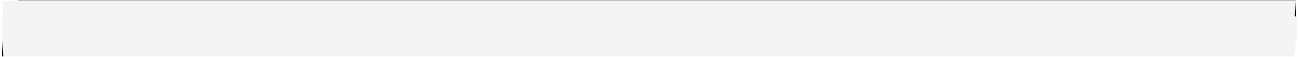
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[View this post on Instagram](#)





A post shared by @sharl.ot

In a subsequent video [posted](#) in July, Sharlot sings to the Federal Security Service (FSB) and destroys a confetti-filled, vaguely humanoid figure labeled “FSB.”

The caption details how, after the passport burning, someone from the FSB tricked Sharlot into sharing his thoughts and plans by acting as though he would collaborate in anti-war activities and help Sharlot move to Kyiv.

A post from this week [shows](#) his return ticket, with a caption that says he is coming back to Russia to fight for Russian-language culture and release a new album “in the context of a non-political routine.”

A video published by Ren-TV on Wednesday showed Sharlot escorted in handcuffs through Pulkovo Airport by what appears to be at least six law enforcement officers.

Following the arrest, police recorded a video in which Sharlot apologizes for burning his passport, saying he misunderstood what was happening and had been “mistakenly obsessed with false information.”

“Sorry,” he says. “I won’t do it again.”

The Kremlin’s wartime crackdown on dissenting voices has expanded to target a widening group of people this year.

Figures ranging from prominent opposition mayor [Yevgeny Roizman](#) and a man who [dreamed](#) about Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to a pro-war [journalist](#) and a [woman](#) who got into an argument at a Moscow coffee shop have been charged with discrediting the army.

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