

Finland Refuses Russian Nationalist Fighter's Extradition to Ukraine – Reports

December 08, 2023



Yan Petrovsky. **Social Media**

A court in Finland has refused to extradite a Russian nationalist fighter to Ukraine and ruled to release him from detention, Finnish media [reported](#) Friday.

Since 2016, Ukrainian authorities have sought the arrest of Yan Petrovsky, a Russian-Norwegian national, on terrorism charges, accusing him of assisting pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine as a member of the far-right group Rusich in 2014-15.

Finnish border agents detained Petrovsky at Helsinki Airport in July as he boarded a flight to France, charging him with violating immigration rules.

Petrovsky, who is under Western sanctions, was [reportedly](#) able to cross into Finland with his wife and three children after changing his identity documents under the new name of Voislav Torden.

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Finland's Supreme Court cited "conditions in Ukrainian prisons" for its refusal to hand Petrovsky over to Ukraine, according to the Finnish newspaper Helsingin Sanomat.

The court ordered Petrovsky's immediate release in a decision his lawyer Heikki Lampela described as a "victory."

Petrovsky is described as the co-founder of Rusich, which is believed to have fought on the side of pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine since 2014, as well as alongside Russian troops in Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Rusich members regularly [display](#) far-right symbols and have been [accused](#) of war crimes in Ukraine.

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