

Russia Seeks Arrests of 2 Animators, Ex-Lawmaker Gudkov

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Dmitry Gudkov. **Sergei Vedyashkin / Moskva News Agency**

Russian authorities have issued arrest warrants for two popular animators and exiled opposition politician Dmitry Gudkov, the independent news website Mediazona reported Tuesday.

The Russian Interior Ministry's wanted persons database [lists](#) Gudkov, who served in Russia's lower-house State Duma from 2011-16, alongside cartoonists [Oleg Kuvayev](#) and [Pavel Muntyan](#).

Kuvayev is the creator of the long-running flash-animated series "[Masyanya](#)," whose latest season is highly critical of Russia's 22-month invasion of Ukraine.

Russian authorities [blocked](#) the website that hosts Masyanya in the .ru domain one month into the invasion.

In October 2023, Kuvayev was reportedly [charged](#) with "public calls for actions aimed against

state security” in connection with a “Masyanya” episode that urged Russian soldiers to turn themselves in to the Ukrainian military.

Kuvayev, who lives in Israel, was [declared](#) a “foreign agent” last Friday.

Muntyan is the creator of another popular Russian web series “Mr. Freeman,” whose title character [appeared](#) in the music video for a 2023 anti-war song by veteran rapper Legalize.

Russian authorities have since [blocked](#) the music video — titled “Mir!! Vashemu!! Domu!!” (Peace to Your House) — inside the country.

Media outlets with links to Russia’s security services have [reported](#) that Muntyan was charged with spreading “fake news” about the Russian military in an April 2022 social media post. Muntyan was [labeled](#) a “foreign agent” in April 2023.

Russia’s Interior Ministry does not publish the specific criminal cases linked to its arrest warrants.

Gudkov [disclosed](#) in October that he had been charged with spreading “fake news” about the Russian military after discussing the military’s killings of Ukrainian civilians in an April 2022 YouTube video.

“A formal arrest warrant doesn’t change anything for me,” Gudkov [said](#) in response to Tuesday’s Interior Ministry notice.

“I have long been well aware that for me, the world is now limited to Europe, the U.S. and Canada,” Gudkov said.

Gudkov, 43, left Russia for Ukraine in 2021 after being detained — then suddenly released — under what he called a “fake” criminal case against him. He faced up to five years in prison over unpaid rent from 2015.

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