

Russian Anti-War Rock Band Bi-2 Faces Deportation in Thailand

January 30, 2024



Members of the rock band Bi-2. [b2band / Telegram](#)

The anti-war Russian-Belarusian rock band Bi-2 [said](#) Tuesday that its members face deportation from Thailand after they performed a concert on the resort island of Phuket last week.

Seven members of Bi-2, some of whom are dual citizens of Israel and Australia, were detained by Thai immigration authorities on Wednesday following the Phuket concert.

Bi-2 [said](#) its members were being held in Bangkok after the event's organizers allegedly failed to properly fill out paperwork.

On Friday, a Phuket court fined the band members \$84 each and ordered their deportation.

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Bi-2 [said](#) their deportation from the Southeast Asian country was still being worked out, denying [reports](#) from Israeli media that four band members would be sent to Israel instead of Russia.

The band said they had been due to be deported to Israel before “high-ranking diplomats from the Russian Embassy” [intervened](#) and the Thai authorities “canceled” that decision on Tuesday.

Initially, the musicians said the Israeli Foreign Ministry and diplomats in Thailand were involved in “resolving the situation.”

Bi-2 has been performing outside Russia since the country invaded Ukraine nearly two years ago.

It refused to appear on stage in front of the pro-war symbol “Z” at a concert in April 2022, after which venues across Russia began canceling their performances.

Russia’s Justice Ministry in May designated Bi-2’s lead singer Yegor Bortnik (who performs under the stage name Lyova Bi-2) a “foreign agent.”

Officials in Moscow have begun threatening Bi-2 with criminal persecution following news of the band members’ detention in Thailand.

Federal lawmaker Andrei Lugovoy [said](#) Tuesday that the “scumbag” Bi-2 members “will soon be tap-dancing in front of their cellmates” in Russia.

Russia’s Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova [accused](#) the musicians of “sponsoring terrorism.”

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