

Russian Police Target Romani Community in Fresh Raids, Seizing Weapons and Issuing Draft Notices

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FSB

Russian law enforcement officers [seized](#) weapons and handed out military summons to Roma amid a fresh wave of police raids in the Chelyabinsk region, where a murder last month ignited long-simmering ethnic tensions and sparked local reprisals against the local Romani community.

Chelyabinsk region police [have carried out](#) at least six “crime prevention” raids over the past three weeks, according to the news outlet 7x7. Nadezda Demeter, who serves as regional head of Russia’s largest Romani diaspora organization, [slammed](#) the ongoing police raids this week, describing the crackdown as collective punishment against Roma.

Police officers, Federal Security Service (FSB) agents and National Guard soldiers conducted checks of 70 people at 15 separate addresses in the town of Troitsk, according to an Interior Ministry statement [published](#) Friday. An accompanying video showed men in uniform

entering private homes, where male residents were shown standing or lying with hands behind their backs.

Troitsk was characterized as “a densely populated area of persons prone to illegal activities.” The Chelyabinsk region news website Kurs Dela [reported](#) that those targeted in the raids were Roma.

Related article: [Russian Police Raid Homes of Romani People After Ethnic Tensions Flare in Chelyabinsk Region](#)

Chelyabinsk’s regional Interior Ministry said an unspecified number of firearms, ammunition and other weapons were seized for inspection, including for possible arms trafficking violations.

Another unspecified number of residents were handed military summons, police said, adding that they plan to carry out more raids in the future.

Troitsk lies around 100 kilometers (57 miles) south of Korkino, where residents damaged property and clashed with riot police last month amid rumors that two Romani men stabbed a woman to death.

Regional investigators arrested a 17-year-old male on suspicion of killing the woman, a taxi driver who had been driving him home as a passenger. He was [placed](#) in pre-trial detention until Dec. 24.

Days later, Chelyabinsk region Governor Alexei Tekslar ordered police raids at the homes of Romani residents as he reprimanded local authorities for “failing to identify an ethnic conflict” that spilled out into violence.

The town’s mayor announced her resignation after federal investigators claimed local authorities ignored “long-standing concerns about the Romani community’s unlawful behavior.”

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