

Relatives of Exiled Pussy Riot Members Targeted in Police Searches

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Alina Petrova **Social media**

Law enforcement officials searched the homes of several relatives of exiled Pussy Riot members as part of a criminal investigation into the alleged distribution of “war fakes,” the protest group said Thursday.

Russia’s Interior Ministry [issued](#) international arrest warrants last year for Pussy Riot members Maria Alyokhina, Olga Borisova, Diana Burkot, Alina Petrova and Taso Pletner. In January, a Moscow court [ordered](#) all five women to be placed in pre-trial detention in absentia on charges of spreading “false information” about the military.

Borisova told The Moscow Times that police “stormed” the St. Petersburg apartment of her parents around 5 a.m. local time and looked through their personal electronic devices. She said the search lasted about four hours, but added that she did not know any further details.

An investigator reportedly [told](#) Alyokhina’s mother that the search of her home was related to her daughter’s anti-war [music video](#). Police also raided the home of Alyokhina’s father, who

the exiled news website Mediazona said is seriously ill and unable to walk.

Some law enforcement officials were [reportedly](#) wielding sledgehammers as they searched the home of a relative of Pletner in St. Petersburg. In the city of Yaroslavl, an investigator told Petrova's mother that her daughter had "danced naked in a church," referencing the group's 2012 protest performance in Moscow's Christ the Savior Cathedral.

At least one relative of a Pussy Riot member has been summoned by the police for questioning as a witness, Mediazona reported.

Under Russia's wartime censorship laws, spreading "false information" about the armed forces carries a maximum prison sentence of 10 years.

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