

Police Break Up Live Burial Ritual in Leningrad Region Woods

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Lukas / pexels

Law enforcement authorities in the northwestern Leningrad region disrupted a live burial ritual held in the woods, forcing organizers to exhume participants who had been buried alive, state media [reported](#) Thursday.

“Officers found two people wrapped in rags and buried in graves during an inspection,” a source told the state-run TASS news agency. “Law enforcement officials demanded the organizers dig up those buried alive and check to make sure they were in good health.”

A video published by TASS showed police officers arriving at a campsite and ordering a person in blue robes to unearth at least two people, who appeared to be fully wrapped in cloth and lying in a shallow pit.

According to the news agency, 15 people took part in the ritual, during which a person is [symbolically buried](#) alive as part of a spiritual or psychological transformation practice. Participants are usually covered with soil while lying in a shallow grave to simulate burial.

The organizers of the live burial, a man and a woman, were later arrested, TASS reported, adding that the pair could face charges of running an organization that infringes on the rights of citizens. That charge carries a maximum sentence of seven years in prison.

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