

St. Petersburg Street Musician Arrested After Viral Anti-Putin Performance

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Street singer Naoko (Diana Loginova). Social media

Police in St. Petersburg arrested an 18-year-old street musician after a video of her leading a crowd in singing an anti-Putin rock song went viral, local media <u>reported</u> on Wednesday.

According to the Fontanka news website, the musician, whose name is Diana Loginova, could <u>face</u> two administrative charges of "discrediting" the Russian military and organizing an unauthorized public gathering. She could also face up to 15 days in administrative detention.

Loginova, who performs under the name Naoko with the band Stoptime, was <u>filmed</u> earlier this week leading a crowd in central St. Petersburg in singing the lyrics to the exiled rapper Noize MC's hit song "Swan Lake Cooperative."

The Swan Lake ballet <u>became</u> a symbol of the collapse of the Soviet Union after it was broadcast on state television uninterrupted for three days during the upheaval of August 1991. The Noize MC song title and lyrics also reference the notorious Ozero ("Lake") dacha cooperative, which was formed in the mid-1990s by Putin's longtime friends and associates.

"I want to watch the ballet, let the swans dance. Let the old man shake in fear for his lake," the crowd in St. Petersburg was heard singing in the viral video.

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A court <u>banned</u> "Swan Lake Cooperative" as "extremist" in May 2025, ruling that the song constituted "propaganda for a violent government overthrow" and a threat to the "moral and ethical development" of minors.

Russia's Justice Ministry labeled Noize MC, whose real name is Ivan Alexeyev, a "foreign agent" in November 2022. He relocated to Lithuania after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Neither Loginova, who has previously taken part and won national and international student music competitions, nor the St. Petersburg police have publicly commented on the reported arrest.

On its Telegram channel, the band Stoptime <u>wrote</u> that its Tuesday night performance was canceled without providing a reason.

"We'll be back to you very soon," the band said that morning after urging subscribers to avoid sharing videos of their performances online.

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