

Russian Scholar of North Korea Says He Was Detained and Expelled From Latvia

February 25, 2026



Andrei Lankov. [@a_lankov / Telegram](#)

Andrei Lankov, a prominent Russian scholar on North Korea, [said](#) Wednesday that he was detained during a lecture in Latvia and expelled from the country after being declared persona non grata.

Lankov, who holds dual Russian and Australian citizenship, was due to give a [presentation](#) on North Korean politics in Riga when police showed up at the lecture venue and detained him.

“They said I had been placed on the foreign ministry’s list of people who are banned from entering Latvia, and I must now be immediately deported,” the historian wrote on his Telegram channel.

Lankov, 62, said police did not explain why he was banned from entering Latvia. The Russian Anti-War Committee, an exiled civil society group, [said](#) late Tuesday that Lankov’s lawyer had been informed of Latvia’s decision to declare him persona non grata last week.

The Moscow Times contacted Latvia's foreign ministry for comment.

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Lankov [told](#) NK News, where he is a long-time contributor and serves as a director of its parent company, Korea Risk Group, that he believes he was expelled for his “excessively objective” views on North Korea.

“They see it as a problem... I say positive things about North Korea sometimes, and when negative, not in a hysterical style,” he said.

Lankov, who lives in Seoul and teaches history at Kookmin University, said he safely reached Estonia, where he is scheduled to give a similar lecture on North Korean politics later on Wednesday.

A native of Soviet Leningrad, now St. Petersburg, Lankov lived and studied in Pyongyang as an exchange student in the 1980s.

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