

# CEO of Russia's Largest Book Publisher Detained in LGBTQ+ 'Extremism' Probe

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Yevgeny Kapyev. **Yaroslav Chingaev / Moskva News Agency**

Law enforcement authorities have detained the CEO of Russia's largest publishing house for questioning in connection with an ongoing investigation into LGBTQ+ "extremism," Russian media [reported](#) Tuesday.

Yevgeny Kapyev, head of the publishing giant Eksmo, was taken in by police following a search of the company's Moscow office.

Law enforcement sources [told](#) the Kommersant newspaper that officials are considering pressing charges of organizing the activities of an "extremist" group, a designation Russia's Supreme Court applied to the so-called "international LGBT movement" in late 2023.

Eksmo [confirmed](#) Kapyev's detention to the Interfax news agency, noting that the questioning is linked to a criminal probe launched in May 2025. Last year, several Eksmo employees were [arrested](#) on suspicion of violating laws against LGBTQ+ "propaganda" and "extremism."

Pro-Kremlin media [reported](#) that an ongoing investigation focuses on the distribution of LGBTQ+ literature, specifically the 2021 bestseller “Summer in a Pioneer Tie.”

The novel, which depicts a relationship between a teenager and a counselor at a Soviet-era summer camp, has been a frequent target of conservative lawmakers.

In 2023, Eksmo acquired Popcorn Books, the original publisher of “Summer in a Pioneer Tie,” after it was [forced to close](#) under legal pressure.

Three senior managers from Popcorn Books and the Eksmo imprint Individuum remain under house arrest as part of the LGBTQ+ “propaganda” and “extremism” investigation.

The Supreme Court’s 2023 ruling effectively criminalized all public advocacy or displays of LGBTQ+ lifestyles, leading to a wave of arrests, shuttered businesses and the removal of hundreds of titles from Russian bookstores and libraries.

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