

Eksmo CEO Released From Police Custody After Questioning

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Yevgeny Kapyev. **Alexander Avilov / Moskva News Agency**

The CEO and several other employees of Russia's largest book publishing company were released from police custody on Thursday after being questioned as part of a criminal investigation into so-called LGBTQ+ "extremism."

Eksmo CEO Yevgeny Kapyev and his colleagues were [detained](#) last week after federal investigators earlier launched a probe into LGBTQ+ "propaganda" and "extremism."

Pro-Kremlin media at the time reported that the 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.

Related article: [CEO of Russia's Largest Book Publisher Detained in LGBTQ+ 'Extremism' Probe](#)

Russian media [reported](#) Thursday that police have not pressed any charges against Kapyev, but investigators allegedly issued him a summons to appear for further [questioning](#) later in the week. Eksmo denied that report.

Kapyev, writing on his personal Telegram channel, [said](#) he is not ready to discuss his detention with the media.

Anonymous law enforcement sources [told](#) the state-run news agency TASS that Kapyev and his colleagues are named as witnesses in a bribery case involving Popcorn Books. Three senior managers from Popcorn Books remain under house arrest as part of a probe into LGBTQ+ “propaganda” and “extremism.”

Russia's Supreme Court in late 2023 designated the so-called “international LGBT movement” as an “extremist” organization, effectively banning any public display of LGBTQ+ symbols.

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