

Children's Hospice Founder Detained in Moscow Over War 'Fakes'

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Lida Moniava. **Lida Moniava / Facebook**

Law enforcement authorities searched the home of Lida Moniava, a prominent advocate for critically ill children's care, and took her in for questioning as part of a criminal probe into "fakes" about the Russian military, her attorney told Russian media on Wednesday.

"Officially, she is not under arrest. She has not been formally charged," Mikhail Biryukov [told](#) the state-run TASS news agency.

He said officials from the Investigative Committee, Russia's top investigative body, were questioning Moniava. Moscow's Simonovsky District Court is expected to rule on pre-trial detention measures, Biryukov [said](#) in separate comments to the news outlet RBC.

The charge of spreading false information about the military carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

Moniava is the founder of the Moscow-based charity "Lighthouse," which operates hospices

for seriously ill children and young adults in the Russian capital and surrounding region.

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After Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Moniava created a foundation that provided shelter, medical supplies and food to people fleeing from the war. The organization also later helped Armenians fleeing from conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as Russians displaced from the Kursk and Belgorod regions.

That foundation [suspended](#) operations last September due to the dwindling number of refugees arriving in Moscow and the Moscow region.

Moniava was previously detained in January and in February. She was [fined](#) 45,000 rubles (\$520) after being found guilty of "discrediting" the Russian military in posts on Telegram.

Despite facing pressure from the authorities, Moniava has [refused](#) to leave Russia.

"If I leave, critically ill children will end up in nursing homes and intensive care units for longer periods. Knowing that, I doubt I could live happily in some other country," she wrote earlier this year.

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