

Communist Party Leader in Komi Republic Arrested for 'Justifying Terrorism'

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Oleg Mikhailov. **VK**

Russian law enforcement authorities have arrested former State Duma lawmaker from the Communist Party Oleg Mikhailov on charges of publicly justifying terrorism, his regional party team [said](#) Wednesday.

Mikhailov has headed the Communist Party branch in the northern republic of Komi since 2014 and served as a State Duma member between 2021 and September 2026. In last month's parliamentary elections, he lost his seat to a rival from the ruling United Russia party.

Komi's Communist Party branch said in a social media post that Mikhailov was arrested at a Moscow airport after returning from a vacation.

The charge against Mikhailov of publicly justifying terrorism stems from old social media posts in which he allegedly supported jailed sociologist [Boris Kagarlitsky](#) and leftist activist

[Sergei Udaltsov](#).

“We believe the charges are revenge by Goldshtein and United Russia,” the party wrote on the VKontakte social media platform, referring to the regional head of Komi, Rostislav Goldshtein.

A court hearing where a judge will decide whether to place Mikhailov in pre-trial detention is scheduled for Thursday. He could face up to seven years in prison if found guilty.

Mikhailov’s arrest follows the August [detention](#) of Communist Party firebrand Nikolai Bondarenko in the southern Saratov region on “extremism” charges over an old social media post featuring a photo of the late opposition activist Alexei Navalny.

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