

Politics

# St. Petersburg Explosion Kills Pro-War Blogger Tatarsky

- Bomb the size of soap bar was hidden inside a statuette
- Tatarsky pseudonym for blogger well known for pro-war views

By Bloomberg News

April 2, 2023 at 6:13 PM GMT+2 Updated on April 2, 2023 at 8:31 PM GMT+2

An explosion at a cafe in St. Petersburg, Russia, has killed Vladlen Tatarsky, a military blogger who supported the war in Ukraine.

The explosion also injured 25 people, Alexander Beglov, the governor of St. Petersburg, said in a Telegram post. Russia's Investigative Committee has opened a criminal case to investigate the explosion, according to its website [statement](#).

The improvised explosive device was the size of a bar of soap and was hidden in a statuette presented to Tatarsky, Tass said, citing an unidentified person in law enforcement. The power of the device was the equivalent of more than 200 grams of TNT, Tass reported earlier.

Vladlen Tatarsky is a pseudonym for Maxim Fomin, 40, according to state-run news agency Tass.

He had become widely known since the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine more than a year ago, and his strong pro-war stance included such goals as complete destruction of the Ukrainian state.



Russian blogger Vladlen Tatarsky speaks during a party, before the explosion that killed him at a cafe on Sunday. *Source: AP Photo*

Tatarsky was invited to the Kremlin ceremony in September when Russia announced the annexation of four Ukrainian regions.

“We will defeat everyone, we will kill everyone, we will rob everyone who needs to be robbed,” Tatarsky said in a video from the ceremony. “Everything will be the way we like it.”

Last year, Darya Dugina, 29, whose father is a prominent Moscow nationalist who advocated a “Russian World” ideology to justify expansion by the Kremlin, was killed in a car bombing.

– *With assistance by James Herron*

*(Updates with number of injured and some details in second and third paragraphs.)*