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Russia: home of Aleksandr Peredruk's parents searched

On 2 April 2019, the apartment of **Aleksandr Peredruk's** parents located in Murmansk, Russia was searched by an investigator from the Special Case Investigation Department and a Federal Security Service official. The search was made as part of the investigation into a suicide attack in Arkhangelsk in 2018, and the human rights defenders believe it may be an attempt to link him to the event.

[Aleksandr Peredruk](#) is a human rights lawyer from Saint Petersburg. He works for the **Moscow Helsinki Group**, one of Russia's leading organisations monitoring human rights abuses in the country. He is also a member of the organisation **Soldiers' Mothers of Saint Petersburg** which provides free legal and social assistance to conscripts, soldiers and those undertaking alternative civil service, as well as their family members. Further, the human rights defender is involved in **Apologia of Protest**, a project defending the right to peaceful protest in Russia.

On 2 April 2019, at 6 in the morning, an investigator from the Special Case Investigation Department and a Federal Security Service official searched the apartment of Aleksandr Peredruk's parents in Murmansk. The human rights defender was registered under their address until March 2018 but has not lived there for the last five years. During the search, a computer and a flash drive were seized. According to the official warrant, the inspection was related to the investigation into a suicide bomb attack that had taken place on 31 October 2018 in the city of Arkhangelsk. Aleksandr Peredruk denied having any connection to the case and he believes that the search may have been an attempt to link him to the event.

Front Line Defenders is concerned about the search conducted by law enforcement officials in the apartment of Aleksandr Peredruk's parents as it believes that it was motivated solely by the human rights defender's peaceful and legitimate work in defence of human rights in Russia and that it may be an attempt to intimidate him.

Front Line Defenders urges the authorities in the Russian Federation to:

1. Immediately cease all forms of harassment against Aleksandr Peredruk as Front Line Defenders believes that it is solely motivated by his legitimate and peaceful work in defence of human rights;
2. Return all items confiscated during the search, as they are manifestly not linked to any criminal activity;
3. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in the Russian Federation are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions, including judicial harassment.