# Pardoned Russian Ex-Convict Detained for Killing 12-Year-Old Girl



A convicted murderer, Andrei Bykov, 49, who was pardoned by Russian President Vladimir Putin to fight in Ukraine, has been detained on suspicion of killing 12-year-old Karina Kabikova. The girl's body was found on October 18, 2023, in a well near an abandoned building in Topki, Kemerovo region, Russia. Bykov was serving a 14-year sentence for a 2019 murder before being released under a scheme to draft convicts into the military.

Bykov, who previously served time for various crimes including theft and involving minors in crime, had been a prisoner of war in Ukraine before being exchanged earlier this year. Investigations are ongoing to determine if Karina was sexually abused, with initial reports indicating signs of violence on her body.

The case has drawn attention to the increase in crimes committed by pardoned convicts who fought in Ukraine, with Bykov’s history illustrating the complexities of Russia's recruitment policies.