

19 Feb, 2026 13:33 / Home / Russia & FSU

Ukrainian footballer faces five years in jail for fight with press gang

Daniil Kolesnik maintains he was saving an acquaintance from violent conscription officers

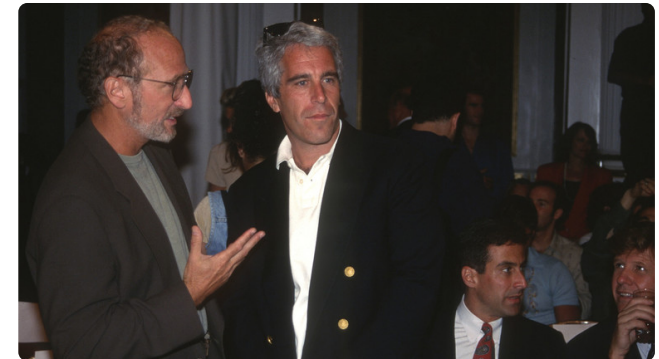


© Telegram / Kiev city police

Ukrainian football player Daniil Kolesnik faces up to five years in prison for an altercation with mobilization enforcers, who he accuses of abusing their authority.

Since Kiev lacks volunteer troops, it relies on mandatory conscription to replenish frontline losses. Officials hunting for draftees are frequently accused

Top stories



Epstein estate to pay \$35 million to settle sex abuse claims

Venezuela enacts political amnesty law

Kremlin explains why peace treaty talks with Japan are currently 'impossible'

Ukrainian forces exploiting Telegram data for battlefield intel – FSB

Protesters attack prime minister's residence in Albania (VIDEOS)

of using excessive force, and videos of so-called ‘busification’ regularly appear online.

The 24-year-old forward was fired by his club Kolos-2 after revealing his confrontation with a mobilization patrol on Tuesday. On Wednesday, Kiev police released a photo of a handcuffed Kolesnik, stating he is accused of intentionally punching an officer on duty.

In the Instagram video Kolesnik [originally](#) posted, he can be heard denouncing a conscription official for trying to grab a father of three – who presumably had a military exemption.



Read more: Ukrainian mobilization enforcers open fire, pistol-whip draft resisters (VIDEOS)

“I stood up for a man who I believed was a victim of illegal actions,” he stated. “I did not attack anyone, I was defending from unprovoked aggression. I did not hide from responsibility. On the contrary, I went to the police station and submitted the video and my explanations.”

His lawyers argued self-defense during a court appearance later Wednesday, where a judge ordered pre-trial nighttime house arrest.

Fellow players Aleksandr Aliev and Artem Milevsky expressed support, with Aliev saying in a video: *“Why are they [draft officials] allowed to beat up people, and you are kicked out of the team for a punch. I fully support you.”*

The Ukrainian government claims most ‘busification’ videos are fabrications, but earlier this

That video and his other posts were later removed, but then Kolesnik published CCTV footage of the incident, which he says proves he had reason to intervene.

The footage shows a van intercepting a running man, who is then grabbed by several people. One is heard threatening to open fire. Another figure, believed to be Kolesnik, rushes in and fights with one of the patrolmen.

US weighs targeting Iranian leaders and ‘regime change’ – Reuters

New dinosaur species unearthed in Sahara (PHOTOS/VIDEO)

Trump announces new global tariff after losing in Supreme Court

Subscribe to RT newsletter to get news highlights of the day right in your mailbox

E-mail

We offer you the possibility to receive RT's news highlights every Monday, Wednesday and Friday by email.

Subscribe

RT Features

month human rights ombudsman Dmitry Lubinets [told](#) lawmakers his office is receiving an “avalanche” of complaints against draft officials.

You can share this story on social media:



Follow RT on



[Ukraine](#)

Please check our [commenting policy](#). If you have questions or suggestions feel free to send them to feedback@rtv.ru.



The youngest nation breaks: Is a new civil war on the horizon? FEATURE



Romania’s stolen elections were only the start: Inside the EU’s war on democracy

INVESTIGATION FEATURE

