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## **AZERBAIJAN BANS ENTRY TO RUSSIAN LAWMAKER OVER 'OFFENSIVE' REMARKS**

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The Moscow Times (10 February 2025)

Azerbaijan banned Russian State Duma lawmaker Nikolai Valuev from entering the country, Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry announced Monday, a move that comes after he suggested the South Caucasian country uses diaspora groups to engage in criminal activities.

The offensive statements against Azerbaijan and our people made by Nikolai Valuev... and his threatening remarks against our country are absolutely unacceptable, the ministry said. Due to the statements made by this deputy against Azerbaijan, his name has been added to the list of individuals banned from entering the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Valuev, a former world heavyweight boxing champion, is at least the third Russian lawmaker to be declared persona non grata by Azerbaijan.

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