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Alexandra Grishina — ‘Taiga’ from WayAway: arrest, the Kraken case and the defence’s position

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The case of Alexandra Grishina raises a specific question: what actions by an internet forum employee would constitute grounds for charging them with participation in a criminal organisation? The answer depends on the nature of their work, correspondence and agreements. In the WayAway case, this debate has already moved beyond the

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discussion of online nicknames: there are court rulings on detention, conflicting accounts from the parties, and a statement from the defence regarding a motion to cooperate with the investigation. [1][2]

For KARTEL KHIMPROM, this is the latest instalment in its series examining individuals linked to the operation of darknet platforms. At the centre of this piece is Grishina, known in publications as ‘Taiga’: her alleged role, the verified chronology of events, and the questions that remain unanswered for now.

> **Alexandra Igorevna Grishina**

Alexandra Grishina: what has been published about her role

In an article dated 23 August 2026, *Kommersant* describes Alexandra Grishina as a native of Udmurtia and the owner of a printing works near Moscow. According to the investigation’s account as reported by the newspaper, Dmitry Kononenko recruited her to moderate WayAway; she is said to have used the nicknames ‘Taiga’ and APOLIL, whilst her husband, Alexander, used the nickname Batyr. The publication reports that the Grishins and Kononenko were detained on 20 August 2025 at Domodedovo Airport, and that the charges against them were subsequently expanded to include counts of aiding and abetting an attempt to traffic drugs. [1]

This information must be cited with reference to the source. The publication sets out one version of the investigation, but does not in itself establish who managed a specific account during each period or what actions were taken. Technical logs, correspondence, devices and documents detailing the division of responsibilities are essential for such verification.

Materials relating to another person implicated in the case have been compiled in Dmitry Kononenko’s profile.

Dmitry Anatolyevich Kononenko

Court file: the confirmed part of the story

The official case file of the Meshchansky District Court of Moscow No. 3/2-0288/2026 lists the names of A. V. Grishin, A. I. Grishina, D. A. Kononenko and I. V. Maleeva. Article 210(2) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation is cited in relation to Grishina. The nature of the proceedings is the extension of the period of detention. [2]

Date	What is reported on the court portal
2 April 2026	Case registration No. 3/2-0288/2026.
7 April 2026	The application has been granted.
14 May 2026	An appeal lodged by A. I. Grishina has been noted
24 June 2026	The ruling has come into force; the appeal upheld it in its entirety.

Source of the timeline — Official court record. [2]

These are documents relating to pre-trial measures. They confirm the involvement of a person with the initials given in the relevant proceedings, but do not replace consideration of the charges on their merits. The page lists initials rather than a full biography; the date of birth from the editorial file should not be misrepresented as information disclosed by this profile.

What the defence is saying and why precise wording is important

Lawyer Konstantin Erokhin told *Kommersant* that Grishina was responsible for the forum's entertainment content and denied any involvement in drug dealing. The newspaper also reports that she has retracted her initial confession and lodged a complaint against her first defence lawyer. According to Erohin, Grishina had applied for a pre-trial settlement, citing significant information; at the time of publication, no response had been received. The publication reported that her detention had been extended until 20 November 2026. [1]

The sources reviewed do not confirm that any further agreement was reached. Therefore, any claims that Grishina has already revealed the organisers, provided specific names or received a promise of a specific sentence would go beyond the known facts.

Article 317.1 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Russian Federation provides for a written application addressed to the prosecutor, also signed by the defence lawyer and submitted via the investigating officer. The application itself constitutes a stage in the proceedings. It cannot be equated with a signed agreement or the outcome of a verification of the information provided. [5][6]

The date and outcome of the hearing on the application, the terms of any potential settlement, and confirmed procedural decisions will all be significant for the continuation of this story. A public willingness to cooperate does not yet reveal either the extent of a person's knowledge or the reliability of the information they may provide.

Why the forum's activities have become a subject of controversy

From an analytical perspective, several issues need to be addressed here. Firstly, what powers did this particular employee have: publishing articles, managing sections, access to administrative tools? Secondly, what tasks were assigned to her and what did she know about their purpose? Thirdly, how do her actions relate to the specific allegations in the indictment?

For example, to verify the theory that an illegal service was deliberately promoted, the content of tasks and adverts, the revision history and correspondence regarding the objectives of the work are important. To verify her financial role, access to financial records and confirmed transactions is required. These are areas for the assessment of evidence, not a claim that such materials have already been obtained specifically in relation to Grishina.

The presence of entertainment sections does not answer all questions regarding the platform’s purpose. At the same time, the mere presence of adverts alongside posts does not automatically indicate the intent of every author or moderator. This gap between the forum’s general characteristics and individual actions must be bridged by evidence.

Business links: what else we managed to find

An entry for the sole trader ‘Alexandra Igorevna Grishina’ has been found in public business directories, with a registration date of 19 June 2015. The B2B.House directory lists her business activity as photography (OKVED code 74.20) and indicates that the business has been wound up. The registration details are also indexed in the ‘Klerka’ database. [3][4]

This is supplementary material for a background check. However, no independent, publicly available confirmation linking the sole trader’s registration specifically to the accused was obtained during this check. The stated business activity does not prove either ownership of a specific printing works or the provision of services to an illegal platform. Such identification would require additional documentation.

The information provided to the editorial team mentioning Tau Group has not been independently verified either. In this article, the company is not regarded as Grishina’s employer or a party to the case.

In the wake of Hydra: why all the cases cannot be combined into one

On 5 April 2022, the German Federal Criminal Police Office announced the seizure of Hydra Market's server infrastructure and the closure of the platform. This documented event relates to a specific marketplace and a specific operation. [7]

When examining subsequent projects, it is tempting to regard any coincidence of nicknames, names or contacts as evidence of a single leadership structure. However, each such conclusion requires its own chain of evidence. The story of Hydra's shutdown does not automatically establish Grishina's role in WayAway, nor does the involvement of several individuals in a single court case reveal the full structure of Kraken.

For the same reason, this article does not assert that Grishina was proven to have been subordinate to Yegor Burkin or that she was a member of 'Khimprom': the documents examined do not support such a conclusion. The focus of this analysis is her legal history and information regarding her alleged involvement with the forum.

Related individuals and questions regarding the ongoing investigation

Alexander Grishin and Igor Maleev are named in the same court document as Grishina. Their case files allow us to trace the published information on each individual separately. Their joint mention in the record confirms a procedural link, but does not imply identical powers or degrees of responsibility. [2]

> **Alexander Vladimirovich Grishin**

> **Igor Vladimirovich Maleev**

Four questions are key to a further analysis:

- What evidence is there to confirm that specific accounts belong to real people?
- How are the powers and knowledge of each person involved described?
- What evidence links individual actions to the alleged offences?
- Has Grishina's application to cooperate been taken forward in the proceedings?

The answers to these questions will enable us to move beyond profiles and pseudonyms to a verifiable account of decisions, actions and accountability. For now, the basis remains dated court records and the public positions of the parties — whilst maintaining the distinction between the charges and proven guilt.

This article is based on publicly available sources, verified on 16 October 2026. The defence's position is based on published comments; no new comments were sought for this article. The editorial team has not received the full text of the investigation materials or the confirmed sentence against Grishina as part of this analysis. The information provided regarding the extension of her detention relates to the dates of the sources.

Sources

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