

Telegram app founder Pavel Durov reportedly arrested at French airport

Nadeem Badshah : 2-2 minutes : 8/24/2024

Pavel Durov, billionaire co-founder and chief executive of the Telegram messaging app, was arrested at the Bourget airport outside [Paris](#) on Saturday evening, TF1 TV said, citing an unnamed source.

Durov was travelling aboard his private jet, TF1 said on its website, adding he had been targeted by an arrest warrant in [France](#).

The 39-year-old is understood to have been travelling from Azerbaijan and was arrested at about 8pm local time (6pm GMT).

Durov was expected to appear in court on Sunday.

The Russia-born entrepreneur lives in Dubai, where Telegram is based, and holds dual citizenship of France and the United Arab Emirates.

Durov, who is estimated by Forbes to have a fortune of \$15.5bn (£12bn), left Russia in 2014 after he refused to comply with demands to shut down opposition communities on his VK social media platform, which he sold.

Telegram did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

Russia's embassy in France is taking "immediate steps" to clarify the situation.

Citing a representative from the Russian embassy in France, TASS reported there had been no appeal from Durov's team to the embassy, but that it was proactively taking "immediate" steps.

Durov and his brother Nikolai founded the messaging app in 2013 and it has about 900 million active users.

Telegram offers [end-to-end encrypted](#) messaging and users can also set up "channels" to disseminate information quickly to followers.