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**From:** Craig Silverman  
**To:** David Clinch  
**CC:** Mandy Jenkins; Mark Little  
**Sent:** 8/7/2014 3:41:37 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Need someone who speaks Russian

For now, I'm going to be a little bit of the old school proprietary journalist and keep it to myself :)

On Thu, Aug 7, 2014 at 3:40 PM, David Clinch <&lt;a href="mailto:david.clinch@storyful.com" target="\_blank">david.clinch@storyful.com wrote:

Feel free to drop it into OpenNewsroom as well if needed. We have a few Russian speakers in the community.

On Thu, Aug 7, 2014 at 3:38 PM, David Clinch <&lt;a href="mailto:david.clinch@storyful.com" target="\_blank">david.clinch@storyful.com wrote:

Will try and find someone for you.

On Thu, Aug 7, 2014 at 3:34 PM, Craig Silverman <&lt;a href="mailto:silvermancraig@gmail.com" target="\_blank">silvermancraig@gmail.com wrote:

Hi guys,

I was hoping you might be able to help me with a bit of debunking. I'm trying to find a Russian speaker in Moscow or a close time one who can make a few phone calls for me first thing tomorrow. I'm willing to pay them a per hour rate. I thought you might know a freelancer or two.

Here 's what I'm working on (please keep it between us for now).

It starts with this story from Pravda dated July 31 about a bear attack:  
<http://www.kp.ru/daily/26263.4/3141355/>

Then on August 5 that story became this:  
[http://austriantimes.at/news/Around\\_the\\_World/2014-08-05/51543/Justin\\_Bieber\\_Helps\\_Defend\\_Russian\\_Fisherman\\_From\\_Bear](http://austriantimes.at/news/Around_the_World/2014-08-05/51543/Justin_Bieber_Helps_Defend_Russian_Fisherman_From_Bear)

Suddenly, it included a Justin Bieber ringtone that is not in the Pravda story, as far as I can understand from Google Translate. The story and the images have spread far and wide in the media, for example:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2716479/Fisherman-saved-bear-attack-Justin-Bieber-ringtone-went-mauled-scared-bear-away.html>  
<http://nypost.com/2014/08/05/justin-bieber-saves-man-from-bear-attack/>  
<http://www.timeslive.co.za/world/2014/08/05/justin-bieber-ringtone-scares-bear-saves-russian-fisherman-->

In these stories the Pravda images are credited to EuroPics and/or CEN. That is the same company that owns the Austrian Times. I have been trying to get a response from them, but now they refuse to talk to me after I kept pressing for answers.

I'm interested in knowing whether they licensed the images from Pravda, and I'm interested in confirming if possible that it was CEN who inserted the (false) Bieber reference.

So, I'm looking for someone willing to do three things for me:

1. Contact the Pravda reporter whose byline is on the story and ask him/her about if they ever spoke with anyone from CEN/EuroPics/the Austrian Times. If they did, what did they tell them, and did it involve Justin Bieber? And of course ask them if

the man who was attacked ever mentioned a Justin Bieber ringtone.

2. Call Pravda and asked to speak with the person who is in charge of licensing photos/stories. Ask them if they have an agreement with CEN for the images and story. And if so, ask them if the Bieber stuff ever came up in their discussions.

3. If possible, track down the man featured in the article to ask him about the Bieber ringtone report.

Is there anyone you can intro me to? I really want to have these calls made first thing tomorrow morning, so I can publish my post in the am ET.

Craig

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