

Russia doomsday cult won't leave cave

by UPI

MOSCOW -- Russian Orthodox priests were unsuccessful in their bid to convince a doomsday cult to come out of a southern Russia cave, authorities said Monday. Twenty-nine members of the "True Russian Orthodox Church," including four children, moved to a cave in the Penza region -- about 400 miles south of Moscow -- earlier this month and have threatened to kill themselves by igniting gasoline canisters if the authorities attempt to remove them, CNN reported. Priests were sent in last week to try to get the group out but the effort failed. Authorities Monday sought experienced negotiators to talk with the cult's members, regional administration spokesman Yevgeny Guseynov said. "There is no talk whatsoever of any sort of storming" the site, he said. The cult's leader, Father Pyotr Kuznetsov, who is in custody, instructed the group to hide and await the end of the world, which he says is coming in May, officials said.

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