What are the new allegations against the Tate brothers?

Investigations in the US ignite new legal worries for Andrew and Tristan Tate



Andrew and Tristan Tate faced media scrutiny following their arrival in Fort Lauderdale, Florida (Image: AP Photo/Marta Lavandier)

After touching down in Florida's Fort Lauderdale Airport following the end of a two-year travel ban, brothers Andrew and Tristan Tate were met with a barrage of media. One of social media's most divisive duos, accumulating over 14.2M followers on X combined, the two faced restrictions pending criminal investigation in Romania. The <u>self-proclaimed</u> misogynist Andrew, 38, described himself and younger brother Tristan, 36, to reporters as "good people who have no intention to do anything other than follow the law." Six days later on March 6, however, Florida opened a criminal investigation into the two following a lawsuit filed by an American citizen accusing the brothers of sexual coercion and defamation.

Both brothers have multiple active and historical criminal investigations into their actions from every country they have called home. The brothers moved from the UK to Romania in 2017 where, five years later, six women accused them of sexual exploitation for the purpose of producing online pornography. The allegations led to the brothers being detained in Romania for one month and

then <u>charged the following year</u> for rape, human trafficking and establishing an organised crime group.

It wasn't long, however, before the brothers encountered yet another legal battle. British police obtained an arrest warrant for the British passport holding brothers in 2024, following a similar investigation into human trafficking, rape and tax evasion. After raiding four of Andrew's properties last year, Romanian authorities also extended their investigations to include sex with a minor, trafficking minors and money laundering - all of which the brothers deny.

Despite ongoing investigations, Romanian prosecutors recently lifted all travel bans and the brothers' US passports were returned to them, sparking speculations about the Trump administration's influence over the case.

According to Romanian officials, a senior member of the Trump administration reportedly raised the Tates' case with Romania's Foreign minister at a German security conference in February. As well as supporting Trump, the brothers also have other ties to his administration, as Trump Jr, an avid fan of the brothers, labelled their detention in Romania as "absolute insanity." Despite potential US intervention, Andrew and Tristan remain under Romanian judicial supervision as they are required to appear before Romanian court at every summons, the first being this month.

Andrew and Tristan's most recent legal investigation in Florida was prompted following a lawsuit accusing the brothers of conspiring to coerce a woman into sex work and defaming her following a testimony made to Romanian police. In a statement issued on 4 March, Florida's attorney general, James Uthmeier, announced on X that he had directed his office to conduct an active criminal investigation into the pair.

Following the news breaking of the investigation, the Tate brothers left Florida maintaining their innocence, with Andrew sardonically marking their exit with a <u>post</u> reading, "Thank you Florida, you were very welcoming. See you in a few years <3." But the pair leaving the state "will not stop Florida's ongoing criminal investigation," according to <u>Uthmeier's statement</u>. If Florida's investigation leads to Andrew and Tristan Tate's prosecution, the brothers would be placed on publicly available US sex offender lists, according to <u>changes</u> to Florida's legal system. The state also considers human sex trafficking as a <u>third degree felony</u>, which carries a minimum sentence of five years.