

'Pearl Ensign' Charged

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St. Petersburg police officer Vadim Boiko, who was filmed beating peaceful protesters at a July opposition rally, has been charged with abuse of authority, the local branch of the Investigative Committee said Thursday.

The man, nicknamed "Pearl Ensign" by bloggers who initiated a campaign to find and prosecute him, faces up to seven years in prison if convicted of the charges. Boiko has denied wrongdoing, the committee said.

(MT)

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