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Opposition Activists Plan Marathon 12-Hour Post-Election Rally

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The Novosibirsk branch of the For Honest Elections movement applied to hold a 12-hour-long rally on March 5, one day after the presidential election, in which opposition activists expect wide-spread vote falsification.

The rally, planned to take place in a square near the Theater of Opera and Ballet, so far has no declared program, organizer Andrei Zhirnova said, Lenta.ru reported.

Besides the rally, another event called the "Parade of Doubts" is scheduled in Novosibirsk for the day after the elections. Organizer of that event Artyem Loskutov said activists "want to express all the doubts that we have around us, to some of which we don't understand how to react."

Novosibirsk has had several large-scale protests since the Dec. 4 parliamentary elections, including on days when members of the protest movement hit the streets in cities nationwide: Dec. 10, Dec. 24 and Feb. 4.

Activists in the Siberian city have also held demonstrations in favor of presidential candidate Vladimir Putin, most recently with a Feb. 18 rally attended by 10,000 people.

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