

Yashin to Be Questioned Over Razvozzhayev Case

By The Moscow Times

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Liberal opposition leader Ilya Yashin is to be questioned Tuesday as a witness in the criminal case against low-profile leftist opposition leader Leonid Razvozzhayev, who is currently in detention on suspicion of plotting mass riots.

Yashin has been called to testify for another criminal case against Razvozzhayev — this one on charges of deliberately providing false testimony by accusing an investigator of abducting and torturing him in October, shortly before his arrest, the Investigative Committee said in a statement on its official website.

Investigators say Razvozzhayev knowingly provided the false testimony at a December hearing into the mass riots case. They conducted a check into Razvozzhayev's earlier claims of abduction and torture but found no evidence to corroborate his story, the statement said.

Yashin's questioning comes just a day after Moscow's Basmanny District Court refused

to return a large sum of money that had been confiscated from his Moscow apartment during a search in June.

The search was conducted as part of the criminal case against a number of opposition leaders for allegedly plotting mass riots, Interfax reported.

Investigators said at Monday's hearing that they had "grounds to believe" that the 123,000 rubles (\$4,000) and \$12,500 seized from Yashin was "received illegally" and may have been meant to finance mass riots in Moscow, Interfax <u>said</u>.

The criminal case into plotting mass riots was prompted by state-owned television channel NTV's documentary-style film "Anatomy of a Protest-2," which accused opposition figures Razvozzhayev, Left Front leader Sergei Udaltsov and fellow activist Konstantin Lebedev of discussing ways to sponsor mass riots in Moscow with Georgian politician Givi Targamadze.

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