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Moscow's Migrant 'Tent City' Shut Down

By The Moscow Times

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Moscow authorities have closed the camp in the Golyanovo district of the city that was set up for immigrants awaiting decisions on their possible deportation.

"Some foreign nationals have been deported; the remaining 234 people have been transferred to the detention center of foreign citizens in the village of Severny," the city's police department told Interfax.

The detention center can hold up to 400 people and tents will be provided to accommodate additional immigrants.

The transfer of migrants to the center will speed up the process of identifying detainees, police said. Also, police officers will no longer have to be stationed at the site in Golyanovo.

Police started rounding up suspected illegal immigrants in Moscow after a police officer was beaten while attempting to detain a rape suspect at the city's Matveyevsky market.

Since then, reports about the detention of immigrants have emerged nearly every day.

On July 31, about 1,500 immigrants were detained during a raid on a sweatshop on Irtishskaya Ulitsa.

Acting Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin then ordered a camp with 200 tents to be set up on Irtishsky Proyezd to hold immigrants pending their identification and subsequent deportation, the report said.

Kremlin human rights ombudsman Vladimir Lukin said in early August that the camp held 600 illegal immigrants, most of whom were Vietnamese.

The Federal Migration Service acknowledged that they have had difficulty identifying the foreigner who do not want to cooperate with officials and often provide false information.

The service appealed to the Vietnamese Embassy in Moscow to help with the transliteration of names from Vietnamese to Russia.

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