

State Duma Considering Bill Classifying Motor Rallies as Public Protests

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The State Duma, Russia's lower chamber of parliament, has expedited the passing of a bill that would equate motor rallies to public protests, the Vedomosti newspaper reported Tuesday.

The bill outlines that any “organized public display of opinions by a group of citizens with the use of any propaganda tools while driving vehicles” will be considered as demonstration. Motor rallies can lead to spontaneous protests and mass riots, according to the authors of the bill, Vedomosti reported.

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The committee has invited representatives of the Night Wolves, the infamous biker gang, and the drivers' rights group Blue Buckets to participate in a meeting to discuss the bill.

"Officials are concerned that cars might be used for protests after recent nationwide truckers' strikes," Petr Shkumatov, a co-ordinator of the Blue Buckets, was quoted as saying by Vedomosti.

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