The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russia's Nationwide Anti-Corruption Protests in Videos

Thousands of Russians took to the streets to protest rampant corruption. Here is a glimpse of how it looked outside Moscow.

By Ola Cichowlas

March 27, 2017



Police stop protesters gathering at Dvortsovaya (Palace) Square in St.Petersburg, March 26, 2017. **Dmitri Lovetsky / AP**

On Sunday March 26, Russia saw its biggest protests in years. From Vladivostok to Kaliningrad, Russians took to the streets to demand an end to corruption.

The man who brought them to the streets was Alexei Navalny, leader of the 2011-12 anti-Putin protests on Bolotnaya Ploshad. His video revealing the extent of Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev's wealth shocked Russians and brought a group previously unseen on the streets, the so-called "Putin generation" born after the collapse of the Soviet Union, out in protest.

The Moscow Times has compiled some videos and photos from events outside Moscow. Many

of these cities have not seen street protests since 1991.

Embed:

> Владивосток сегодня pic.twitter.com/qXHdVz0cQ6
>
> — I.K. (@Vorewig) March 26, 2017

When Moscow was still sleeping, the protests began 11 time zones away in the Russian Far East. Here are young protesters holding hands as police try to break up crowds in Vladivostok, on Russia's Pacific coast.

Embed:

> Ещё Владивосток pic.twitter.com/bSUpALZcKc
>
> — I.K. (@Vorewig) March 26, 2017

This is the moment police moved in and started grabbing random protesters from the crowd.

Embed:

> Участники митинга во Владивостоке выбрали хорошую тактику: во время нападения полицейских они крепко взялись друг за друга pic.twitter.com/Xi05BgRtZ5
>
> — 19:37 (@4ever1937) March 26, 2017

One of the protesters detained was this young woman.

Embed:

> Владивосток. Задержание опасного преступника pic.twitter.com/zPNYgmIUBI
>
> — I.K. (@Vorewig) March 26, 2017

Then the crowds moved to the local police station, demanding police release the detainees.

Embed:

> Митинг внезапно превратился в шествие #ДимонОтветит #ОнНамНеДимон pic.twitter.com/2NlZ2VwXbJ
>
> — Startseva Anastasia (@b_pilatus) March 26, 2017

Outside the police station, they chanted "We do not give our own up!"

Embed:

> Вызволяют своих #Владивосток #ДимонОтветит pic.twitter.com/7FJzEBzmHR
>
> — Startseva Anastasia (@b_pilatus) March 26, 2017

Here is a crowd in Khabarovsk, a region in Russia's Far East, shouting "Russia without corruption!"

Embed:

> Хабаровск @navalny #ДимонОтветит pic.twitter.com/TyBASGd3nR
>
> — Dmitry Bogdanchikov (@BogdanchikovD) March 26, 2017

Still in Khabarovsk, here is a crowd shouting at police after they detain protesters. They are heard crying: "Traitors!" and "Your pay is more important to you than your conscience!"

Embed:

Still in Siberia, here are protesters in Omsk. "I welcome you regardless of your political beliefs," the speaker tells protesters.

Embed:

> Люди продолжают подходить, вокруг площади еще больше народа pic.twitter.com/M2UODWnhUH
>
> — Роман Тырков (@tyrkov55) March 26, 2017

Also in Omsk, authorities tried to end the protests by suddenly deploying snow ploughs and declaring the streets urgently in need of cleaning.

Embed:

> Дорожная техника решила поехать почти по народу на митинге в Омске #димонответь pic.twitter.com/FQMjYxa9u7
>
> — Роман Тырков (@tyrkov55) March 26, 2017

Similar tactics were used in Naberezhniye Chelniy, a city of half a million people in Tatarstan, where snow ploughs were also deployed in an attempt to end the protest.

Embed:

> Набережные Челны. Против пикетирующих выгнали снегоуборочную технику #ДимонОтветит #онвамнедимон pic.twitter.com/z3CjO3oiDD
>
> — Раушан Валиуллин (@valiullinrf) March 26, 2017

In Tolyatti, a city in central Russia, authorities declared urgent road works in the middle of the protest.

Embed:

> Вот "срочные аварийные работы", якобы из-за которых власти запретили митинг в Тольятти: 2 машины и глухо стоящий экскаватор на пустом месте pic.twitter.com/h3NwBtfaxr
>
> — Выборная Навка (@Gulay_Pole) March 26, 2017

In Orsk, an Ural city in the Orenburgh region, authorities banned the protest and said a "festival" was taking place instead. Here it is:

Embed:

> А в Орске власти запретили митинг под предлогом "городского праздника" в этот же день в этом же месте
>
> Вот сам праздник
>
> безудержное веселье pic.twitter.com/rJtE4ItU9b
>
> — Выборная Навка (@Gulay_Pole) March 26, 2017

In Tomsk, Siberia, a 12-year-old boy took the microphone and told the crowd: "It's wrong that we can get bad grades for not drawing a nice picture of the authorities in school. We need to change this system."

Embed:

> Есть все-таки надежда, есть. Смотрите, какие ребята подрастают. Пятиклассник из Томска на митинге против коррупции. pic.twitter.com/pqyZsh5HT1
>
> — Рустем Адагамов (@adagamov) March 27, 2017

Here's a video from Barnaul, in Siberia. The crowd is chanting: "'We have had enough of tolerating this!"

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Here are crowds in Yekaterinburg, Russia's fourth biggest city, chanting: "We'll be back!"

Embed:

Here's a video from Saratov, central Russia, of crowds chanting "Russia without thieves!"

Embed:

Snowy Kirov, where Alexei Navalny faced court for fraud allegations [which he claims the authorities fabricated to shut him up], also protested.

Embed:

St. Petersburg saw extraordinary scenes when thousands of protesters chanted "Putin is a thief" outside the Winter Palace.

Embed:

> А вот так сейчас на самой Дворцовой площади. pic.twitter.com/BbtMbM2QWa
>
> — Газета «Бумага» (@paperpaper_ru) March 26, 2017

Even Makhachkala, in Dagestan, held a protest (This is a city where Putin supposedly gained 92.8% of the vote in the 2011 election).

Embed:

> Махачкала pic.twitter.com/7NV9fgZCbz
>
> — Руслан Магомедов (@akhalchi) March 26, 2017

Meanwhile, in Russian-annexed Crimea (and Ramzan Kadyrov's Chechen capital Grozny), everything was quiet.

Embed:

> В рубрику "Крым - не Россия": акция против Димона в Симферополе не состоялась. pic.twitter.com/sXJRyJQFf7
>
> — Russia is fake news (@Mortis_Banned) March 26, 2017

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