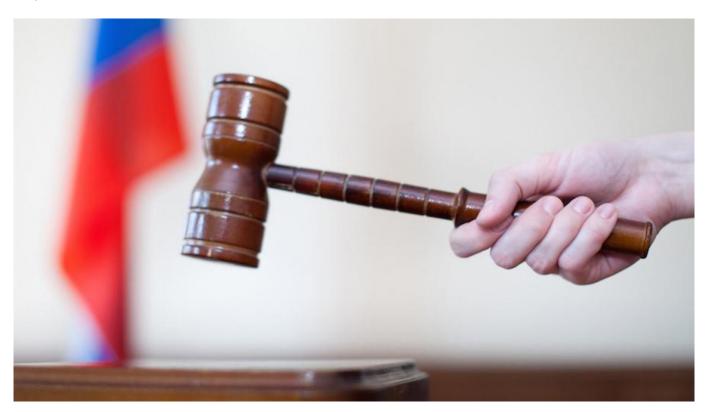


Anti-Corruption Protester Jailed for 8 Months After Navalny's Moscow Rally

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Alexander Tarasenkov / TASS / Interpress

A protester arrested at Alexei\Navalny's anti-corruption rally in Moscow on March 26 has been\setsentenced to eight months in prison.

Yuri Kuliy is the first demonstrator to⊠face the court after the protest, which saw more than 1,000 people⊠detained by police in Moscow alone.

The demonstration, which was led by sopposition presidential hopeful Alexei Navalny, had not been given sofficial permission to take place.

Kuliy, a Moscow-based actor, pleaded guilty to assaulting a member of Russia's national guard.

He told Russia's Ekho Moskvy radio⊠station that he had pleaded guilty in hopes of receiving a suspended⊠sentence.

Prosecutors had originally asked the ijudge for a two-year jail term.

Kuliy's lawyer, Alexei Liptser, ■ maintains that the actor had grabbed the officer's hand in a bid to ■ protect an elderly man from the riot police.

Related article: Opposition Leader Navalny Jailed After Anti-Corruption Protests Grip Russia

Navalny <u>called for mass</u> <u>across Russia in March after accusing Prime</u>
Minister ■Dmitry Medvedev of heading a multi-billion-dollar corruption scheme.

He said that the protest march would ■demand "answers to justified questions" on the politician's ■finances.

The Kremlin denied the claims, instead a<u>lleging that Navalny had offered to pay</u> the thousands of students and young people who attended the march.

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