

Police Detain Director of Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation at Airport

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Roman Rubanov / Twitter @rrubanov

The director of Alexei Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation has been detained at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport for organizing an anti-election rally in the run-up to Russia's presidential vote.

Navalny called on his supporters to boycott the March 18 presidential elections after his presidential bid was shut down by election officials late last year over a past fraud conviction. Since calling for the boycott, Navalny's aides have faced arrests across the country in a government crackdown against the initiative.

Roman Rubanov was detained in the airport early on Tuesday after passing customs and later charged with organizing an anti-election rally in Moscow on January 28.

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With less than 30 days remaining until Russia's elections, Navalny's campaign manager Leonid Volkov has warned that government pressure against activists is set to increase.

"[They] can lock up anyone that they want to lock up so that they'll miss the day of voting," he <u>wrote</u> in a Twitter post on Tuesday after Rubanov's arrest.

"They have charged him with organization of the rally on January 28," Volkov added.

Last month, two Navalny campaign aides were <u>arrested</u> after arriving at the airport in Moscow over the protest on Jan. 28.

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