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Police Arrest Protesters at Garbage Dump Blockade Outside Moscow

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Elizabeth Sotskova / Vkontakte

More than a dozen anti-garbage dump protesters have been arrested outside Moscow a week after children in another town in the region were reportedly poisoned by toxic gases from a landfill.

Residents of the town of Kolomna, 100 kilometers southeast of Moscow, have been blocking garbage trucks from entering the Volovichi landfill from March 25 in a protest against foul smells and overcapacity. Last Wednesday, residents in the town of Volokolamsk, 100 kilometers west of Moscow, took to the streets after 57 children sought medical attention on complaints of nausea and dizziness linked to landfill gases.

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Police detained up to 30 people on the fourth day of the landfill rally in Kolomna late on Wednesday, witnesses told the Vedomosti business daily.

“My daughter was in the car when police officers began to detain me. I asked to take my daughter with me,” one unnamed protester was cited as saying.

The activists’ social media page said all those detained were later released, three of whom have been slapped with administrative charges. They vowed to continue the protest after saying that late-night talks with the city hall brought “practically no change.”

As seen in footage posted on social media by a local newspaper, a group of protesters outside Kolomna physically blocked trucks from entering the road leading to the garbage dump, while allowing other cars to pass.

Embed:

Kolomna mayor Denis Lebedev said the arrests took place because protests “grew into a get-together.”

“They brought in firewood, kindled bonfires by the roadside. That, after all, creates a danger for passing cars,” Vedomosti cited Lebedev as saying.

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