

Activists With Disabilities Arrested at Moscow May Day Parade

May 01, 2018



The placard reads, "Bipolar disorder is not a fashion accessory, it's my diagnosis" **Natalia Budantseva / Facebook**

Dozens of Russian activists with disabilities and mental disorders have been [reportedly](#) violently arrested at a May Day parade in Moscow on Tuesday.

Russia's mental disorder activists [planned](#) to take part in the annual Spring and Labor Day procession with a [re-enactment](#) of the global "Mad Pride" mental illness awareness [movement](#). Members were seen carrying signs that [read](#) "I know my diagnosis, do you?" and "you have a right to know your diagnosis."

"People were pushed, kicked, dragged along the sidewalk," activist Yekaterina Nenasheva [wrote](#) on Facebook. "Some have disabilities, many of the detainees have psychological and mental disorders," she added.

A total of 25 activists have been arrested and told that "the action does not correspond with

the purpose of the event,” the police-monitoring website OVD-Info reported.

Footage on social media [depicted](#) OMON riot police and Interior Ministry officers [folding](#) signs and escorting people outside the Kremlin walls to the sounds of jubilant announcers over the PA system in the background.

Police [estimated](#) that 130,000 trade union members participated in this year’s May Day procession across Red Square.

Moscow police [detained](#) 19 leftist and vegan activists during similar proceedings last year, eventually releasing everyone without pressing charges.

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