

Cossack Vigilantes to Patrol Russian Streets During 2018 World Cup, Media Report

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Pavel XII / Twitter

Cossack units believed to be behind the beating of protesters at last weekend's rally against Vladimir Putin's inauguration are expected to help provide security during this summer's World Cup, Russian media have reported.

Photographs from Saturday's protest, organized by opposition leader Alexei Navalny, showed men in military uniform bearing the symbols of the Central Cossack Army beating protesters with leather whips.

Related article: [Mounted Cossacks to Provide World Cup Security in Rostov-on-Don](#)

According to The Bell news outlet, the Cossack units [received](#) funding totaling 15.9 million rubles (\$253,104) between 2016 and 2018 for training sessions on how to ensure public safety

in Moscow.

“I’ve covered these fake ‘Cossacks’ before. They are violent thugs for hire, doing jobs too dirty even [for] crooked cops,” Alexey Kovalev, the editor of the Coda Story news outlet, [wrote](#) on his Twitter account.

“They’ll be providing ‘security’ at the World Cup in June. Now you can freak out.”

Another of the 11 World Cup host cities, Rostov-on-Don, has also opted to use Cossack units to support police activity during the international football tournament, which takes place from June 14 to July 15.

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