

Patriotic Course Teaches Russian Schoolkids to Disperse Protests

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Grigory Postnikov / 66.ru

A military course for schoolchildren taught youngsters how to disperse street protests in Russia's fourth largest city of Yekaterinburg, local media reported.

Researchers [registered](#) at least 1,000 more protests in 2018 than in previous years as Russians took to the streets over pension age hikes, rising gas prices and other issues. Activists face a range of hurdles organizing and holding these events, including difficulties with obtaining approval and being subjected to intimidation tactics, researchers found.

A patriotic course in Yekaterinburg staged a live demonstration with men armed with sticks and Molotov cocktails playing violent protesters, the 66.ru news site [reported](#) Thursday.

"The leader of the uprising was tied up after a brief confrontation," the outlet reported. "The other participants fled."

After completing the course, the kids took an oath and were accepted into the Yunarmiya, a

patriotic youth organization sponsored by the Defense Ministry.

Photographs showed a dozen children watching the standoff between the masked protesters and uniformed men in military police attire in the snow.

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