

Opposition Leaders Arrested in Ingushetia After Violent Protests

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Musa Malsagov **Vladimir Smirnov / TASS**

At least two opposition leaders in Russia's republic of Ingushetia have been arrested on charges of attacking police shortly after being released from detention following protests against a divisive border-change deal.

Thousands [took](#) to the streets in Ingushetia last month over a land swap deal signed last fall with the neighboring republic of Chechnya in protests that occasionally [turned](#) violent. At least three organizers of the unauthorized protests — Akhmed Barakhoyev, Musa Malsagov and Barakh Chemurziyev — have each [served](#) 10 days behind bars.

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Instead of being released, however, Malsagov and Chemurziyev have been detained again on suspicion of using force against law enforcement and calling for mass riots, the regional

Caucasian Knot news agency [reported](#) on Saturday.

Barakhoyev, an Ingush elder and protest leader, had also been detained on suspicion of using violence against law enforcement, the outlet [said](#).

All three had been placed behind bars for two months, the Caucasian Knot [reported separately](#) on Sunday.

On Monday, Ingush human rights activist Magomed Mutsolgov said law enforcement officials had surrounded his home and office.

“I guess it’s my turn to experience the brutality of [Ingush governor Yunus-Bek] Yevkurov,” he [wrote](#) on Facebook.

Chechnya and Ingushetia signed the controversial border-swap agreement on Sept. 26, 2018. Some [estimates](#) have shown that Ingushetia, already Russia’s smallest region, gave up 26 times more territory than Chechnya in the deal.

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