

‘Putin Lied to Me’: Russian Officer Detained for Protesting Presidential Administration

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Vladimir Skubak **Svetlana Shmeleva / Facebook**

A disgruntled former officer seeking to restore his retirement benefits has been detained for at least the seventh time outside President Vladimir Putin’s administration in Moscow on Sunday.

Vladimir Skubak, a retired missile forces major, has staged one-person pickets for nearly a month on claims that he had been denied retirement allowances in 2015. He has been charged with violating public assembly rules, [petty hooliganism](#) and illegal possession of a military [uniform](#).

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“Putin lied to me. Hunger strike,” read a sign around Skubak’s neck.

On Sunday, police took Skubak into custody for at least the seventh time in two weeks, the MBKh news website [reported](#). Skubak was released three hours later with no charges filed, the outlet added.

A court hearing in the case of Skubak's illegal possession of a military uniform is [scheduled](#) for this Thursday, according to the Meduza news website.

Skubak [staged](#) one-person pickets outside the presidential envoy's office in his native Novosibirsk and outside the [Defense Ministry](#) headquarters last year.

Skubak claims to be entitled to housing subsidies after 22 years in service. He [says](#) the benefits were denied to him after he ran afoul of his leadership for making an unauthorized trip to Ukraine to retrieve his teenage son in 2014.

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