

Russian Police Detain Navalny Aide Over Nationwide Pension Protests

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Leonid Volkov Roman Demyanenko / TASS

Police in Moscow have detained a senior aide to Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny on Tuesday for mass rallies against unpopular pension reforms last fall.

More than <u>150</u> protesters, including <u>50</u> Navalny supporters, were detained during nationwide protests on Sept. 9, 2018, against President Vladimir Putin's plan to <u>increase</u> the pension age. Putin signed the pension reform bill in October despite the protests and declining polling numbers.

Related article: Navalny's Pension Protests Steal Limelight on Russia's Election Day

Leonid Volkov <u>tweeted</u> early on Tuesday that he had been taken to a police station without explanation. Less than an hour later, he <u>wrote</u> that he was charged with violating public assembly rules during the anti-pension reform protests.

The charges carry jail time of up to 30 days.

"We've been waiting for you," Navalny quoted police as saying during Volkov's apprehension.

Volkov is a 2018 Yale University world fellow.

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