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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 150 protesters, including 50 Navalny supporters, were detained during nationwide protests on Sept. 9, 2018, against President Vladimir Putin's plan to increase 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 tweeted early on Tuesday that he had been taken to a police station without explanation. Less than an hour later, he wrote 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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