

5 Moscow Police Officials Fired Over Investigative Journalist's Arrest

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Kirill Zykov / Moskva News Agency

Five officials in Moscow's police department have been dismissed over last month's arrest and subsequent release of investigative journalist Ivan Golunov, a letter by the head of Moscow's Interior Ministry said.

Police detained Golunov, an anti-corruption reporter for the Meduza news website, last month on drug trafficking charges, which his supporters said were fabricated as punishment for his investigation into Moscow's funeral business. He was [released](#) — and the charges against him dropped over insufficient evidence — days later following a national outcry.

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Moscow police chief Sergei Popov dismissed the five officials who handled Golunov's arrest in a letter dated June 13, which was [published](#) Tuesday by an expert from Russia's independent elections watchdog Golos and [confirmed](#) as authentic by Interfax.

The letter does not specify the names or roles of those who were dismissed.

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The four officers in Moscow's Western Administrative District who detained Golunov were Roman Feofanov, Dmitry Kozhanov, Akbar Sergaliyev and Denis Konovalov, Meduza [reported](#). One investigator, Igor Lopatin, was also involved in the case.

President Vladimir Putin had previously [fired](#) two high-ranking Interior Ministry officials over the case.

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