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10 'Mass Unrest' Suspects Detained Ahead of Next Opposition Rally

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Valery Sharifulin / TASS

Five more people have been detained as part of criminal proceedings into mass civil unrest related to last weekend's opposition protest in Moscow as activists push ahead with a new protest planned for Saturday, the state-run TASS news agency reported.

Police detained more than 1,300 people in central Moscow on Saturday, some violently, at a march in support of fair local elections this fall. Observers have compared the civil unrest case to the aftermath of mass anti-Kremlin demonstrations in 2012, when dozens of activists were prosecuted and jailed.

Related article: Police Detain Over 1,000 in Crackdown on Moscow Elections Protest

Investigators detained five more people on Friday in connection with the case, bringing the total number of people detained up to 10, TASS reported.

Five people had been detained on Thursday over the case, the Investigative Committee had said. Those detained include activists Alexei Minyaylo, Kirill Zhukov and Ivan Podkopayev.

The charges for organizing mass riots carry a maximum prison sentence of 15 years, while participating carries a jail term of up to eight years.

Embed:

> Кирилл Жуков — первый новый «болотник». Вот за это — попытку поднять забрало шлема на омоновце — Жукову предъявили обвинения по статьям 212 «Массовые беспорядки» и 318 «Насилие в отношении представителя власти». Восемь и пять лет максимум соответственно. Видео от Павла Чикова. pic.twitter.com/UuggzQhFSx
>
> — Aleksey Aleksandrov (@alex19nnov) August 1, 2019

On Friday, Zhukov and Podkopaev were arrested for two months until Sept. 27, the police-monitoring OVD-Info website cited the Investigative Committee as saying.

Authorities suspect 10 or more participants of "taking the most active part in organizing and conducting the mass riots," the Moscow branch of Russia's Investigative Committee said Thursday.

"We plan a number of detentions of citizens involved in mass riots and violence against law enforcement and Russian National Guard representatives during the unauthorized rally," investigators said.

Earlier this week, investigators raided the homes of at least two activists in connection with the criminal case.

Related article: An Overview of Russian Opposition Figures Sentenced Over Mass Election Rally

Several opposition candidates to the 45-seat Moscow City Duma have been jailed as organizers press ahead with new rallies this weekend.

Lyubov Sobol, a rejected candidate who has been on hunger strike for more than two weeks, called on supporters to gather along central Moscow's Boulevard Ring for a "peaceful march" Saturday.

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