

Russian Opposition Figure Yashin Detained for 'Record' 5th Time in a Row

August 28, 2019



Ilya Yashin **Sergei Bobylev / TASS**

Prominent Russian opposition figure and rejected Moscow city election candidate Ilya Yashin has been detained for a record fifth time Wednesday after serving four consecutive jail terms.

Yashin, 36, is among a slew of opposition candidates who were barred from running for Moscow's legislature on Sept. 8 and [handed](#) short jail terms on protest-related charges. Critics have [claimed](#) Russian police are increasingly targeting opposition activists with back-to-back detentions on the same charges as a way to quash protests and dissent.

Embed:

И снова на выходе из спецприемника я задержан сотрудниками полиции. Видимо, будет пятый подряд административный арест.
pic.twitter.com/zSxxjaCUCf

— Илья Яшин (@IlyaYashin) [August 28, 2019](#)

“This is the first time someone has been detained for the fifth consecutive time in Russia,” Alexei Glukhov, a lawyer for the Agora human rights group who specializes in defending protesters, told The Moscow Times.

While the law doesn’t formally prohibit five arrests in a row, Glukhov said, Yashin’s case “is generally called abuse of the law.”

Yashin filmed his own release and immediate re-detention. In the video, a police officer can be heard [telling](#) Yashin he was charged with calling on people to attend unauthorized [protests](#) on Aug. 3.

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Speaking with The Moscow Times by phone, Glukhov said the back-to-back detentions could come to an end when Yashin is released following the Sept. 8 Moscow City Duma vote.

“But if the protests continue, [Yashin’s detentions] will continue,” he said.

Election officials, as well as President Vladimir Putin, say the opposition candidates had falsified some of the signatures required to get on the ballot. The candidates have maintained that they are being kept from challenging Kremlin-backed incumbents.

Russia’s Supreme Court on Tuesday [rejected](#) Yashin’s appeal to get on the ballot.

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