

Moscow Student Protester Declared 'Extremist' Ahead of Verdict

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Sergei Savostyanov / TASS

Russia's state finance watchdog has placed a popular YouTube blogger accused of "mass unrest" during Moscow's recent election protests on its list of extremists ahead of his trial.

Yegor Zhukov, 21, was detained last month on charges of "organizing mass unrest," a crime punishable by up to eight years in prison. A court [ordered](#) Zhukov's surprise release on house arrest last week and investigators reduced his charges to "extremism," which is punishable by up to five years in prison.

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Zhukov's name [appeared](#) Thursday alongside more than 9,000 Russian citizens whom the Federal Financial Monitoring Service has blacklisted as "terrorists and extremists."

The political science student's bank accounts will be frozen and he will be barred from

working for many companies due to his inclusion on the list of extremists.

A Federal Security Service (FSB) expert had concluded that Zhukov's YouTube videos contained signs of "extremism," according to transcripts [published](#) by the investigative Novaya Gazeta newspaper Wednesday.

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Linguists have [slammed](#) the expert for "manipulating" and "plucking" Zhukov's words out of context at will.

"[The FSB expert] ignores the meaning of the analyzed text, which is expressed clearly and consistently, and attributes a fictional and almost the opposite meaning to it," the linguists [wrote](#).

Russia commonly places individuals accused of extremism on its list of "terrorists and extremists."

Zhukov was placed under house arrest until [Sept. 27](#).

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