

Hundreds Protest Police Brutality in Far East Russia After Shaman's Detention

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At least 600 people gathered to protest police brutality in the Far East Russian republic of Buryatia on Sunday following the detention of an anti-Putin shaman's supporters and a disputed local vote.

Demonstrations erupted in the city of Ulan-Ude this month to [demand](#) the release of the shaman's detained supporters as well as a rerun of a mayoral vote where a pro-Kremlin candidate was elected. The shaman, Alexander Gabyshev, was later [detained and charged](#) with extremism nearly 3,000 kilometers into his journey to "exorcise" President Vladimir Putin.

Related article: [Russia Sends Shaman en Route to Exorcise Putin to Psychiatric Hospital](#)

"No one dares insult and torment our people. We won't allow anyone to bully the weak, rob the honest or beat the honest and brave," the protesters [said](#) in a resolution against police brutality published by the local branch of Russia's Communist Party.

The protesters pointed to an incident earlier this month when security officials allegedly [threw](#) a smoke grenade into a bus of more than a dozen demonstrators, dragged them out by their legs and detained them as an event that “stirred the whole country.”

Meanwhile, Gabyshev’s followers [said](#) Monday they plan to continue their trek from Russia’s third-largest city of Novosibirsk to Moscow starting in mid-October. In a YouTube address, Gabyshev’s followers described the journey as a “touristic and athletic [journey] without calls for anything.”

Gabyshev himself said he opposes the new march, according to the Siberian affiliate of the U.S.-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty news agency.

“If you disobey, you take full responsibility. After that, as they say, may God help you. If you’re right, let him lead you there,” the 50-year-old reportedly [said](#) in a voice message.

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