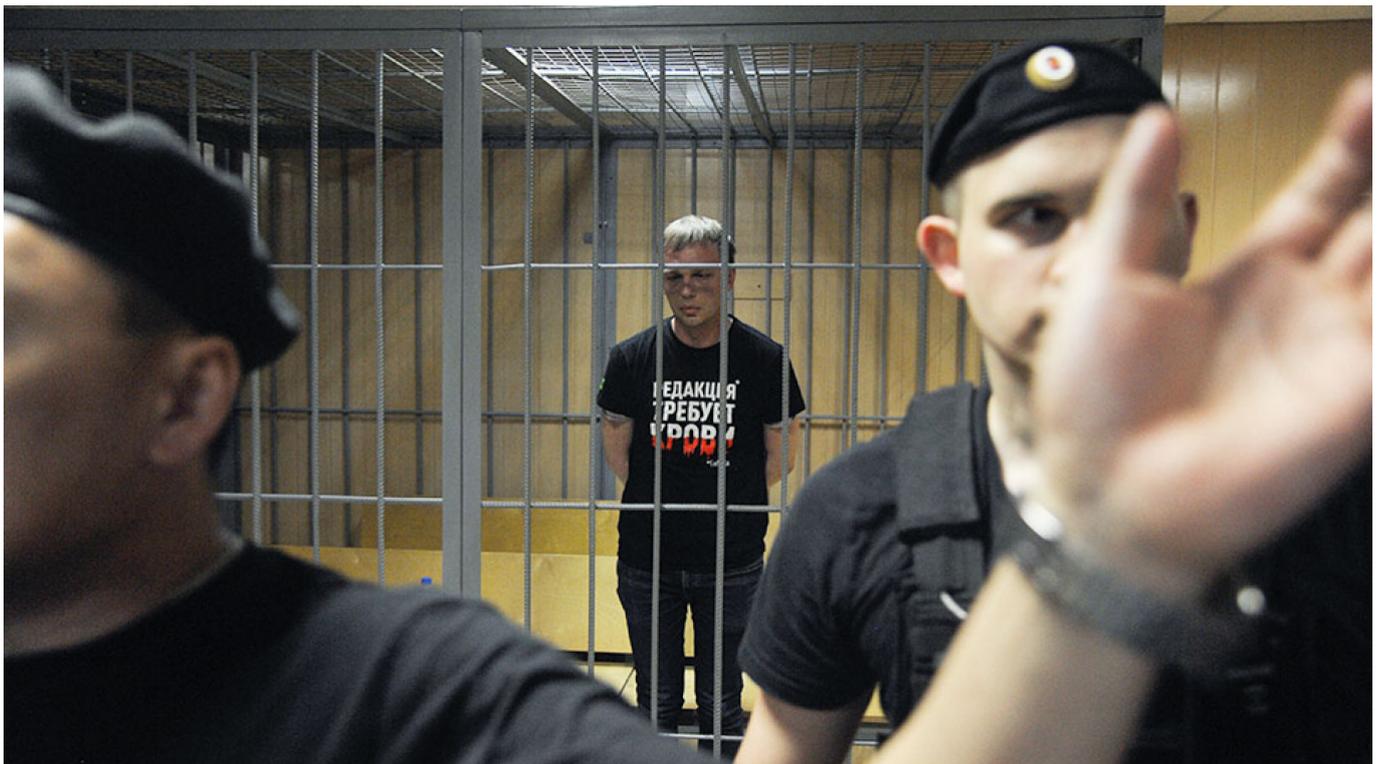


Criminal Case Opened Against Cops Who Arrested Russian Journalist Golunov

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Ivan Golunov was arrested in June on drug charges he argued were fabricated and released days later after an unprecedented public outcry. **Alexander Avilov / Moskva News Agency**

Russian investigators have launched a criminal case into abuse of power against police officers who detained investigative journalist Ivan Golunov last year, Golunov [said](#) Monday.

The Meduza investigative journalist was arrested in June on drug charges he argued were fabricated and released days later after an unprecedented public outcry. Police [dropped](#) all charges against him, but the drug case is still ongoing and efforts to apprehend the officers who arrested him had stagnated.

Related article: [The Aftermath of Journalist Ivan Golunov's Case, Explained](#)

A senior investigator informed Golunov in a letter that authorities opened a criminal inquiry into exceeding powers, according to a photo of the letter [posted](#) on his social media. The letter was dated Dec. 18.

On Dec. 19, President Vladimir Putin [announced](#) criminal charges against five police officers who had arrested Golunov but didn't specify which charges they were.

Abuse of power charges carry a prison sentence of up to 10 years, if the defendants are found guilty. The letter did not indicate which or how many police officers would face charges.

Update: An investigator later informed Golunov that he has been named a victim in the abuse of power case, he [wrote](#) on social media.

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