

Anti-Kremlin Activist, Pussy Riot Member Jailed for 15 Days for 'Public Swearing'

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Pyotr Verzilov **Valery Sharifulin / TASS**

Anti-Kremlin activist and Pussy Riot member Pyotr Verzilov has been sentenced to 15 days in jail on charges of public swearing after he was attacked outside a Moscow police station, the Mediazona news website, which he publishes, [reported](#) Monday.

Verzilov disappeared early Sunday after unidentified men broke down his apartment door and arrested him. He reappeared more than 12 hours later, saying he had been [questioned](#) by police on charges of extremism and violence against the authorities in connection with last summer's opposition protests in Moscow.

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While leaving the police station, Verzilov was attacked by an unknown assailant. Verzilov was

then detained for “repeatedly expressing obscene language in the presence of other citizens,” his lawyer [said](#), and spent the night in custody.

The Meshchansky District Court sentenced Verzilov to 15 days of administrative arrest for acts of minor hooliganism.

Verzilov denies the charges.

“We witnessed a special operation, the target of which was not just me, but the entire civil society ahead of the Victory Day parade and voting day,” Verzilov [said](#) in court, calling his arrest a “Gogolian scenario” and “the theater of the absurd.”

A source close to Verzilov [told](#) BBC Russian that his interrogation on Sunday may have been connected to the activist’s plans to stage a protest at the Victory Day parade on June 24. Verzilov denies planning to protest at the parade.

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