

Russian Student Activist Zhukov Beaten

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Yegor Zhukov. **Dmitry Serebryakov / TASS**

Prominent student activist Yegor Zhukov, who became a figurehead of the summer 2019 protests in Moscow, was briefly [hospitalized](#) after unknown men assaulted him outside his home late Sunday, his supporters said.

Zhukov, 22, had said earlier in the day that Moscow's prestigious Higher School of Economics (HSE) [expelled](#) him from a master's degree program "on orders from above" less than two hours after accepting him.

"The university leadership was unpleasantly surprised to learn that I got accepted," Zhukov [said](#) on his YouTube page, citing an unnamed high-level source at HSE.

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HSE said on its website that it had closed down Zhukov's program on the art of cinema because it had been unable to form a core team of instructors "for reasons beyond the university's control." Zhukov accused the HSE of following political orders.

“Either the presidential administration or the FSB [security service] ordered after I was convicted that I could never become a master’s student at HSE or there would be consequences,” Zhukov said, citing unnamed sources.

Related article: [Yegor Zhukov Wants to Be Russia’s President One Day](#)

Zhukov became the face of Moscow’s protests last summer after authorities barred the opposition from fielding any candidates for city council and fellow students rallied in his support following his arrest. In December, Zhukov was sentenced to three years probation and banned from using the internet on charges of calling for extremism online.

Photographs on a Telegram channel run by Zhukov’s supporters [showed](#) him outside his home and at a police station with a swollen and bloodied face. He did not appear to have been incapacitated by the attack.

“Despite numerous injuries, Yegor remains calm and is even making jokes about the incident,” [said](#) a post on the Telegram channel.

It added that eyewitnesses saw two men attacking Zhukov and fleeing on scooters.

Moscow police [said](#) they have opened a criminal case investigating battery after Zhukov filed charges.

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