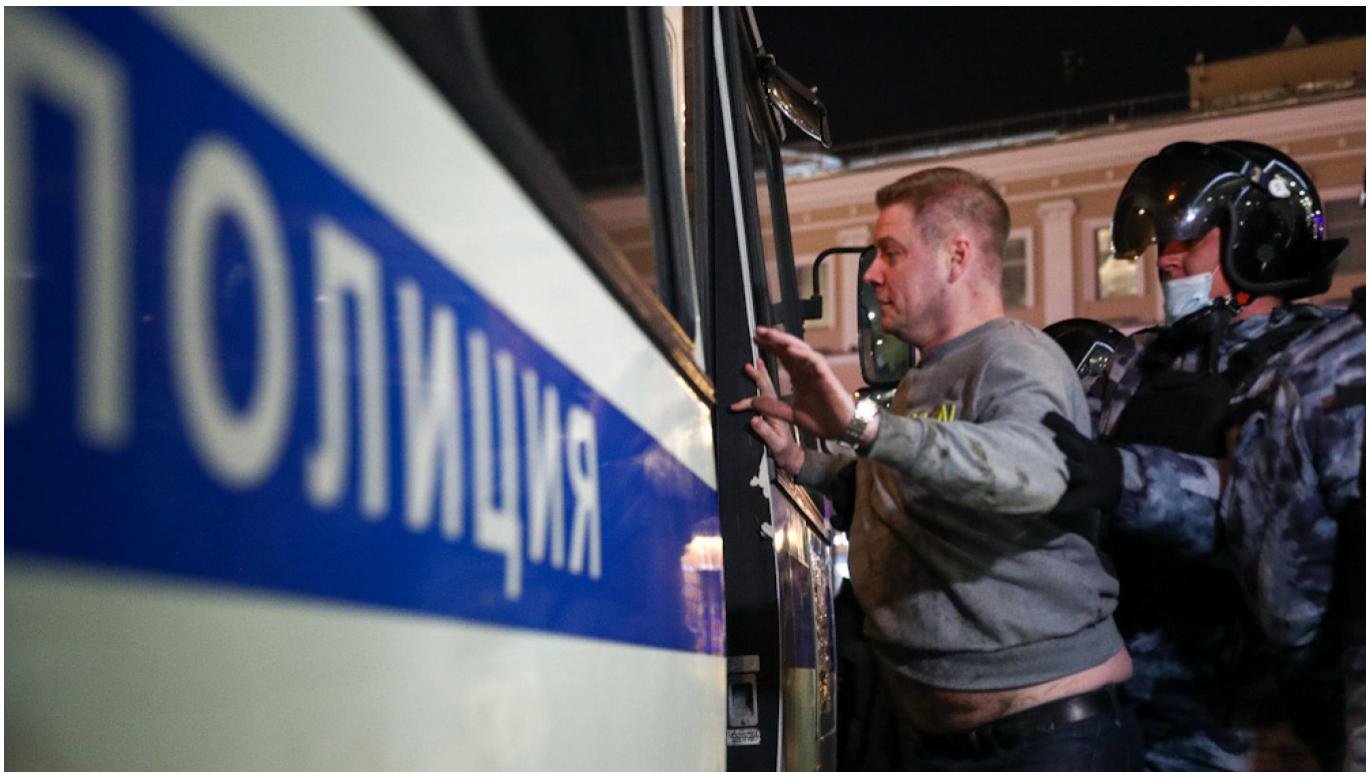
The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russia Detains 200 in Week After Navalny Protests – Monitor

April 28, 2021



Police initially detained 1,800 people in 100 Russian cities on the day of the rallies last Wednesday.
Mikhail Tereshchenko / TASS

Russian authorities have detained nearly 200 people in over two dozen cities in the week since protests in support of jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny swept the country, an independent police monitor said Wednesday.

Police initially detained 1,800 people in 100 Russian cities on the day of the rallies last Wednesday that called for civilian doctors to examine Navalny, who had been on hunger strike for three weeks to demand proper medical care.

The OVD-Info police-monitoring website has tallied 178 additional detentions in 30 cities as of early Wednesday. Moscow accounts for nearly half with 84 people taken into custody, followed by 27 in Voronezh, 14 in Perm and 11 in the Far East city of Khabarovsk.

Related article: Russian Journalists Detained After Covering Pro-Navalny Rallies

Law enforcement authorities have opened 183 administrative cases on violating protest rules, OVD-Info reported late Tuesday.

“The police’s most popular tactic, especially in Moscow, has become to wait out the ‘offenders’ and detain them when they enter or leave their home,” the monitor said.

At least two journalists were among those detained during the Moscow rallies. A total of six journalists have since either been detained or summoned for questioning after they covered or were seen by facial-recognition software in the vicinity of last Wednesday’s protest route.

The Kremlin on Tuesday linked those visits to an alleged incident involving an individual posing as a journalist at the rallies.

The detentions come ahead of a Moscow court’s expected ruling Thursday to blacklist Navalny’s Anti-Corruption Foundation (FBK) and his regional network as “extremist” organizations.

The move would bar Russia’s arguably most potent opposition force from operating mere months ahead of key legislative elections where the pro-Putin ruling party seeks to retain its supermajority despite historically low approval ratings.

The Navalny groups’ “extremist” designations would also put its members and supporters at risk of prison time.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2021/04/28/russia-detains-200-in-week-after-navalny-protests-monitor-a73758