

Russians Fined for Protest in Support of Afghan Women

By [AFP](#)

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In the past, the Taliban had prevented girls and women from attending school and working jobs, and required them to be accompanied by a male chaperone. **TASS / ZUMA Press Wire**

Russia has fined two activists for organizing a demonstration in support of Afghan women who face an uncertain future after the Taliban returned to power in the country, a court said Friday.

The two activists, Artemy Pityukov and Ksenia Bezdenzhnykh, were fined 200,000 rubles (\$2,670) each for "violating public order," a spokeswoman for the Presnensky district court in Moscow told AFP.

The activists took part in a small-scale demonstration on Monday outside Afghanistan's embassy in Moscow.

They took turns holding up posters in a "solitary picket" line, one of the last forms of protest

in Russia that do not need official authorization.

Six activists were detained, according to independent monitor OVD-Info.

Another "solitary picket" took place in Russia's second city St. Petersburg but without arrests.

"Being a woman in Afghanistan is now deadly dangerous," read one of the posters, according to images shared on social media.

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Moscow has been cautiously optimistic about the new government in Kabul after the Taliban swept to power in Afghanistan in a military takeover earlier this month.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said last week that the militant group — known for its severe treatment of women — "is ready to take into account" women's rights.

In the past, the Taliban had prevented girls and women from attending school and working jobs, and required them to be accompanied by a male chaperone.

They faced corporal punishment or even execution for violating the Taliban's laws.

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