The Moscow Times
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INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Over 1,300 Detained as Russians Protest Mobilization

September 21, 2022



Wednesday's protest against mobilization in Ulan-Ude. **t.me/Baikal_People**

Over 1,300 people were detained across Russia on Wednesday as rallies against a military mobilization declared by President Vladimir Putin for the war in Ukraine took place in areas from the Far East to the capital Moscow.

According to the independent OVD-Info police monitor, at least 1,386 protesters have been detained nationwide so far, with at least half of the count recorded in the capital Moscow.

It added that a majority of those detained were women.

Police in Moscow reportedly handed some detainees summons to the military enlistment office regardless of their experience.

The Vesna opposition movement as well as supporters of jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny called on Russians nationwide to take to the streets on Wednesday evening to oppose the Kremlin's decision to bolster its forces in Ukraine with a "partial" mobilization.

The first protests took place across cities in Siberia and the Far East, where dozens were arrested, often just minutes after the rallies began, according to local reports.

Small groups of protesters gathered in Ulan-Ude, the capital of the republic of Buryatia; Yakutsk, the capital of the republic of Sakha; and the Far East cities of Khabarovsk and Irkutsk.

Protesters in Ulan-Ude were seen carrying handwritten signs reading "No war! No mobilization!" and "Our husbands, fathers and brothers don't want to kill other husbands and fathers."

Embed:

> Protests against mobilisation are taking place in several Russian cities today, mostly small-scale actions leading to a smattering of arrests. The woman's sign reads "No to Mobilisation" pic.twitter.com/EbytXN2OQF
>
> — Matthew Luxmoore (@mjluxmoore) September 21, 2022

In the Siberian city of Tomsk, a female protester carrying a sign reading "Hug me if you are also scared" was among the 15 people detained shortly after the start of the protest, according to local Telegram news channel Ulitsa Barkhatnaya.

In Novosibirsk, Russia's third-largest city, video published to social media showed a protester shouting "I don't want to die for Putin or for you!"

Protests then took place across the cities in Russia's Volga-Ural region. At least 45 people were detained in the region's largest city Yekaterinburg, while dozens others were arrested in Perm, Chelyabinsk and Ufa, the capital of the republic of Bashkortostan, according to OVD-Info.

In the capital Moscow, several hundred people gathered on the central Stary Arbat street amid heavy police presence. Protesters could be seen chanting "No war!" "Send Putin to the trenches!" and "Let our children live!" in videos published to social media.

Embed:

> pic.twitter.com/hInOAfHv6q
>
> — Denis Zakharov (@betelgeuse1922) September 21, 2022

In St. Petersburg, protesters who gathered near the central St. Isaac's Square were quickly encircled by police, according to videos from the scene. But others continued to march

through the city center.

Embed:

> К Исаакиевскому собору в Петербурге пришли люди на антивоенный митинг. Полиция тут же начала их избивать.
>
> Вы спросите, почему эти мордовороты с дубинками не на фронте и избивают мирных жителей? Потому что они — заградотряд. pic.twitter.com/FD3mBfs7GK
>
> — SVTV NEWS (@svtv_news) September 21, 2022

Rallies also took place in the city of Arkhangelsk in the Far North, the southern city of Krasnodar, the Baltic exclave Kaliningrad and others.

In Kazan, the capital of the republic of Tatarstan, a small group of female protesters marched through central streets chanting “Peace to the world. No to mobilization!” after the initial rally was dispersed.

Embed:

> "Миру мир, смерть угнетателю"
>
> Скандируют жители Казани вышедшие на протесты против "могилизации"#казань #россия #могилизация #мобилизация #противмобилизации #жители #война pic.twitter.com/mQRiyD1vHt
>
> — Activatica (@Activatica) September 21, 2022

A total of 300,000 Russian reservists are expected to be called up for military service during the campaign, according to Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu.

But the mobilization efforts could be more far-reaching given the vague wording of the mobilization decree, according to human rights lawyer Pavel Chikov, who has been helping Russian soldiers opposed to the war.

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