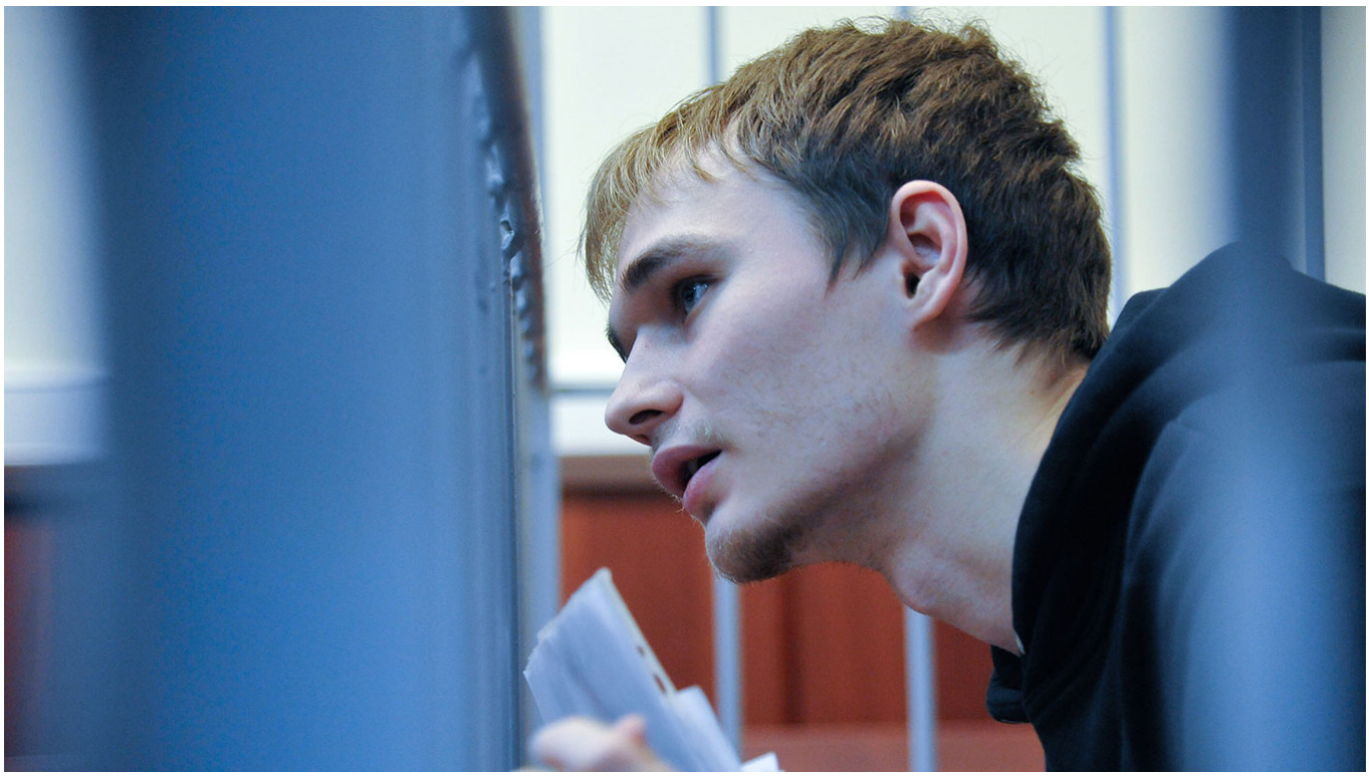
The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russian Graduate Student Detained After Serving Previous Jail Term

September 04, 2023



Azat Miftakhov. **Alexander Avilov / Moskva News Agency**

Updated with lawyer's remarks.

Russian authorities have detained a math graduate student and self-described anti-fascist immediately as he left prison after serving a previous jail term, the independent student news site DOXA reported Monday.

Azat Miftakhov, 30, was released earlier in the day from a penal colony where he had served a four-year sentence for breaking the office window of Russia's ruling political party.

The Moscow State University graduate student, who the human rights group Memorial declared a political prisoner, has denied the charges of "hooliganism" and accused the authorities of torture.

Miftakhov's support group had already warned last week that he could face fresh charges in connection to his purported "approval" of a deadly attack on a Federal Security Service (FSB)

building in northern Russia's Arkhangelsk.

Related article: 'Not Forgotten': Pen Pals Offer Solace to Russia's Political Prisoners

The state-run TASS news agency reported later on Monday that Miftakhov's lawyer had confirmed her client had been charged with "publicly advocating for acts of terrorism," adding that he denied the accusations.

Miftakhov was reportedly allowed to speak with his parents and wife for five minutes before an FSB vehicle took him to a pre-trial detention center in the city of Kirov.

A Kirov court is scheduled to rule on his pre-trial detention on Tuesday morning, according to Miftakhov's support group.

Russian authorities placed Miftakhov on its list of terrorists in August.

Dozens of Russian and foreign academics, intellectuals and other figures have signed a French petition calling for Miftakhov's release as of this summer.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2023/09/04/russian-graduate-student-detained-after-serving-previous-jail-term-a82349