

Head of Russia's Bashkortostan Slams Proposal to Honor Man Who Died After Mass Protests

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Rifat Dautov. t.me/aspecty

The Kremlin-appointed head of the republic of Bashkortostan slammed a proposal to honor the memory of a local man who died in police custody after being arrested last month during [mass protests](#).

Prominent Bashkir dancer Rif Gabitov asked to hold a moment of silence for the deceased Rifat Dautov at a meeting on Tuesday with Bashkortostan head Radiy Khabirov and other public figures.

Dautov was arrested in connection with a criminal case initiated by local authorities over last month's mass demonstrations in support of jailed Bashkir activist Fayil Alsynov.

“Your proposal [to hold] a minute of silence is disgusting and unconscionable,” Khabirov [told](#) dancer Gabitov at Tuesday's meeting.

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“You’re proposing to honor with a minute of silence a man... accused of committing a serious crime,” he added, claiming that Dautov had helped “organize mass riots and endangered the life of a law enforcement official.”

Dautov’s sister Zaliya Akhmadieva [told](#) journalists last month that police detained her brother and transported him to an unknown location on Jan. 25. The following day, his parents were contacted by a coroner to identify his body.

While authorities [claim](#) Dautov died from a heart attack caused by heavy intoxication, his sister says he did not drink alcohol, as he was a devout Muslim. She also insists that he did not take part in the protests in support of activist Alsynov.

Human rights defenders have [called](#) on the government of Bashkortostan to investigate the circumstances of Dautov’s death.

Authorities in the region have [opened](#) at least 163 administrative and 34 criminal cases in connection with last month’s protests, according to independent monitor OVD-Info.

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