

Moscow Activist Kotov Detained for Allegedly Donating to Navalny's 'Extremist' Groups

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Konstantin Kotov. t.me/ovdinfo

An activist who previously served prison time for breaking Russian protest laws was detained for donating money to Alexei Navalny's outlawed political organizations, independent media [reported](#) Thursday.

Programmer Konstantin Kotov was arrested during the 2019 Moscow election protests and [ended up serving](#) 18 months for "multiple breaches" of Russian protest laws. His original four-year sentence was reduced after President Vladimir Putin instructed prosecutors to review his sentence.

Rights groups [said](#) Wednesday that law enforcement authorities searched Kotov's home and took him in for questioning as part of a criminal investigation into alleged donations he made to Navalny's political organizations.

In 2021, a Russian court designated Navalny's political and activist networks as "extremist," forcing many of his allies into exile as others faced criminal prosecution under a range of charges. Financing an extremist group carries a punishment of up to eight years in prison.

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According to independent news outlet Mediazona, a Moscow court ruled behind closed doors Thursday to place Kotov under house arrest until Oct. 19, granting a request issued by investigators.

Kotov was alleged to have donated 3,000 rubles (\$32.60) to Navalny's organizations.

Mediazona said the court issued the same ruling for another activist, Viktor Levakov, who was accused of making three donations totaling 3,500 rubles (\$37.87).

Levakov, whose home was also searched Wednesday, was identified as a volunteer security guard at a makeshift memorial to the murdered opposition figure Boris Nemtsov.

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