

Georgian Police Arrest Russian Citizen During Anti-Government Protest

March 31, 2025



Policemen and police vehicles in Tbilisi. **Alexander Patrin / TASS**

Police in the South Caucasus nation of Georgia [said](#) Monday that they arrested a Russian national for allegedly damaging a police vehicle during anti-government protests last week.

The Russian, identified only by the initials D.K. and born in 1995, reportedly fled the scene wearing a mask after intentionally damaging the vehicle last Friday in Tbilisi. If convicted, he faces up to three years in prison, police said in a statement.

He is at least the ninth Russian citizen to be [arrested](#) in Georgia in recent months, according to the independent outlet RusNews. Among them, two face life in prison on drug possession charges.

In December, the Kremlin [said](#) it had no information on Russian protesters arrested in Georgia but claimed they had “obviously” violated Georgian law by attacking law enforcement officers.

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According to the news website Civil Georgia, 49 protesters remain imprisoned on criminal charges since near-daily demonstrations against the ruling Georgian Dream party broke out in the fall.

Critics accuse the party — now in its fourth term after winning contested parliamentary elections in October — of democratic backsliding and aligning the country more closely with Russia.

In November, Georgian Dream postponed EU membership talks until 2028.

Georgia has been a major destination for Russians fleeing political repression and the impacts of war in their home country since the 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Original url:

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