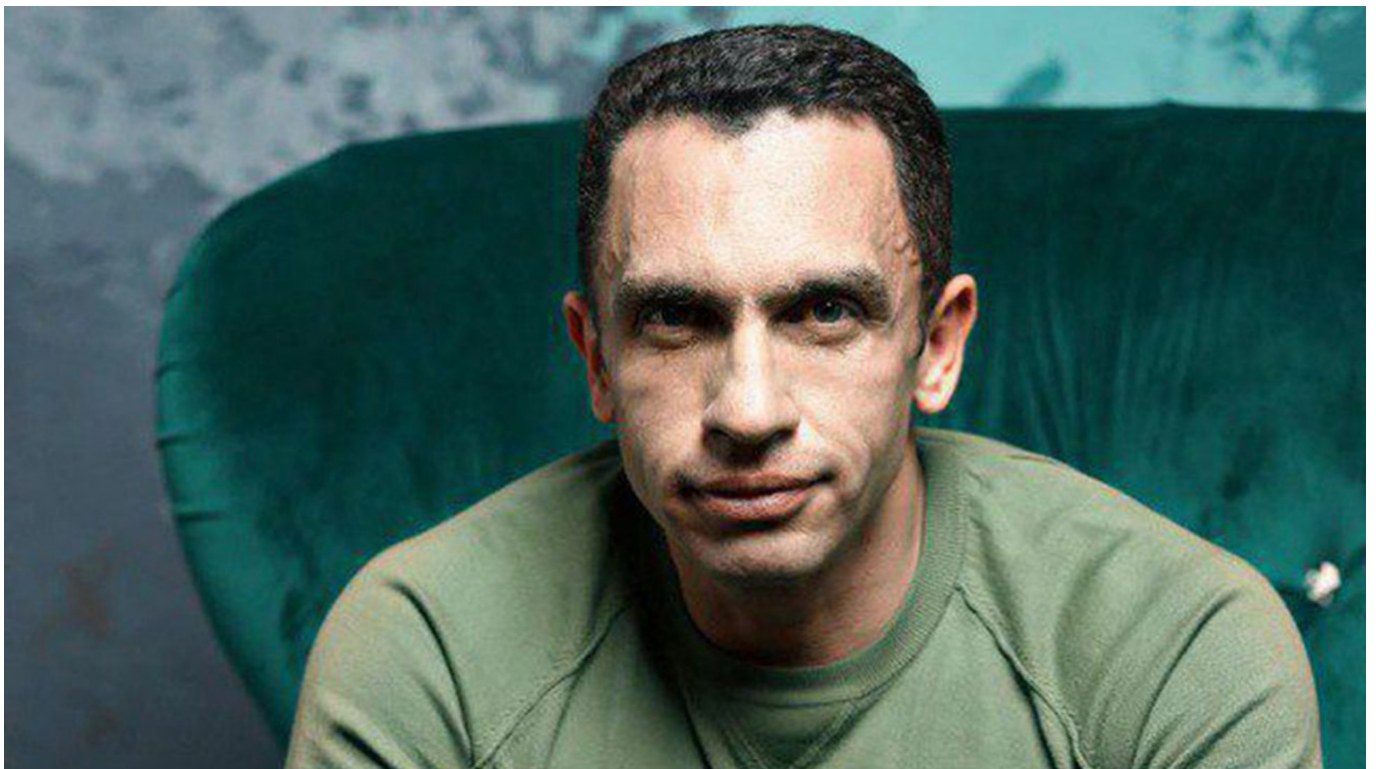


Moscow Police Arrest Political Expert Alexander Kynev on Drug Charges

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Alexander Kynev. [@alexander_kynev](#) / Telegram

Political consultant and elections expert Alexander Kynev has been arrested in Moscow on drug charges, the exiled news outlet Mediazona [reported](#) Friday.

Kynev, a former political science professor at Moscow's Higher School of Economics, was charged with "large-scale illegal drug production, sale and trafficking," his lawyer told Mediazona. The charge carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

The circumstances surrounding Kynev's arrest were not immediately known. Law enforcement officials have not commented on Mediazona's report.

His lawyer later [told](#) the exiled news outlet Meduza that he pleaded not guilty to the drug charge.

Russia's Justice Ministry designated Kynev a "foreign agent" in February. Despite his public criticism of the government over the years, he chose to remain in Moscow amid growing

political repression since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Kynev, who wrote regular opinion columns for The Moscow Times before it was designated an “undesirable” organization in 2024, has worked as a political consultant since the 1990s, when he first worked on campaigns for the liberal Yabloko party.

Over the years, he has worked for a number of independent political organizations, including the now-disbanded election observer Golos.

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