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Opposition Politician Yulia Galyamina Fined $24 Over Phone Check Refusal

November 16, 2026



Yulia Galyamina. **@endoflaw / Telegram**

A court in Russia's republic of Tatarstan fined opposition politician Yulia Galyamina 2,000 rubles ($24.21) for disobeying police after she refused to unlock her phone at a train station, the legal rights project Slovo Zashchite reported Monday.

Police detained Galyamina on Saturday after she arrived by train in Kazan, the regional capital, on what she said was a tourist trip.

Officers said they wanted to inspect her phone over suspected links to "extremism and terrorism," which she denies. Police accused her of disruptive behavior during the encounter.

Kazan's Vakhitovsky District Court found her guilty of disobeying police, an administrative offense punishable by up to 15 days in jail.

"The judge still found me guilty and imposed the minimum fine possible. I think this is akin to an acquittal in our country," Galyamina told Slovo Zashchite.

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She said she planned to appeal the ruling, claiming that police officers were angered by her "dignified and fearless behavior."

Galyamina said she did not view her detention as a warning of future criminal prosecution, though she noted that an extended jail term would have left her ailing mother without care.

Galyamina, a former Moscow City Duma deputy for the liberal Yabloko party, spearheaded a campaign against President Vladimir Putin's controversial 2020 constitutional amendments that enable him to stay in power until 2036.

A Moscow court that year handed Galyamina a two-year suspended sentence for repeated violations of rules on public gatherings.

She spent 30 days in jail in March 2022 for taking part in anti-war protests. She is among the few opposition politicians and activists who have remained in Russia amid the crackdown on dissent that followed the full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Russia's Justice Ministry designated Galyamina a "foreign agent" in September 2022. She challenged the designation in court and lost.

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