

Man Brandishing AK Rifle in Crowd Unscathed by Police

May 10, 2012



A man holds an AK-74 rifle near a police officer May 9

A man carrying a prominently displayed AK-74 assault rifle in crowds of hundreds of people made his way through several kilometers of downtown city streets without being stopped by police, despite pausing to take photographs beside them.

LiveJournal blogger tsybankov published the photos in a [post](#) criticizing police entitled "'Experiment,' or 'Our Police Care for Us.'"

In the post, pictures show a man the blogger identifies as his friend standing with a clearly visible automatic rifle in front of police officers and police vehicles, the City Hall building, and in the middle of broad Tverskaya Ulitsa as people pass by unconcerned May 9.

"Everyone knows what kind of trash is going on in our capital already the fourth day in a row," he wrote, referencing the recent ongoing demonstrations in which opposition protesters have been arrested in large numbers. The blogger said his friends had been

detained by police just for walking with white and red ribbons.

"If I had a white ribbon, I would be arrested after 10 meters. But take a man fooling around with an AK, and nobody cares. Police officers just looked at him and then shifted their gaze to the side," he wrote.

The blogger said his route took him past Lubyanka in front of the Federal Security Service headquarters, the State Duma, City Hall, Manezh Square, and Pushkin Square.

The AK-74 is an automatic assault rifle similar to the popularly known AK-47. It is named for Mikhail Kalashnikov, who first created the rifle, and the year the model began production.

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