Russian Opposition Activist Sobol Detained Following Moscow Protest

By [Reuters](#)

September 03, 2019

Sergei Fadeichev / TASS

Russian opposition activist Lyubov Sobol, an ally of Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny, was detained by police on Monday after a weekend protest in Moscow, Navalny's spokeswoman said on Twitter.

A few thousand Russians took to the streets of Moscow on Saturday to demand free elections to the capital's city legislature on Sept. 8, defying a ban enforced by detentions during previous protests.

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Protesters have been calling for the release of activists detained in earlier rallies, and Sobol on

Saturday described the arrests as "mayhem," blaming it on the city government.

"Lyubov Sobol has also been detained," said Kira Yarmysh, a spokeswoman for Navalny.

Sobol was released a few hours later, she [tweeted](#).

Embed:

> Только вышла из ОВД. Задержали в 21:40 на выходе из магазина.
>
> Суд по ч.8 ст.20.2 КОАП РФ за акцию 31.08 против полит.репрессий завтра в Троицком суде
>
> Не боюсь, сдаваться не собираюсь. Призываю всех участвовать в «Умном голосовании», чтобы выкинуть единоросов из Мосгордумы [pic.twitter.com/XisREIqFFx](#)
>
> — Соболь Любовь (@SobolLubov) [September 2, 2019](#)

Earlier on Monday evening, Russian journalist Ilya Azar and Nikolai Lyaskin, a Navalny ally, were detained, according to their social media posts.

Azar's wife [said](#) that police had left their 2-year-old daughter alone in their apartment with the door unlocked when they detained him. Moscow's commissioner for children's rights has [asked](#) the city prosecutor's office to investigate the claims.

Lyaskin later [tweeted](#) he had been released, and the Apologia Telegram channel [said](#) that Azar was also released.

Reuters contributed reporting to this article.

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