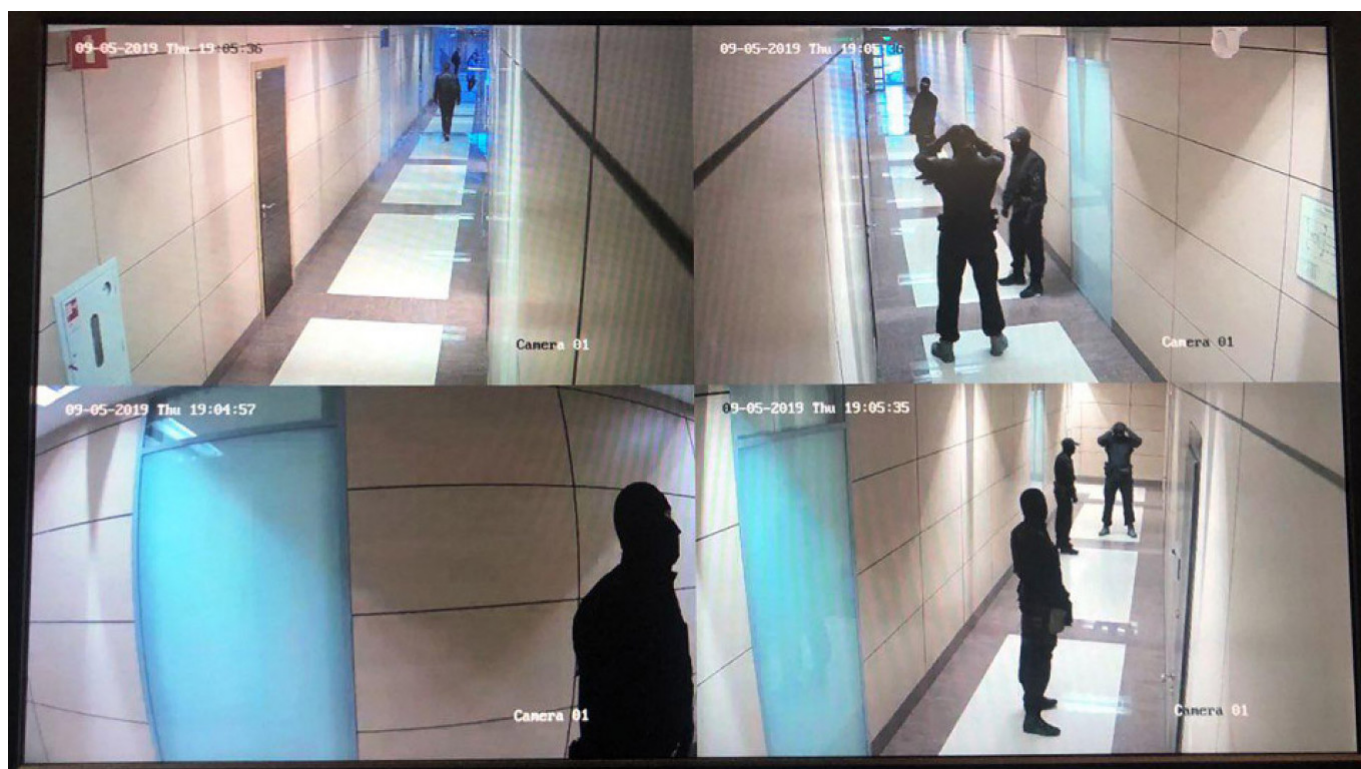


Kremlin Critic Navalny's Offices Raided Ahead of Moscow Vote

September 06, 2019



Navalny Live

Authorities have raided three of opposition leader Alexei Navalny's offices in Moscow on the eve of a local election where he is advocating voters to unseat Kremlin-backed candidates.

The raids took place ahead of the Sept. 8 city legislature vote that galvanized this summer's mass [protests](#) in Moscow when election officials disqualified opposition candidates, including some of Navalny's allies, from the ballot. Navalny has promoted a "Smart Voting" strategy, urging supporters to vote for the candidates best positioned to beat Kremlin-aligned incumbents this Saturday.

Embed:

«Сейчас в ФБК и на студии проходят обыски. Совершенно очевидно, что все, что происходит, связано с „Умным голосованием“, которое случится в

ближайшее воскресенье во время выборов».

В нестандартных условиях Алексей говорит, как победить единороссов:

<https://t.co/Tz3icFpAXW> pic.twitter.com/K9geCyxgYM

— Навальный LIVE (@navalnylive) [September 5, 2019](#)

At least nine people were [detained](#) in Navalny's office and taken to a police station before being released without charges, the OVD-Info police-monitoring website [reported](#) after midnight Friday.

Police told Navalny volunteers that the raids took place as part of an investigation into alleged mass civil riots during the July 27 protests, OVD-Info and the [Mediazona](#) news website reported. Over a dozen protesters have been initially charged with mass unrest, a handful of whom have either had charges [dropped](#) or were convicted for using violence against police.

The team for Navalny's YouTube channel [showed](#) the aftermath of the raids, with empty computer server racks, open safes and a half-empty studio where many of the channel's popular videos are filmed.

"These aren't raids but a burglary of [Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation] FBK, the [YouTube channel] studio and his Moscow headquarters," Navalny ally Lyubov Sobol [tweeted](#).

Embed:

От нашей студии не осталось ничего. Забрали абсолютно все компьютеры, мониторы, суфлеры, камеры, свет, серверную, документы из сейфа, жесткие диски, телефоны, ноутбуки, airpods, даже еду.

Поддержите нас! Не дайте жуликам и ворам остановить нашу работу:

<https://t.co/jQsMnfoH68> pic.twitter.com/otNGSjCZ9k

— Навальный LIVE (@navalnylive) [September 5, 2019](#)

"Everything's been taken out, flipped and gutted. It's not yet possible to estimate the damage," Sobol, who is among a slew of rejected opposition candidates to the Moscow City Duma, added.

Meanwhile, FBK and the independent Dozhd television channel were [sued](#) by a car rental company Thursday for a lump sum of 1 billion rubles (\$15 million). The car rental company joins two of Moscow's transportation authorities and a restaurant owner in [seeking](#) damages from opposition figures over alleged traffic disruptions and lost revenue during the protests.

Authorities had [opened](#) a criminal investigation into the FBK during one of the election

protests last month for allegedly laundering 1 billion rubles (\$15.3 million).

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