

Chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation  
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Dear Chairman of the Investigative Committee,

I am writing to you with regard to the prosecution and detention of Daniil Konon, Valery Kostenok, Egor Zhukov and at least 10 other individuals in connection with their participation in the largely peaceful protests on 27 July, 3 August and 10 August 2019 in Moscow. Most of them have been charged with "participation in a mass riot", despite these events not being riots. Such measures blatantly violate the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, which is guaranteed by Russia's Constitution as well as by Russia's international obligations. One must not be prosecuted for taking part in a peaceful rally, regardless of whether the authorities' permission has been provided.

In light of the above, I urge you to immediately drop the unfounded charges against peaceful protesters, to release them, and to refrain from initiating further prosecutions against individuals for simply exercising their right to peaceful assembly.

Yours sincerely,