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Metropolitan Hilarion concerned by detention on non-participants in unsanctioned rallies



The Russian Orthodox Church has expressed concern over reports about innocent passers-by having been held during illegal street protests.

“I am aware of cases where law enforcement agencies detained people who did not participate in a rally but simply happened to be somewhere near the venue of the rally. I think that such moments should be ruled out, of course,” the head of the Department for External Church Relations, Metropolitan Hilarion, said on the *Church and the World* program on Rossiya-24 television channel.

“Those responsible must be held to account for breaking the law and the innocent should not fall victim to prosecution,” he said.

The cleric welcomed in advance a potential initiative which could regulate this issue at a legislative level.

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