

# Police Detain Navalny's Campaign Manager in St. Petersburg Ahead of Rally

October 04, 2017



**Polina Kostilyova Vkontakte**

Police searched the St. Petersburg headquarters of opposition leader Alexei Navalny Tuesday evening and detained his campaign's coordinator, the St. Petersburg news site [Fontanka reported](#).

Navalny has announced he will run for president next March despite a criminal conviction, which he says is politically motivated, barring him participating. He was [jailed](#) for 20 days on Oct. 2 for calling for organizing unauthorized campaign events.

Andrei Pivovarov, an activist at the Open Russia movement founded by exiled tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky, [said](#) the police were looking for leaflets advertising an unauthorized rally on Oct. 7, President Vladimir Putin's birthday.

Polina Kostilyova, the coordinator of Navalny's campaign headquarters in St. Petersburg, was detained by police during the search, a lawyer who works with Navalny's Anti-Corruption

Fund said on Twitter.

**Embed:**

Полину Костылеву, координатора штаба Навального в СПб, только что задержали . [#7октября](#) очень пугает. [pic.twitter.com/exyUbJUxzI](https://pic.twitter.com/exyUbJUxzI)

— Ivan Zhdanov (@IoannZH) [October 3, 2017](#)

"They are very afraid of Oct. 7," he added, referencing Navalny's rally.

Kostilyova is charged with refusing to obey authorities and violating procedures for demonstrations, the St. Petersburg campaign headquarters [tweeted](#).

On Monday, four of Navalny's volunteers were [detained](#) by the National Guard in St. Petersburg as they distributed leaflets advertising Saturday's rally, Fontanka reported.

Authorities confiscated 210 flyers and took the volunteers to a police station, where they were interrogated and [released](#) without charges.

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