

Navalny Calls for Russia Protests Before Putin's Inauguration

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Alexei Navalny **Yevgeny Feldman**

Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny has called on his supporters to take to the streets to oppose President Vladimir Putin's election victory in a pre-inauguration demonstration on May 5.

Putin won a fourth presidential term on March 18 with 77 percent of the vote and a turnout rate of 67.5 percent. His inauguration is scheduled for May 7, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said this week.

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"We will not let them ignore us and our right to be heard. Come out to the streets on May 5," Navalny [told](#) his supporters in a post on his blog on Thursday.

Noting that Putin secured roughly half the Russian population's vote, Navalny [said](#) in a video blog that the disparate opinions of the other half "should be heard."

"They're the same full-fledged citizens. And now, they, us, are completely ignored by Putin," he said.

Navalny campaigned for a year to seek registration as a presidential candidate but was barred from running in December 2017 on a past fraud conviction. Supporters argued that his disqualification was politically motivated and his nationwide campaign volunteers were reorganized as election observers preceding the vote.

Navalny mobilized opposition-minded Russians to several mass protests last year, driven by widely circulated video investigations into corruption among high-level government officials.

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