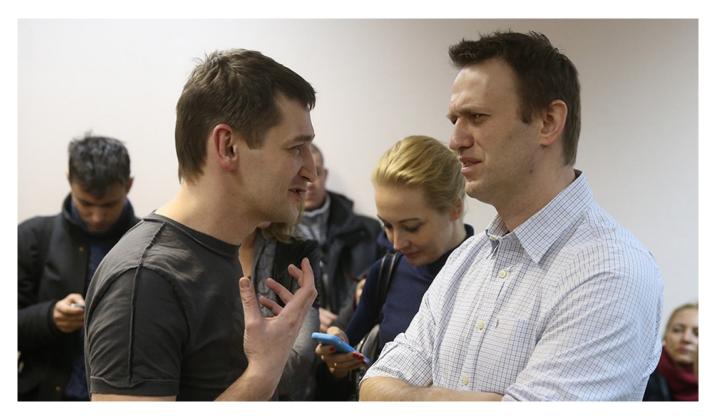


Navalny Brother Free After 3.5 Years in Prison

June 29, 2018



Artem Korotaev / TASS

Oleg Navalny — the brother of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny — was released after spending three and a half years behind bars following a fraud conviction.

Both brothers were <u>found guilty</u> of embezzling funds from French cosmetics firm Yves Rocher in late 2014. Oleg was sentenced to three and a half years in penal colony, while Alexei received a three-year suspended sentence. Critics at the time said the conviction was part of an effort to stifle dissent.

In a <u>video</u> posted on social media Friday, Oleg Navalny is led from what appears to be a barracks, and greeted by the excited shouts and embraces of supporters.

Embed:

УРА!!! pic.twitter.com/sQhoTCGTuS

— Соболь Любовь (@SobolLubov) <u>29 июня 2018 г.</u>

"Am I supposed to make an announcement?" Oleg Navalny <u>jokes</u> after sharing an embrace with his brother.

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) <u>ruled</u> last year that Russia had violated the Navalny brothers' rights to a fair trial in the Yves Rocher case, and ordered that they be compensated for moral damages and legal costs.

The international human rights group Memorial <u>recognized</u> Oleg Navalny as a political prisoner.

Oleg said he has not yet <u>decided</u> whether he will to pursue a political or legal career. He received a <u>second</u> degree in criminal law while imprisoned.

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