The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Navalny's Underwear Poisoning Takes Over the Russian Internet

December 22, 2020



The FSB operatives identified by the Bellingcat-led investigation after the release of Navalny's phone call, probably. **Twitter / znak_com**

On Monday, Russian opposition figure Alexei Navalny released video of a phone call in which he says he tricked one of the FSB agents behind his poisoning into admitting to the act and sharing new details about the failed operation.

A joint media investigation led by Bellingcat last week identified the key FSB operatives who poisoned Navalny with the Soviet-era nerve agent Novichok, one of whom was Konstantin Kudryavtsev.

In his phone call with a man identified as Kudryavtsev, Navalny pretended to be a senior official preparing a report on the FSB's operation. He not only extracted confirmation that the operation took place and confirmed names of key players, but also revealed new details — including that most of the nerve agent was applied on Navalny's underwear. More specifically, the inside of the underwear in the crotch area, as Kudryavtsev clarified during the 49-minute phone call.

The video, which was viewed more than 12 million times in less than 24 hours, sparked countless memes on the Russian internet — particularly over the pivotal role that Navalny's underwear now plays in the poisoning.

Navalny himself has taken a comic approach to his near-death experience, sharing some of the memes on Twitter and filming TikToks to make light of the situation.

Here are some of the best memes:

"FSB: Expectation vs. reality."

Embed:

> фсб
> ожидания и реальность... pic.twitter.com/VzFWlHFUGY
>
> — Сталкер (@ValBodin) December 21, 2020

"An FSB operative taking Navalny's underwear for processing."

Embed:

> Сотрудник ФСБ забирает трусы Навального на обработку.
> pic.twitter.com/CJwYTEfLrQ
>
> — Аркаша (@arkashaseverny) December 22, 2020

"A member of the FSB team that poisoned Alexei Navalny said that the poison was applied to the underwear."

Embed:

> Участник команды отравителей Алексея Навального из ФСБ сообщил, что яд был нанесен на трусы. https://t.co/NroqvFN3wv pic.twitter.com/shKcxyG3YI
>
> — The Insider (@the_ins_ru) December 21, 2020

"When you're reading more Navalny news."

Embed:

> Когда читаешь очередные новости про Навального
> pic.twitter.com/UdKDzlwSMa
>
> — kusok_wladosa (@KWladosa) December 21, 2020

"An emergency meeting of the Security Council"

Embed:

> экстренное заседание Совета Безопасности pic.twitter.com/75tXNhbuIf
>
> — Tapas&Tango (@atticus_flinch) December 21, 2020

...it's me

Embed:

> pic.twitter.com/xDDxiO81i5
>
> — Мертвые Позеры (@deadpozers) December 21, 2020

"Happy Poisonous Underpants Day!"

Embed:



Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram

Публикация от Виноградов Алексей (@kuban__borschik)

This year's Pantone color: The navy-blue color of Navalny's underwear.

Embed:

> pic.twitter.com/7LqVN0Luyv
>
> — ведьма Илья Харитонов (@huliotebenado) December 21, 2020

"POISON THE PANTIES!!!"

Embed:

> pic.twitter.com/WQgydyajmE
>
> — Anton Semakin (@antonsemakin) December 21, 2020

During today's discussion of what went wrong...

Embed:

> pic.twitter.com/H38eXMzhgd
>
> — Russia No Context (@RussiaNoContext) December 21, 2020

"What's happening in the Kremlin right now."

Embed:

> Что сейчас происходит в Кремле. pic.twitter.com/C59blLO273
>
> — Штаб Навального в Тамбове (@teamnavalny_tmb) December 21, 2020

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