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INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russian Police Search Navalny's Apartment, HQ – Aides

January 27, 2021



Alexei Navalny was sentenced to 30 days in jail on Jan. 15, sparking nationwide protests. **Pavel Golovkin / AP / TASS**

Russian law enforcement officers have searched Alexei Navalny's Moscow apartment, his team's headquarters and the apartments of his allies, the jailed opposition leader's aides said Wednesday.

The searches come ahead of a second round of nationwide unauthorized rallies calling for Navalny's release planned for Jan. 31. Last Saturday, tens of thousands of Russians in over 120 towns and cities took to the streets, resulting in nearly 4,000 detentions, a one-day record.

"Alexei Navalny's apartment in the Maryino [district] is being searched. There are many 'heavies' in masks. They started to break down the door," the head of Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation (FBK) Ivan Zhdanov tweeted, adding that Navalny's brother Oleg was in the apartment.

Embed:

> Сотрудники спецподразделений выламывают дверь в студию «Навальный Live». pic.twitter.com/ATyp8teTYZ
>
> — baza (@bazabazon) January 27, 2021

The security services also searched an apartment in which Navalny's wife Yulia Navalnaya has been staying, Zhdanov said in a separate tweet.

The FBK said on its Telegram channel that officers searched its headquarters.

Officers also arrived at the "Navalny LIVE" studio where the opposition leader's team films its YouTube series, according to FBK lawyer Lyubov Sobol, as well as at Navalny spokeswoman Kira Yarmysh's apartment, according to her lawyer.

Anastasia Vasilyeva, the Navalny-aligned head of the Doctors' Alliance labor union, also had her apartment searched, Zhdanov said.

According to Zhdanov, the Interior Ministry carried out the searches within the framework of Article 236 of the Criminal Code which relates to violations of sanitary and epidemiological standards.

Embed:

> Right now at Yulia Navalnaya's apartment on Avtozavodskaya. Security services are trying to break down the door. She will says she will not open until her lawyer arrives. #Navalny #navalnyprotests #навальный pic.twitter.com/HFT7M9dNRW
>
> — Daily from the Duma (@FromTheDuma) January 27, 2021

The Baza Telegram channel reports that investigators are planning to conduct searches at "all representatives of the [FBK], including Lyubov Sobol."

Navalny was sentenced to 30 days in jail on Jan. 15 for allegedly violating his probation in an old fraud case while recovering in Germany from what western experts said was Novichok poisoning. Navalny faces up to 3.5 years in prison during his upcoming hearing on Feb. 2.

This story is being updated.

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