

Russian State TV Attempts 'Putin Palace'-Style Exposé on Navalny's German Apartment

February 08, 2021



The correspondent shows the villa's toilet brush in a nod to the alleged \$700 Putin palace item that has become a protest symbol. **Screenshot Vesti**

Russian state television has [filmed](#) what it called an exposé into opposition leader Alexei Navalny's villa in Germany where he lived while recovering from nerve agent poisoning last year.

The detailed segment, interspersed with scenes from Navalny's viral video investigation into President Vladimir Putin's alleged Black Sea palace, ran during one of the country's most-watched Sunday news shows.

Embed:

Accusing Navalny of enjoying the same luxuries that he himself accuses Putin of

misappropriating, the Russia 1 television channel's "Vesti Nedeli" program fuses drone footage with a personal tour by the Freiburg villa's architect. Its correspondent takes a dip in the villa's pool, uses the "[mudroom](#)" misnomer for the boiler room (a nod to one of the Black Sea palace's alleged rooms) and includes a close inspection of the bathroom.

"The toilet brush is here too," the Russia 1 correspondent says in reference to the alleged \$700 Putin palace item that has become a [symbol](#) of the latest mass protests in Navalny's support.

"It shines, but not that much."

According to the segment, Navalny had spent an estimated 30,000 euros at the villa for his two-month stay there ahead of his Jan. 17 return to Russia.

Related article: [Navalny Targets 'Billion-Dollar Putin Palace' in New Investigation](#)

The seven-minute spot in pro-Kremlin spin doctor Dmitry Kiselyov's two-hour show accompanied another segment accusing Western intelligence agencies of financing Navalny's video investigation, which has amassed more than 110 million views in the three weeks since it was posted.

"The goal was definitely to harm President Putin personally as the country's leader, and Russia itself as a result," Kiselyov said, echoing the Russian authorities' [claim](#) that Navalny is a foreign agent.

The "Putin's Palace"-esque exposé comes days after a Moscow court sentenced Navalny to almost three years in prison for violating probation in a 2014 fraud conviction while he was recovering in Germany. European scientists concluded that Navalny had been poisoned last August with the Soviet-era Novichok nerve agent, an act the opposition leader claims was carried out on Putin's orders.

State television last month rejected claims that Putin owns the Black Sea estate that Navalny estimates costs more than \$1.5 billion. The president's close ally, billionaire Arkady Rotenberg, later told Russian media that he is the palace's [real owner](#).

According to an independent Levada Center poll [published](#) Monday, 26% of Russians watched Navalny's investigation into Putin's alleged palace, with 17% of Russians who knew about the video saying it worsened their opinion of Putin.

Russia's foreign and emergency ministries have meanwhile [launched](#) TikTok accounts over the weekend, with the Foreign Ministry's first posts ridiculing Navalny for questioning the safety of Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine in August 2020.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2021/02/08/russian-state-tv-attempts-putin-palace-style-expose-on-navalnys-german-apartment-a72856>