

Navalny Allies Announce New Courtyard Protests

February 09, 2021



Navalny's team said the new tactics, with protesters holding up cellphone flashlights outside their homes, are an effort to avoid direct confrontation with riot police. **Vladimir Gerdo / TASS**

Jailed opposition leader Alexei Navalny's team has [announced](#) fresh protests for this Sunday, shifting their strategy from street demonstrations to neighborhood gatherings in an effort to avoid direct confrontations with riot police.

Russian authorities clamped down on two weekend rallies held in Navalny's support late last month. Videos showed riot police using force against those who did not seem to resist detention, followed by overcrowded conditions in detention centers.

Related article: [Navalny Supporters Defy Crackdown to Protest Across Russia](#)

The new protests will involve supporters gathering in their building courtyards and holding up cellphone flashlights for a set period of time, Navalny's regional network coordinator Leonid Volkov said. The tactics resemble the neighborhood protests that have been seen in

neighboring Belarus following a brutal crackdown on election protests there last year.

“Hundreds of thousands of people took to the Russian streets on Jan. 23 and Jan. 31. The response was an unprecedented wave of violence and repression,” Volkov said, accusing President Vladimir Putin of “turning fear into his main and only weapon.”

“We need to find a way to overcome it and hold an event that riot police could not prevent and everyone could attend,” Volkov wrote on the Telegram social media app.

Addressing the apparent reversal from his earlier remarks on [halting protests](#) until this spring, Volkov said he regrets the awkward wording that led to disappointment among some protesters.

“My poorly worded phrase was interpreted by everyone that the protests are canceled. That was quite a difficult moment,” he [said](#) in a Tuesday interview with the MBKh Media news website.

Original url:

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