

Jailed Kremlin Critic Navalny Taken to Unknown Location, Team Says

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Navalny was sentenced to two and a half years in prison for violating parole while recuperating in Germany from a near-fatal poisoning. **Babushkinsky District Court Press Service**

Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny has been moved to an unknown location from a detention center outside Moscow where he had been quarantined, his Twitter account <u>said</u> Friday.

Navalny was similarly transferred from a Moscow jail last month, <u>turning up</u> at a Vladimir region detention center where he was under quarantine a week later. He was sentenced to two and a half years in prison for violating parole while recuperating in Germany from a near-fatal poisoning.

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Navalny's Twitter account said that his lawyers were kept waiting at the Kolchugino detention center in the Vladimir region "since the start of the workday."

"Under various pretexts, they were not allowed to see Alexei," it said, accusing prison officials of stalling by "inventing a holiday and someone's illness."

"[The lawyers] were only informed that Alexei was gone by 14:00. [Prison authorities] refused to say where," Navalny's account added.

Prison authorities in the Vladimir region told state media Thursday they would <u>not announce</u> Navalny's transfer to a penal colony and only planned to inform his family. The Kremlin critic's lawyer <u>said</u> the family has not been informed of Navalny's whereabouts.

"Last time, we found him in the Kolchugino detention center on our own. Now, apparently, we've been invited to look for him again," attorney Olga Mikhailova told the Ekho Moskvy radio station.

The Vedomosti business daily <u>reported</u> Thursday, citing unnamed prison service and regional administration sources, that Navalny will be transferred to a Vladimir region prison camp notorious for psychological isolation and harsh conditions.

The state-run TASS news agency <u>cited</u> a law enforcement source Friday as saying that Navalny had been taken to that Vladimir region prison camp.

European scientists determined that President Vladimir Putin's most vocal domestic critic was nearly killed by a Soviet-designed nerve agent Novichok and Western leaders urged Russia to investigate the incident. Navalny and his allies blame Russian security officers for carrying out the Aug. 20 attack, a claim rejected by the authorities.

The European Court of Human Rights has demanded that Russia release Navalny immediately, but Russia has refused to do so.

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