

## 2 Navalny Allies Missing Day After Opening Regional Office

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Navalny's Dagestani regional coordinator Eduard Atayev **Screenshot Youtube**

Two allies of jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny have gone missing the day after opening a campaign office in the southern Russian republic of Dagestan, the office's Twitter account [said](#) Monday.

Sunday's low-key opening in the Dagestani capital of Makhachkala follows an abandoned attempt in February, when the then-regional campaign manager was [assaulted](#) hours after Navalny's team first announced their plans.

"Yesterday we opened a headquarters in Makhachkala, and today our coordinator Eduard Atayev disappeared," Navalny's office said.

A regional election observer added that Atayev's assistant Murad Manapov has [also gone missing](#) after leaving his home.

Local police denied detaining the two men, Ruslan Ablyakimov, who fled Dagestan after he

was attacked after the announced opening in February, [said](#) on Monday evening.

Navalny's office in the Muslim-majority region is part of a wider expansion of its network of 37 offices ahead of key parliamentary elections this fall where his team hopes to block the pro-Kremlin party's supermajority.

"The capital of Dagestan is the largest Russian city where we have never had a headquarters," senior Navalny aide Leonid Volkov, who fled Russia in 2019 when authorities opened a criminal money-laundering probe against Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation, [wrote](#) last month.

"There is strong disaffection [in Makhachkala] and I know the opening of our headquarters is eagerly awaited there."

Navalny is serving two and a half years on old fraud charges in a prison colony described as one of Russia's harshest.

He was jailed upon returning to Russia from Germany, where he spent months recovering from a near-fatal poisoning with what European experts and the global chemical weapons watchdog determined was the Novichok nerve agent.

Navalny, 44, announced he was starting a hunger strike on March 31 to demand proper medical treatment for severe back pain and leg numbness.

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