

Moscow Bans 7 Britons From Russia Over Navalny Sanctions

By [AFP](#)

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Moscow accused London of intending to continue to pursue a "destructive course" in bilateral ties. **TASS**

Moscow said Friday it will ban seven British "representatives" from entering its territory in retaliation over UK sanctions sparked by the near-fatal poisoning of jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny.

In August, Britain sanctioned seven Russian officials on the first anniversary of the poisoning of President Vladimir Putin's most vocal domestic critic.

The individuals — all members of Russia's domestic security service the FSB, successor to the KGB — were accused of planning or carrying out the Aug. 20, 2020, nerve agent attack. They face asset freezes and travel bans under the sanctions.

"In response to London's unfriendly actions and on the basis of the principle of reciprocity, it was decided to impose personal sanctions against a proportionate number of British

representatives who are closely involved in anti-Russian activities," the Russian foreign ministry said.

"They have been barred from entering the territory of the Russian Federation," the ministry added, without giving any further details of the seven being targeted.

Moscow accused London of intending to continue to pursue a "destructive course" in bilateral ties.

Western intelligence agencies have assessed with "high confidence" that FSB officers poisoned Navalny with the Novichok nerve agent last year.

Related article: [One Year On, Navalny's Poisoning Signaled the Start of Russia's Accelerated Crackdown](#)

The dissident was flown to Germany for treatment but defiantly returned in January, only to be arrested and then sent to prison.

London's relations with Moscow have been dire since the 2006 radiation poisoning death in the British capital of former spy Alexander Litvinenko.

He blamed Putin for his death in a posthumous message.

Relations worsened after the 2018 attempted murder of former double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter in the English city of Salisbury, using Novichok.

That prompted tit-for-tat expulsions of diplomats in both capitals.

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