

Whereabouts of 4 Russian Dissidents Unknown After Apparent Jail Transfers

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Ksenia Fadeeva. t.me/mizafadeevu

The whereabouts of four Russian political prisoners are unknown after their apparent transfer to new prison facilities in recent days, lawyers and relatives said on Monday.

Prison authorities in Russia often subject high-profile inmates to secret and lengthy transfers across the country. Shortly before his death at an Arctic penal colony in February, the whereabouts of late Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny [were unknown](#) for nearly three weeks while he was moved to that prison.

The husband of Navalny ally Lilia Chanyшева [said](#) on Monday that his wife had "left" the penal colony in the Perm region where she was being held last Friday and has not been heard from since. "She's nowhere to be found," he wrote on X (formerly Twitter).

Chanyшева was the first of Navalny's associates to be arrested on "extremism" charges in 2021 and was sentenced to nine and a half years in prison earlier this year. In May, Russian state media [claimed](#) that she asked President Vladimir Putin for a pardon.

Meanwhile, jailed activist Ksenia Fadeyeva's lawyers [said](#) prison authorities in the Novosibirsk region informed them that she had also "left" but declined to say when or why. Fadeyeva, another Navalny ally, is [serving](#) a nine-year "extremism" sentence.

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Oleg Orlov, who serves as the co-chair of the human rights group Memorial, was also [said](#) to have "left" the prison where he was being held in the city of Syzran, according to his lawyer. The 71-year-old veteran activist was sentenced to two and a half years in prison this year for his opposition to the full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

So, too, was artist Alexandra Skochilenko moved to "another facility," according to a letter [published](#) by a group of supporters. She was [sentenced](#) last fall to seven years behind bars for replacing price tags at a St. Petersburg supermarket with anti-war messages.

Skochilenko's supporters believe she was moved from St. Petersburg to a prison in Moscow.

It was not immediately clear whether the apparent prison transfers were connected.

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