

St. Petersburg Philosophy Professor Detained Over \$40 'Extremist' Navalny Donations

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Igor Zaytsev. aquaviva.ru

St. Petersburg police have detained a prominent philosophy professor for allegedly donating 3,500 rubles (\$42) to groups affiliated with the late opposition activist Alexei Navalny.

St. Petersburg police [said](#) it cooperated with the Federal Security Service (FSB) to detain a 58-year-old local resident as part of a criminal case into financing extremist activity that was opened on July 31.

While the police withheld his name, several media outlets [identified](#) the man as Igor Zaytsev, 58, an associate professor and deputy dean of the faculty of philosophy and theology at the Dostoevsky Russian Christian Humanities Academy.

In a video released by the police, law enforcement officers were heard asking Zaytsev about his electronic devices before carrying out extensive searches in his home.

“I personally supported Alexei Navalny,” Zaytsev told the officers on camera.

Zaytsev said he could not recall whether he continued supporting Navalny after the Supreme Court declared his network “extremist” in 2021, but acknowledged that he had signed up for monthly recurring donations prior to that ruling.

Navalny died in an Arctic penal colony in February 2024.

Zaytsev faces up to eight years in prison if charged and found guilty of “financing extremist activity.”

St. Petersburg news outlet Fontanka [reported](#) that the criminal case has not yet reached local courts and Zaytsev’s pre-trial terms have not yet been set

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