

# URGENT ACTION

## ACTIVIST FACES 10 YEARS FOR SUPPORTING NAVALNY

Activist Lilia Chanyшева was arrested on 9 November and put in pretrial detention the next day on charges of “establishing or leading an extremist association”, for her role as former regional coordinator of “Navalny’s headquarters” in Ufa, a city in central Russia. Lilia Chanyшева has committed no crime and the charges she faces, which carry up to 10 years in prison, are politically motivated and part of the Russian authorities’ crackdown on Aleksei Navalny’s associates and supporters. She must be released immediately.

**TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER**

**Aleksandr Gryaznikov**  
**First Deputy Prosecutor of the Republic of Bashkortostan**  
Ulitsa Krupskoy 19  
Ufa, Bashkortostan 450077  
Russian Federation  
**Twitter:** @Prokuratura\_RB  
**Instagram:** <https://instagram.com/bashproc>

Dear Deputy Prosecutor,

*I am deeply concerned about the arbitrary detention of **Lilia Chanyшева**. She was arrested on 9 November and on 10 November, the Kirovsky District Court of Ufa, Bashkortostan, put her in pretrial detention for two months on charges of “establishing or leading an extremist association”. The court took this decision despite Lilia Chanyшева’s plea that she could be at the early stages of pregnancy.*

*The charges against her have been brought in connection with her role as former regional coordinator of “Navalny’s headquarters”. In fact, in this capacity she was essentially conducting peaceful social and political activities, which cannot be considered as “extremism”.*

*Lilia Chanyшева has committed no internationally recognizable crime. Her arbitrary arrest and detention violate her rights to freedom of expression and association and set an extremely dangerous precedent as it could mean that other Aleksei Navalny’s supporters across Russia are at imminent risk of facing unfounded, politically motivated charges that can lead to years in prison.*

**I urge you to take all the necessary steps to ensure that Lilia Chanyшева is released immediately and that all charges against her are dropped.**

Yours sincerely,

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Lilia Chanyшева, a former regional coordinator of “Navalny’s headquarters” in Ufa, Bashkortostan (central Russia), was arrested on 9 November, following a search at her home. On the same day, the police searched the homes of other activists in Ufa and other Russian cities as part of a criminal case against Aleksei Navalny and his associates.

On 10 November, the Kirovsky District Court of Ufa, put Lilia Chanyшева in pretrial detention for two months. The court took this decision despite Lilia Chanyшева’s plea that she could be at the early stages of pregnancy. She was accused of “establishing or leading an extremist association” (Art. 282.1(1) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation) in connection with her past work with Aleksei Navalny. If convicted, Lilia Chanyшева could face up to 10 years imprisonment.

On 9 June, the Moscow City Court arbitrarily [banned](#) as “extremist” three civil society organizations, namely the Anti-Corruption Foundation, the Citizens’ Rights Protection Foundation and “Navalny’s headquarters”, all of them linked to Aleksei Navalny. The court hearing was closed to the media and the general public, and the grounds for the designation have not been made public.

On 28 September, the Russian authorities announced a new criminal investigation against Aleksei Navalny and his associates on unfounded charges of “establishment of an extremist association”. In October, it transpired that this investigation was joined with four other criminal cases against Aleksei Navalny, his colleagues and supporters. Lilia Chanyшева is the first of Navalny’s associates to be arrested under this criminal case.

Aleksei Navalny, leading Russian opposition activist and anti-corruption campaigner, was sentenced on 2 February 2021 to two years and eight months for “violation of probation terms” of a previous politically motivated sentence. Russian authorities have refused to release him despite mass protests and multiple decisions of the European Court of Human Rights. Aleksei Navalny is a prisoner of conscience and must be freed immediately and unconditionally.

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET:** Russian, English.

You can also write in your own language.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** 7 January 2022

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

**NAME AND PRONOUN:** Lilia Chanyшева (she/her)