

URGENT ACTION

JAILED ACTIVIST TRANSFERRED TO MOSCOW

On November 17, 2021, a court upheld on appeal the pretrial detention of activist Lilia Chanysheva, and she was transferred out of her hometown of Ufa on November 21, 2021. She will be held in Moscow, almost 1,500 km away. Lilia Chanysheva has been detained since November 9, 2021, on politically motivated charges of “establishing or leading an extremist association”, for her role as former regional coordinator of “Navalny’s headquarters”. She faces up to 10 years in prison. Lilia Chanysheva has committed no crime and must be released immediately.

TAKE ACTION:

1. Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
2. [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Urgent Action 114.21**. It’s important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation

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Dear Prosecutor General,

I am deeply concerned about the arbitrary detention of activist **Lilia Chanysheva**, who has been transferred from her hometown of Ufa to pretrial detention in Moscow, following her arrest on November 9, 2021, on charges of “establishing or leading an extremist association”.

Lilia Chanysheva is being prosecuted because of her role as former regional coordinator of “Navalny’s headquarters” in Ufa, where she essentially conducted peaceful social and political activities which cannot be considered as “extremism”.

Lilia Chanysheva has committed no internationally recognizable crime and is just another victim of the authorities’ crackdown on Aleksei Navalny’s associates and supporters. Her prosecution is unfounded and politically motivated and violates her rights to freedom of expression and association.

In the light of the above, I urge you to take all the necessary steps to ensure that Lilia Chanysheva is released immediately and that all charges against her are dropped.

Sincerely,

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Lilia Chanyшева, a former regional coordinator of “Navalny’s headquarters” in Ufa, Bashkortostan (central Russia), was arrested on November 9, 2021, 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 November 10, 2021, 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 November 17, 2021, the court upheld the decision to keep Lilia Chanyшева in pretrial detention. She was transferred from Ufa on November 21, 2021. It is expected that she will be held in a detention centre in Moscow, almost 1,500 km away from her hometown.

On June 9, 2021, the Moscow City Court arbitrarily banned as “extremist” three civil society organizations, namely the AntiCorruption 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 September 28, 2021, 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 February 2, 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: January 11, 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)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur46/4987/2021/en/>