



**EU-RUSSIA CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM**  
**ГРАЖДАНСКИЙ ФОРУМ ЕС-РОССИЯ**

**Stop the Attack on Alexei Navalny's Organisations!**  
**A Call for an Immediate Release of the Politician**  
**Statement by the Board of the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum**

The Board of the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum is, with great concern, monitoring the situation of the Anti-Corruption Foundation (ACF), the Citizens' Rights Protection Foundation (CRPF), the legal entity of the ACF, and the Team Navalny Movement, as well as the leader of these initiatives – Russian politician Alexei Navalny.

We demand that the authorities of the Russian Federation immediately cease their politically motivated attack on the said organisations and allow Alexei Navalny, who has been on hunger strike in a correctional facility and has been left without qualified medical care<sup>1</sup>, to be visited by doctors of his choice. Furthermore, we support the resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) on Navalny's arrest and imprisonment, adopted at the meeting of 22 April 2021<sup>2</sup>, and call for his immediate release based on the decision of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) from 17 October 2017<sup>3</sup>.

On 16 April 2021, the Moscow Prosecutor's Office filed a lawsuit demanding that ACF, CRPF and the Team Navalny Movement be recognised as extremist organisations. The first court hearing on the case will be held in a closed trial on 26 April<sup>4</sup>. A successful conviction would not only place the organisation and its staff outside the law, but could also subject tens of thousands of Russians who have supported the initiatives' activities in recent years to criminal prosecution<sup>5</sup>.

The decision may also apply to those who participated in demonstrations in support of the politician that were held across Russia on 21 April. As of today, we know about more than 1,790 people detained

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<sup>1</sup> See e.g. <https://time.com/5956163/alexei-navalny-health-hospital>

<sup>2</sup> See <https://pace.coe.int/en/news/8280/pace-invites-council-of-europe-s-ministerial-body-to-use-all-tools-at-its-disposal-to-free-alexei-navalny>

<sup>3</sup> See <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#%7B%22itemid%22:%5B%22001-177665%22%5D%7D>

<sup>4</sup> See e.g. <https://meduza.io/amp/en/news/2021/04/20/moscow-city-court-to-hold-closed-trial-on-outlawing-navalny-s-political-movement-as-extremist>

<sup>5</sup> See e.g. [www.hrw.org/news/2021/04/19/russia-ban-sought-groups-linked-navalny](http://www.hrw.org/news/2021/04/19/russia-ban-sought-groups-linked-navalny)

during the protests, with over 800 detainees in St. Petersburg alone. In many cases, the law enforcement agencies applied violence and beat up participants of the demonstrations<sup>6</sup>.

Along with demanding justice for Alexei Navalny and his organisations, the Board of the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum is drawing the attention of international institutions to blatant human rights violations in the Russian Federation against peaceful protesters and is calling on the Council of Europe bodies to protect the rights and freedoms of Russian citizens in line with the norms and standards of international and European law.

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**The EU-Russia Civil Society Forum** was established in 2011 by non-governmental organisations as a permanent common platform. At the moment, 185 NGOs from Russia, the European Union and the United Kingdom are members or supporters of the Forum. It aims at development of cooperation of civil society organisations from Russia and EU and greater participation of NGOs in the EU-Russia dialogue. The Forum has been actively involved, inter alia, in the questions of facilitation of visa regime, development of civic participation, protection of the environment and human rights, dealing with history and civic education.

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<sup>6</sup> See <https://ovdinfo.org/news/2021/04/21/spiski-zaderzhannyh-v-svyazi-s-akciey-v-podderzhku-alekseya-navalnogo-21-aprelya> (in Russian)