

Navalny Brother Free After 3.5 Years in Prison

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Artem Korotaev / TASS

Oleg Navalny — the brother of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny — was released after spending three and a half years behind bars following a fraud conviction.

Both brothers were [found guilty](#) of embezzling funds from French cosmetics firm Yves Rocher in late 2014. Oleg was sentenced to three and a half years in penal colony, while Alexei received a three-year suspended sentence. Critics at the time said the conviction was part of an effort to stifle dissent.

In a [video](#) posted on social media Friday, Oleg Navalny is led from what appears to be a barracks, and greeted by the excited shouts and embraces of supporters.

Embed:

УРА!!! pic.twitter.com/sQhoTCGTuS

— Соболев Любовь (@SobolLubov) [29 июня 2018 г.](#)

“Am I supposed to make an announcement?” Oleg Navalny [jokes](#) after sharing an embrace with his brother.

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) [ruled](#) last year that Russia had violated the Navalny brothers’ rights to a fair trial in the Yves Rocher case, and ordered that they be compensated for moral damages and legal costs.

The international human rights group Memorial [recognized](#) Oleg Navalny as a political prisoner.

Oleg said he has not yet [decided](#) whether he will to pursue a political or legal career. He received a [second](#) degree in criminal law while imprisoned.

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