

# Navalny's Underwear Poisoning Takes Over the Russian Internet

December 22, 2020



The FSB operatives identified by the Bellingcat-led investigation after the release of Navalny's phone call, probably. [Twitter / znak\\_com](#)

On Monday, Russian opposition figure Alexei Navalny [released video](#) of a phone call in which he says he tricked one of the FSB agents behind his poisoning into admitting to the act and sharing new details about the failed operation.

A joint media investigation led by Bellingcat last week identified the key FSB operatives who poisoned Navalny with the Soviet-era nerve agent Novichok, one of whom was Konstantin Kudryavtsev.

In his phone call with a man identified as Kudryavtsev, Navalny pretended to be a senior official preparing a report on the FSB's operation. He not only extracted confirmation that the operation took place and confirmed names of key players, but also revealed new details — including that most of the nerve agent was applied on Navalny's underwear. More specifically, the inside of the underwear in the crotch area, as Kudryavtsev clarified during the 49-minute phone call.

The video, which was viewed more than 12 million times in less than 24 hours, sparked countless memes on the Russian internet — particularly over the pivotal role that Navalny's underwear now plays in the poisoning.

Navalny himself has taken a comic approach to his near-death experience, sharing some of the memes on Twitter and filming TikToks to make light of the situation.

Here are some of the best memes:

**"FSB: Expectation vs. reality."**

**Embed:**

фсб

ожидания и реальность... [pic.twitter.com/VzFWlHFUGY](https://pic.twitter.com/VzFWlHFUGY)

— Сталкер (@ValBodin) [December 21, 2020](#)

**"An FSB operative taking Navalny's underwear for processing."**

**Embed:**

Сотрудник ФСБ забирает трусы Навального на обработку.

[pic.twitter.com/CJwYTEfLrQ](https://pic.twitter.com/CJwYTEfLrQ)

— Аркаша (@arkashaseverny) [December 22, 2020](#)

**"A member of the FSB team that poisoned Alexei Navalny said that the poison was applied to the underwear."**

**Embed:**

Участник команды отравителей Алексея Навального из ФСБ сообщил, что яд был нанесен на трусы. <https://t.co/NroqvFN3wv> [pic.twitter.com/shKcxyG3YI](https://pic.twitter.com/shKcxyG3YI)

— The Insider (@the\_ins\_ru) [December 21, 2020](#)

**"When you're reading more Navalny news."**

**Embed:**

Когда читаешь очередные новости про Навального  
[pic.twitter.com/UdKDzlwSMa](https://pic.twitter.com/UdKDzlwSMa)

— kusok\_wladosa (@KWladosa) [December 21, 2020](#)

**"An emergency meeting of the Security Council"**

**Embed:**

экстренное заседание Совета Безопасности [pic.twitter.com/75tXNhbuIf](https://pic.twitter.com/75tXNhbuIf)

— Tapas&Tango (@atticus\_flinch) [December 21, 2020](#)

**...it's me**

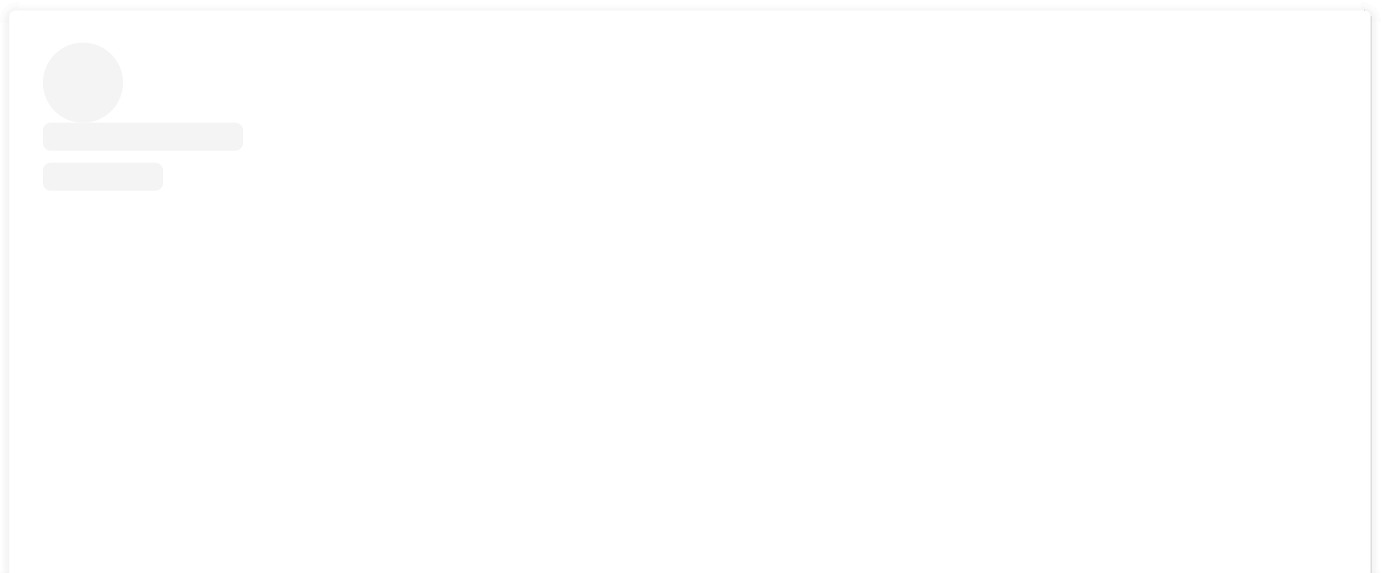
**Embed:**

[pic.twitter.com/xDDxiO81i5](https://pic.twitter.com/xDDxiO81i5)

— Мертвые Позеры (@deadpozers) [December 21, 2020](#)

**"Happy Poisonous Underpants Day!"**

**Embed:**





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Публикация от [Виноградов Алексей \(@kuban\\_borschik\)](#)

**This year's Pantone color: The navy-blue color of Navalny's underwear.**

**Embed:**

[pic.twitter.com/7LqVNOluyv](https://pic.twitter.com/7LqVNOluyv)

— [ведьма Илья Харитонов \(@huliotebenado\)](#) [December 21, 2020](#)

**"POISON THE PANTIES!!!"**

**Embed:**

[pic.twitter.com/WQgydyajmE](https://pic.twitter.com/WQgydyajmE)

— Anton Semakin (@antonsemakin) [December 21, 2020](#)

**During today's discussion of what went wrong...**

**Embed:**

[pic.twitter.com/H38eXMzhgd](https://pic.twitter.com/H38eXMzhgd)

— Russia No Context (@RussiaNoContext) [December 21, 2020](#)

**"What's happening in the Kremlin right now."**

**Embed:**

Что сейчас происходит в Кремле. [pic.twitter.com/C59bLL0273](https://pic.twitter.com/C59bLL0273)

— Штаб Навального в Тамбове (@teamnavalny\_tmb) [December 21, 2020](#)

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