

Navalny's Widow Says Putin Blocking Body Handover

By [AFP](#)

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Yulia Navalnaya [@yulia Navalnaya / X](#)

Alexei Navalny's widow said Russian President Vladimir Putin had personally ordered that his arch critic's body should not be handed over to his family after his death in an Arctic jail nine days ago.

Navalny's mother said authorities in the Arctic town of Salekhard are threatening to bury him on the prison grounds if she did not agree to a "secret" funeral.

"You tortured him alive, now you torture him while he is dead," Yulia Navalnaya, who has vowed to continue her husband's work, said in a new video.

"I completely understand that this has not been curated by some investigator in Salekhard. Putin is directing it all," she said.

"It's Putin saying 'Put pressure on the mother, break her, tell her the body of her son is

rotting'," she said.

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She said Navalny's mother, who traveled to the remote prison colony where he died, is being "tormented" by authorities.

"This is the same Putin that likes to show that he is a practicing Christian," she said.

Putin has for decades portrayed himself as a devoted Orthodox Christian and has in recent years focused on promoting what he calls "traditional values."

"We always knew that Putin's faith is fake, but now we can see it like never before," Navalnaya said.

She also denounced Putin's decision to launch the Ukraine campaign two years ago.

"You will answer for all of this. And for this [Navalny's death], and for the war that you unleashed two years ago, also hiding behind Christian values.

"You are just killing. You are just killing sleeping people at night with missiles blessed by the church," she said.

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