



[U.S. Announces Plans for Additional Sanctions on Russia Over the Navalny Poisoning Days After Biden and Putin's Summit in Geneva](#)

U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan announced this week that the United States will apply additional sanctions on Russia over the Alexei Navalny poisoning, with the move coming mere days after President Biden and Russian counterpart Putin's summit in Geneva. This is the second set of sanctions over the Russian regime's use of chemical weapons to poison the opposition party leader. The first set of sanctions were initiated in March of 2021 when Alexei Navalny was placed under arrest on his return to Russia, after recovering from a coma in a German hospital. The announcement of the plan for the new sanctions also comes after last week's Geneva summit which established the return of the envoys to each other's nations. This was the only direct progress made during the meeting, however both Biden and Putin expressed that the gathering was positive and constructive. Relations between the United States and Russia have been fraught with tension over the preceding decades, which has led both sides to approach the other with a cautious mindset that aims to prioritize tolerance and stability.

Alexei Navalny is a Russian political party leader who possessed the strongest chance to oppose President Putin before he was poisoned, detained, and imprisoned for embezzlement charges. He was poisoned with a nerve agent in Siberia and eventually transported to Berlin for treatment. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) claimed that the nerve agent was similar to the Novichok one that Russia had been accused of using for an assassination attempt in the past. The first set of sanctions were not passed until earlier this year when Alexei Navalny was detained at an airport and imprisoned after a trial on charges of embezzlement. Analysts forecast that this latest set of sanctions will ultimately be passed as well because of the use of a deadly nerve agent.

Putin has had multiple human rights violations occur during his time in office, with freedom of speech and expression being a particular target under his regime. Opposing party members have been imprisoned for various charges to diminish the prospect of a real challenge to the Russian leader. Censorship is used against journalists, companies, and anyone who disrespects the state, and Russia allows local authorities to block all internet access to an area when a threat is perceived. Journalists are also fined for arbitrary charges when speaking out in any way regarding the government's actions, and individual citizens can be incarcerated for peacefully protesting against election fraud.

The United States and Russia did not attempt to reset relations or enact anything drastic during the recent Geneva summit, and instead focused on ways to prevent further deterioration and encourage stability. The respective envoys between the United States and Russia were reengaged after the meeting so that diplomacy between the two nations could continue. Previously, the envoys were pulled back after President Biden had stated that he thought Putin was "a killer" in an interview with ABC. Biden also commented that Putin would pay a price for interfering with the 2020 U.S. election, which further soured ties between the two counterparts. Ultimately, this was the most recent and direct cause for the envoys to be pulled out of each country. Now, with last week's summit in Geneva, the leaders are trying to open the door for future discussions on important issues such as arms control, cyber-attacks, foreign policy in the Middle East, and ways to collaboratively address the serious threat of climate change.