

Russia

Congress notes:

- Presidential elections held 15 – 17 March across Russia extended to the Ukrainian, Georgian and Moldovan territories occupied illegally by Russian troops. Thousands of Russians inside and outside Russia courageously showed their public opposition to the sham elections – many of whom were arrested.
- Alexei Navalny, who bravely opposed Putin's regime, was killed in a Russian Arctic prison on 16 February. Navalny's widow, Yulia Navalnaya, accuses Putin of ordering the torture, starvation and isolation of her husband.
- Other democratic activists imprisoned in Russia include Vladimir Kara-Murza, a British-Russian dual national, friend of Yabloko and recent recipient of Liberal International's Prize for Freedom; there is now a real risk that he may also be killed.

Congress believes:

- Putin is threatening and murdering opponents inside and outside Russia to quash any opposition to his authoritarian rule.
- The Russian Presidential elections are a sham and prove the illegitimacy of Russia's claims to be a democracy.
- Navalny's tragic death, at the hands of Putin, cannot and will not stifle the desire for Russia's people to live in a democratic society.
- We must continue to support Ukraine with financial and military resources, to help them resist Vladimir Putin's forces and liberate their territory.

Congress calls on all member parties to:

- Impose sanctions on the Navalny List of Putin's cronies.
- Make it a diplomatic priority to secure the release of Vladimir Kara-Murza and other political prisoners in Russia.
- Resist Putin's totalitarian regime, by:
 - Seizing frozen Russian assets, with proceeds repurposed to urgently finance support for Ukraine.
 - Use the Belgian plan to immediately repurpose the interest accrued on frozen Russian assets for Ukraine.
 - Denounce the Russian Presidential elections as illegitimate.
 - Support the Russian people challenging Putin's authoritarian rule.