



To:
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Dear Mr. Vladimir V. Barbin,

I write to express Amnesty International's profound concern about the health and safety of Aleksei Navalny and urge you to convey to your government the concerns set out in this letter with a view to taking immediate action to ensure Aleksei Navalny's immediate access to credible and independent medical specialists and his immediate release.

Amnesty International considers that the prominent Russian opposition figure and anti-corruption campaigner has committed no recognizable criminal offence and is imprisoned merely because he is an outspoken critic of your government. We consider his imprisonment to be unlawful and the conditions of his imprisonment to amount to torture or other ill-treatment.

As you will be aware, on 20 August 2020, Aleksei Navalny was poisoned by a prohibited military grade nerve agent while campaigning in local elections in Siberia. On 21 August, the European Court of Human Rights granted interim measures on his behalf requesting that he be transferred to Germany for treatment, and the following day Aleksei Navalny was evaluated to Germany, unconscious and in critical condition. On 6 October 2020, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons confirmed that Aleksei Navalny had been exposed to a toxic chemical similar to Novichok. Investigations carried out by UN Special Rapporteurs concluded that the Russian authorities were responsible for the poisoning and attempted killing of Aleksei Navalny.

Despite repeated warnings from the Russian authorities that he would be arrested upon arrival in Russia, Aleksei Navalny returned to Moscow on 17 January 2021 and was immediately taken into custody. The authorities accused him of failing to report to the probation officer during the period he was receiving life-saving treatment in Germany and he was sentenced to two years and eight months in a general regime prison colony. The European Court of Human Rights has deemed his conviction politically motivated.

Aleksei Navalny's health has deteriorated significantly in prison. He suffers from debilitating pain in his back and numbness in his legs and his condition appears to be worsening by the day. Medical

experts agree that the after-effects of Novichok poisoning are serious and debilitating and require highly qualified and sustained medical attention. The Russian prison authorities are responsible for providing such medical care, however, despite repeated requests, to date Aleksei Navalny has been denied visits by a medical doctor of his choice.

As a state party to a number of international and regional human rights conventions,¹ your government has binding obligations to respect and protect the right to life of prisoners and to protect them from torture and other ill-treatment. The continuing imprisonment of Aleksei Navalny, the conditions of his detention, and the denial of his access to medical care and treatment, amount to unlawful deprivation of his liberty, violation of his rights to life, to health and to not be subjected to torture and other ill-treatment. Amnesty International is concerned that your government appears to be subjecting Aleksei Navalny to conditions which could lead to his death.

Amnesty International is calling on the Russian government, in the strongest terms, to take immediate action to:

- Immediately release Aleksei Navalny;
- Pending his release, ensure he is examined by qualified independent medical specialists of his choice and provided their prescribed treatment, including at a civil medical institution, as required;
- Allow an independent review of his medical condition by health experts, such as representatives of the Charité Hospital in Germany, Médecins sans Frontières, or other medical organizations, subject to his consent;
- Undertake an immediate investigation into his conditions in prison, including allegations of depriving him of sleep by hourly “checks” during the night and the failure to provide adequate medical treatment, and hold to account those responsible for these practices;
- Provide access for independent observers, including human rights defenders and international experts, to assess conditions in penal colony IK-2 where Aleksei Navalny is held.

39.105 Danes have already signed our petition calling for the immediate release of Aleksei Navalny.

We urge you to convey these very serious concerns to your government and to find ways to take action on these with the urgency they require. In the meantime, we remain at your disposal to discuss our concerns about Alexei Navalny’s health and safety.

Yours sincerely,



Secretary General

Amnesty International, Denmark

¹ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and European Convention on Human Rights.