

URGENT ACTION

CONCERNS ABOUT NAVALNY'S WHEREABOUTS

Aleksei Navalny's fate and whereabouts have been unknown since his lawyers last heard of him on December 5. On December 11, officials at the penal colony where he was serving an unjust 19-year jail sentence notified his lawyers that he was no longer officially listed in that penal colony. It is possible that he may be in transit to another prison colony, which can last weeks without any information provided to the prisoner's relatives. Transfers nearly always put inmates' health and well-being at risk as they are exposed to mistreatment and harassment. Aleksei Navalny has been constantly targeted for harsher treatment by prison administrations since his arbitrary arrest in January 2021.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
- [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Second Urgent Action 99.23**. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

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Russian Embassy in the United States
Ambassador Anatoly I. Antonov
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Dear Director of the Federal Penitentiary Service,

I am alarmed by reports that the prison authorities have refused to disclose **Aleksei Navalny's** fate and whereabouts after he was last reported to be in custody in the IK-6 colony in Vladimir Oblast. I am also concerned by Aleksei Navalny's unjust imprisonment. I understand that Russian authorities have refused to provide any information about the fate and whereabouts of Aleksei Navalny since his lawyers last heard of him on December 5. While there is a possibility that he may be in transit to another prison colony, the authorities have an obligation to promptly make available the information about prisoner transfers.

Aleksei Navalny's conditions in prison amount to torture or other ill-treatment, and this situation only increases the risks he faces.

I urge you to immediately disclose Aleksei Navalny's fate and whereabouts. I demand that he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment and that his treatment in any prison institution and while in transit complies with international law and standards. All those suspected of responsibility for Aleksei Navalny's ill-treatment should immediately face appropriate disciplinary action.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Aleksei Navalny is a prominent Russian opposition politician, anti-corruption campaigner, and critic of President Vladimir Putin and the Russian government. In August 2020, he was poisoned with what experts later concluded to be the military grade nerve agent Novichok. With the acquiescence of the Russian authorities, he was evacuated to Berlin, Germany, for treatment while in a coma.

After recovering, Aleksei Navalny returned to Moscow on January 17, 2021, and was immediately arrested. He was accused of violating the conditions of parole under an earlier politically motivated conditional sentence, which was replaced with a two years and eight months' custodial sentence on February 4, 2021. On March 22, 2022, he was convicted on further arbitrary and politically motivated charges, including fraud, and sentenced to a further nine years' imprisonment, and again, convicted and sentenced on August 4, 2023, to a total of 19 years, on charges including financing and inciting "extremism" and "rehabilitating the Nazi ideology." On December 1, 2023, authorities brought new charges against Aleksei Navalny, this time under Part 2 of Article 214 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation ("vandalism motivated by hatred or committed by a group of persons").

Aleksei Navalny has been constantly targeted for harsher treatment in every penal institution where he was placed since his arrest. He served his term in a strict regime (maximum security) penal colony IK-6 in Vladimir Oblast (240 km east of Moscow) but was ordered to be moved to a harsher "special regime" prison colony under the terms of his latest sentence unless it is overturned on appeal.

While in prison, Aleksei Navalny has been repeatedly placed in the so-called SHIZO (penalty isolation cell) where he was not allowed any visits or letters, exercise or walks outside, or a chance to buy additional food in the prison shop. Prolonged solitary confinement is defined by the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners as period of 15 days or more in conditions lacking meaningful human contact for at least 22 hours a day. Prolonged solitary confinement constitutes a violation of the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment. The legal limit in Russia of the single period for which a prisoner can be placed in SHIZO at a time is 15 days, but by September 27, 2023, Aleksei Navalny had already spent 12 months in a so-called single-type penal confinement cell (EPKT).

On December 12, 2023, it became apparent that Aleksei Navalny was no longer officially listed in the penal colony IK-6. The Russian authorities have refused to provide any information about the fate and whereabouts of Aleksei Navalny since his lawyers last heard of him on December 5. While there is a possibility that he may be in transit to another prison colony, the authorities must make the information about all prisoner transfers promptly available. Prisoner transfers in Russia can last weeks without any information provided to the prisoner's relatives. The transfers nearly always put inmates' health and well-being at risk as they are exposed to mistreatment and harassment.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Russian, English, or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: February 1, 2023

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Aleksei Navalny (he/him)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur46/7309/2023/en/>