

URGENT ACTION

HEALTH NO LONGER AT RISK, UNJUST DETENTION REMAINS

Russian opposition leader **Aleksei Navalny**'s life is no longer at immediate risk as he started receiving the medical care he required on 23 April. Russian authorities still refuse to release him despite the unlawfulness of his detention, established by the European Court of Human Rights and other international bodies. Amnesty International will continue demanding **Aleksei Navalny**'s immediate and unconditional release and justice for him and other victims of politically motivated persecutions in Russia.

NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUESTED. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SENT APPEALS.

Russian opposition politician and anti-corruption activist, **Aleksei Navalny**, was discharged from hospital and returned to the penal colony where he is serving his sentence on 8 June. On 23 April he had announced in a statement on Instagram that his medical evaluation and treatment had begun and called off the hunger strike he had been carrying out since 31 March. He also addressed all those that had been campaigning on his behalf stating that *"thanks to the huge support of good people from all over the country and the whole world, we have achieved huge progress"*.

Aleksei Navalny's health had seriously deteriorated in prison since his arrest on 17 January 2021 upon return to Moscow from Germany, where he had spent time recovering from being poisoned with military-grade nerve agent Novichok in August 2020. He complained of lack of adequate medical care, debilitating pain in the back and sleep deprivation. He started a hunger strike on 31 March, supported by national and international campaigns on his behalf. Nevertheless, the authorities continued to refuse to provide **Aleksei Navalny** with adequate medical care and his condition continued to worsen. On 23 April he was finally examined in a hospital and on 8 June he was discharged from hospital and transferred to the penal colony IK-2 in Vladimir Oblast, about 100 km east from Moscow, where he remains.

Aleksei Navalny is a prisoner of conscience, jailed on politically motivated charges in retaliation for his criticism of the Russian authorities and his investigations exposing corruption among senior officials and prominent politicians and businesspeople. He was sentenced in 2014 to three and a half years of probation, a conviction that the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) later ruled as "arbitrary and manifestly unreasonable" (*Navalnyy v. Russia*, no. 101/15, §83, 5 March 2018). On 2 February, a court in Moscow ruled to imprison **Aleksei Navalny** for 2 years and 8 months (subsequently reduced by two months) for "violation of probation terms".

Massive, overwhelmingly peaceful protests against his arrest took place across Russia in January and February of this year where more than 11,000 people were arrested, often with excessive force. More than 1,000 peaceful protesters were put under "administrative arrest" following unfair trials and held in inhuman conditions. A number of **Aleksei Navalny**'s associates and high-profile supporters, as well as many other demonstrators, are also facing criminal charges related to the protests.

Amnesty International will continue campaigning for the immediate and unconditional release of **Aleksei Navalny** and for justice for him and other victims of politically motivated persecutions in Russia.

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

THIS IS THE FOURTH AND FINAL OUTPUT FOR UA 6/21

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur46/3955/2021/en/>

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