The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russian Activist Says Hunger-Striking Pilot Savchenko Has Kidney Problems

February 24, 2015



Ukrainian army pilot Nadezhda (Nadia) Savchenko speaks inside a defendants' cage as she attends a hearing at the Basmanny district court in Moscow on Feb. 10, 2015.

Ukrainian pilot Nadezhda Savchenko is suffering from kidney and gall-bladder problems more than two months into her hunger strike at a Moscow jail, a Russian human rights activist who met with the prisoner said.

Despite her declining health, Savchenko was "holding up well, sounded fairly brisk when she spoke with us," Valery Borshchyov, a Moscow Helsinki Committee member, was quoted as saying Monday by RFE/RL Ukrainian Service.

But there is "a risk of complications because the hunger strike has gone on for too long," Borshchyov said, adding that the 33-year-old pilot had "troubles with her kidneys, gall bladder."

Savchenko, who was captured by pro-Moscow forces in eastern Ukraine and handed over to Russia last summer, has lost 17 kilograms since going on a water and glucose diet

in December, according to Reuters. Her lawyer said on Twitter that the pilot's health took a sharp turn for the worse in late January.

Moscow accuses Savchenko of abetting the killing of two Russian journalists who died in artillery shelling in eastern Ukraine last June.

Amid Western and Ukrainian calls for the release of Savchenko, who has become a symbol of resistance at home, Moscow allowed a group of German doctors to visit her last week, Reuters reported.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said his government was extremely concerned about her health, but gave no details of her condition, according to the report.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2015/02/24/russian-activist-says-hunger-striking-pilot-savchenko-has-kidney-problems-a44160