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Captured Ukrainian Pilot Savchenko to Go Back on Hunger Strike

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Ukrainian military pilot Nadezhda Savchenko

Captured Ukrainian pilot Nadezhda Savchenko, who went on trial in southern Russia's Rostov region on Sep. 22, has pledged to go on hunger strike, her lawyers Mark Feygin and Nikolai Polozov wrote on Twitter Thursday.

Polozov later wrote in a separate post that his client demanded to be released, and intended to stop drinking water if she was sentenced.

> Савченко: я с завтрашнего дня объявляю голодовку до конца суда! #FreeSavchenko
>
> — Николай Полозов (@Moscow_advokat) December 17, 2015

He also accused President Vladimir Putin of "double standards," referring to a statement the president made earlier on Thursday during his annual press conference regarding the FIFA fraud trial, in which he said that "foreign citizens could not be hunted down all across the

world and brought to trial."

Savchenko previously went on a hunger strike in December 2014, and subsequently received glucose injections to support her health. She was hospitalized in April.

Earlier on Thursday, a Russian court ruled to extend her detention until April 16, 2016, the RBC news portal reported.

Savchenko faces 25 years in jail if found guilty of complicity in the killing of two Russian journalists in eastern Ukraine and crossing into Russia illegally.

The pilot has said she was spirited into the country by pro-Moscow separatists after being captured in June 2014.

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