

Crimean Filmmaker Issues Will on 120th Day of Hunger Strike, Cousin Says

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Oleg Sentsov (Valeriy Matytsin / TASS)

Oleg Sentsov, the jailed Ukrainian filmmaker on hunger strike in Russian prison, has reportedly told his cousin that he has left a will over fears that he may not survive his protest.

Crimean native Sentsov announced a hunger strike 121 days ago seeking the release of Ukrainian political prisoners in Russia while serving a 20-year prison sentence on a terrorism conviction. Russian authorities have ignored proposals to swap the vocal critic of Moscow's 2014 annexation of Crimea for Russians held in Ukraine, while Sentsov has refused to ask for a pardon from President Vladimir Putin.

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Sentsov's cousin, Natalia Kaplan, [said](#) Sentsov wrote her a letter in which he says: "I no longer believe in a happy end to this story."

“What’s truly worrying is that he left a will on his body of work in case of his death,” Kaplan said in a Facebook post Monday.

In the letter, Sentsov wrote that his organs were not being oxygenated and described his condition as “simply living by inertia.” His lawyer [says](#) the filmmaker has suffered “irreversible changes affecting the cardiovascular system, kidneys and liver.”

“[My] head is foggy, everything is spinning, [my] body, head and limbs are going numb,” Sentsov was quoted as writing by Kaplan.

According to doctors who treat him in prison cited by human rights activists, his organs are about to start shutting down.

Meanwhile, the Federal Prison Service’s branch in northern Russia’s Yamal–Nenets autonomous district [said](#) Tuesday that Sentsov was in “fair” condition and was being fed a mix of nutrients. It said doctors were monitoring his condition and promised to hospitalize Sentsov as soon as his health deteriorated.

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