

# 'Accidental' Opposition Activist Mokhnatkin Dies Aged 66

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Sergei Mokhnatkin was hospitalized in late 2019, a year after being released from prison, due to complications from injuries. **Sergei Karpov / TASS**

Russian opposition activist Sergei Mokhnatkin, who alleged abuse during his years in prison, has died after a long illness at age 66, writer Viktor Shenderovich [announced](#) Thursday.

An engineer by profession, Mokhnatkin said he [stumbled into activism](#) in 2009 when he attempted to defend a woman being beaten by police during a protest for the right to peaceful assembly which he hadn't been participating in. He was then twice [sentenced](#) for attacking police to jail terms totaling seven years, where he alleged beatings by prison guards.

He soon became a poster child for prison abuse in the eyes of opposition activists, who called his name at the mass anti-Kremlin rallies of late 2011 and early 2012.

**Embed:**

Sergei Mokhnatkin has died, who has been in an out of jail ever since turning up at a rally by accident in 2009 and defending a woman who was being arrested. Prison guards broke his spine in 2016. A Platonov character like no other, who tragically lost his precious life. RIP. [pic.twitter.com/kwmdqLa1Iv](https://pic.twitter.com/kwmdqLa1Iv)

— Maria Antonova (@mashant) [May 28, 2020](#)

He was hospitalized in late 2019, a year after being released from prison, due to complications from injuries sustained in prison, his widow Anna Krechetova [told](#) the MBKh Media news website.

“Sergei lost his ability to walk in mid-November 2019 due to multiple spinal fractures,” Krechetova said Thursday.

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She said Mokhnatkin had been refused hospitalization and had developed a life-threatening disease called spondylodiscitis.

“They’ve been killing him for years and they’ve killed him,” Shenderovich wrote on Facebook.

Krechetova told MBKh Media that a wake in his honor will likely take place after Moscow lifts coronavirus restrictions.

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