

Navalny in 'Strong' Pain, Team Fears for His Life: Lawyer

By [AFP](#)

March 25, 2021



Jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny is in great pain, his lawyer said Thursday after visiting him in prison, adding that allies feared for his life.

"He is suffering from strong back pain and pain in his right leg," lawyer Olga Mikhailova said in remarks on Dozhd television, adding that his condition was "extremely unfavorable".

"Everyone is afraid for his life and health."

Navalny was jailed earlier this year after returning to Russia from Germany where he had been treated for a near-fatal poisoning with Novichok, a military-grade nerve agent.

Mikhailova said his right leg was in "an awful condition" and he had been in pain for the past four weeks.

"He is losing sensation in his shin, he can't use his leg," she added.

Mikhailova said that on Wednesday Navalny had undergone a "strange" MRI examination in a hospital outside the prison but doctors did not release his health diagnosis.

She demanded that he be freed and transferred to Moscow for treatment.

In a formal complaint, Navalny on Thursday accused Russian authorities of torture by depriving him of sleep in prison.

Navalny, who is considered a flight risk by Russian authorities, said he is woken eight times per night by guards announcing to a recording camera that he is still in his cell.

"Essentially I am being tortured through sleep deprivation," he said in a formal complaint released by his lawyers.

Related article: [Navalny Allies Dismiss Russia's Claim of His 'Stable' Condition](#)

Navalny's lawyers managed to visit him in his prison in the town of Pokrov some 100 kilometres (60 miles) east of Moscow on Thursday, after they were denied a visit to the penal colony the day before.

Earlier in the day the prison service said Navalny was in a "satisfactory" condition.

He was arrested upon his return to Russia in January and was sentenced to two-and-a-half-years in jail the following month. He is serving his sentence outside Moscow, in a penal colony notorious for harsh discipline.

His jailing on old embezzlement charges sparked large protests, an outcry from rights groups in Russia and abroad and condemnation from Western governments.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2021/03/25/navalny-in-strong-pain-team-fears-for-his-life-lawyer-a73370>