

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 15, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write to you with deep concerns about the poisoning of Mr. Alexei Navalny, a Russian opposition leader. In his attempts to support democracy, Mr. Navalny has experienced frequent jailing, a chemical attack with the nerve agent Novichok and now an unexplained illness.

This recent incident is only the latest in a pattern of poisonings performed by the Kremlin against opposition or dissident figures both within and outside of Russia. News reports have indicated “the agents that make Novichok were secretly developed by the former Soviet Union during the later years of the Cold War. Vil Mirzayanov, a former Russian chemist who spent years testing and enhancing the nerve agent before exposing the program in 1991, has said only the Kremlin knows how to make Novichok.”¹ The use of chemical weapons is a violation of U.S. law, international law, and all norms of acceptable behavior.

While the United States’ government investigation is ongoing, our allies in Germany have already made the determination this was attempted murder of an opposition figure.² We hope you engage with Congress and keep members informed as you pursue this investigation. We are deeply concerned that doctors who initially treated Mr. Navalny attempted to deny that he was poisoned, and it took intervention from the German government for him to be treated properly.

We urge you to take aggressive action in coordination with our allies to show this action is unacceptable and that the United States stands with those who try to advance democracy and freedom. We strongly support sanctions on everyone involved in the poisoning of Mr. Navalny up to and including President Vladimir Putin.

Sincerely,



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

¹ https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/novichok-the-russian-nerve-agent-spooking-britain/2020/09/02/09ffb6be-ed34-11ea-bd08-1b10132b458f_story.html

² <https://www.dw.com/en/navalny-novichok-germany-russia/a-54794283>

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/s/

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Ruben Gallego".

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

/s/

Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress

/s/

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

/s/

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

/s/

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jackie Speier".

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress