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CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON  
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## United States Senate

September 22, 2017

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Mr. Christopher A. Wray  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Wray,

I write to inquire about the status of your investigation into Vladimir Kara-Murza's suspected poisoning that occurred while he was in Russia.

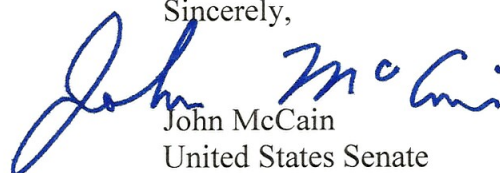
In February 2017, Vladimir suddenly became ill and fell into a life-threatening coma, with all indications suggesting he had been poisoned. He experienced similar symptoms in 2015 when he almost died from sudden kidney failure following another suspected poisoning in Moscow. It seems likely that the two incidents are related, given the similarities in the cases, and it appears that Vladimir has once again been the victim of an intentional attack on his life.

It is also likely that these attacks were politically motivated. Vladimir is a prominent Russian activist who has long fought to promote human rights in Russia. In light of Vladimir's tireless efforts in the fight for freedom and democracy, it would not be surprising if the Russian regime had orchestrated these attempts on his life. Putin has been increasingly unwilling to tolerate any kind of opposition, and he has ruthlessly tried to silence political opponents in Russia and abroad. Political assassinations and poisonings have sadly become routine under his rule, including the murder of Vladimir's friend and colleague Boris Nemtsov in the shadow of the Kremlin in 2015.

This is why it is critical that Vladimir's case be properly investigated. However, it has come to my attention that, since the FBI opened Vladimir's case in February, the investigation has stalled due to inaction. Blood, hair, and nail samples have been collected but testing has yet to begin, and I understand that the case is currently on-hold due to administrative delays. Determining the cause of Vladimir's poisoning should be a high priority for the FBI, and a full investigation should be undertaken immediately. Vladimir, a lawful permanent resident of the United States, has clearly been the victim of Putin's brutal campaign to eliminate his opposition. Identifying who and how this was done will help Vladimir seek the justice he deserves and will provide a small form of protection against repeated attacks on his life and that of other dissidents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt response. If you would like to discuss any details of the case further, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff.

Sincerely,



John McCain  
United States Senate