

BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, MARYLAND, CHAIRMAN

ROBERT MENENDEZ, NEW JERSEY
JEANNE SHAHEEN, NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, DELAWARE
CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, CONNECTICUT
TIM Kaine, VIRGINIA
JEFF MERKLEY, OREGON
CORY A. BOOKER, NEW JERSEY
BRIAN SCHATZ, HAWAII
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, MARYLAND
TAMMY DUCKWORTH, ILLINOIS

JAMES E. RISCH, IDAHO
MARCO RUBIO, FLORIDA
MITT ROMNEY, UTAH
PETE RICKETTS, NEBRASKA
RAND PAUL, KENTUCKY
TODD YOUNG, INDIANA
JOHN BARRASSO, WYOMING
TED CRUZ, TEXAS
BILL HAGERTY, TENNESSEE
TIM SCOTT, SOUTH CAROLINA

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

April 9, 2024

Vladimir Kara Murza
IK-6, House 176, Ten Years of October Street
City of Omsk, Omsk Oblast 644009
Russian Federation

Dear Vladimir,

First and foremost, I write to you to let you know that your friends around the world continue to stand with you, and that we will never forget you. We admire your courage as you continue to use your voice to stand up for others, even as you yourself face adversity.

Earlier today, we convened members of Congress, administration officials, representatives from the diplomatic community, and leaders from an array of democracy and human rights organizations to advocate on your behalf just ahead of the April 11 anniversary of your unjust imprisonment. We honored your important work in support of democracy and human rights, and committed to remaining by your side.

We were also privileged to hear from your loving wife, Evgenia, who leaves no stone unturned in mobilizing support both for you and the others unjustly imprisoned in Russia. As I am sure you already are fully aware, her intellect and eloquence resonate deeply with everyone she meets, from Washington to Ottawa and from London to Brussels. Your children's participation in the event deeply moved everyone in attendance. It was clear to everyone that if the next generation is anything like your kids that the future will indeed be bright.

While I know the days must be long in Omsk, I hope it brings you some solace to know that your writing continues to inspire those working for a better tomorrow. It brings me great joy when I see your byline in the Washington Post or I hear a story about how you're practicing your Spanish in prison. Just like those that came before you in history, Siberia is once again home to a great thinker and an intellectually curious personality. I have no doubt that those around you are benefiting from your immense knowledge and perspective.

I look forward to the day that I can once again host you and Evgenia together in the U.S. Capitol. Rest assured, our Senate Bean Soup and cornbread will be waiting for you. You can put penitentiary yard walks behind you for a stroll on the National Mall. And you can trade reading letters for a visit to the Library of Congress.

I know that everyone in Washington will want to make your return here a welcome one. Until that day, you are in the thoughts and prayers of myself and my wife Myrna. I promise you: We will not stop fighting for you until you are free. One day, Russia will be the land you dream of, where justice is fair, where you can speak your mind without fear, and where elections are genuinely democratic. A Russia at peace. Stay strong, Vladimir.

Sincerely,
Benjamin L. Cardin

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ben Cardin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chairman