

From [Free Paul Whelan](#) on 4/16/19

“Paul was visited by the UK Embassy staff at Lefortovo prison last Thursday [4/11/2019]. He has now been in jail for 108 days [4/15/2019]. Paul indicated that he has been writing to the UK, US, Canadian, and Irish embassies every other week but none of those letters - some of 100 that he has mailed since his arrest - have been received. He has now received 3 letters, one of which took 73 days to arrive.

Investigator Alexey Khiznyak continues to intercept mail and is holding the books that the prison has received for Paul. Similarly, the investigator claims that Paul's Power of Attorney has been mailed but, like the Privacy Act waiver, it hasn't been received. The US Embassy finally received a Privacy Act waiver after Paul's lawyers took a duplicate form to a meeting with Paul and were allowed to have him sign it [3/26/2019]. His lawyers delivered it to the US Embassy.

The UK staff attempted to deliver messages from our family along with some groceries Paul had requested. The Russian authorities would not let British consular staff discuss anything other than prison conditions with Paul, including some health issues they've been monitoring. For example, UK staff were not able to share the latest world news (Paul had wondered about the outcome of the NCAA Final Four) or messages our family had emailed prior to the visit. It is the latest example of the FSB investigator interfering with Paul's access to full consular support.

We were glad to hear [Ambassador Huntsman's comments on Friday](#), the clearest statement from the US about the lack of evidence to support Paul's wrongful detention. [Sen. Peters of Michigan reiterated that it was time](#) for the Russian authorities to stop playing games.

We were also pleased to see [the State Department's new kidnapping designation](#) applied to its Russian Federation travel advisory. There is no doubt in our minds that Paul's arrest and imprisonment amount to a kidnapping by the Russian police. We hope the new designation will help other Americans avoid the same fate.

The US Embassy has asked the Russian Foreign Ministry to be able to visit Paul this week [4/18/2019].