

Edward Snowden's Lawyer Confirms NSA Leaker Wants To Stay in Russia

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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The former National Security Agency employee, has been living in Russia since he fled the U.S. last year after leaking thousands of highly classified documents.

Edward Snowden's lawyer Anatoly Kucherena confirmed Wednesday the former U.S. intelligence contractor has asked Moscow to extend his asylum in Russia.

Russia granted Snowden a one-year visa in August 2013 despite the U.S. wanting Moscow to send him home to face criminal charges, including espionage, for disclosing secret U.S. Internet and telephone surveillance programs.

"We have carried out the procedure of getting temporary asylum. It expires on July 31," Interfax news agency quoted Kucherena as saying on Wednesday.

"Correspondingly, we have filed documents to extend his stay on the territory of Russia."

Kucherena could not immediately be reached for comment independently and the Russian

Federal Migration Service declined comment.

Another lawyer for Snowden, whose precise whereabouts are a secret, said last month he expected Russia to extend the American's asylum beyond July.

President Vladimir Putin's refusal to return Snowden to the U.S. is one of many irritants in relations between Moscow and Washington, which are also as loggerheads over the conflicts in Syria and Ukraine, human rights and defense issues.

See also:

[Snowden Applies to Extend Asylum in Russia, Report Says](#)

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