

URGENT ACTION

UKRAINIAN MEN UNLAWFULLY DETAINED IN RUSSIA

Ukrainian citizens and Crimea residents Oleg Sentsov and Alexander Kolchenko are among a group of detainees from Russian-occupied Crimea who have been unlawfully detained and transferred to Moscow. They are believed to be accused of terrorism offences under Russian legislation and do not have adequate access to their lawyers.

Oleg Sentsov, a Ukrainian film director, and **Alexander Kolchenko**, a social activist, are currently detained in Lefortovo pre-trial detention centre in Moscow. Both are Ukrainian citizens and were detained by Russian State Security officers (FSB) in the occupied territory of Crimea. Oleg Sentsov was detained on the night of 10-11 May by FSB officers who came to search his home. Alexander Kolchenko was detained on 16 May in the centre of Simferopol, the capital. They were transferred to Moscow on 23 May along with other Ukrainian detainees from the occupied territory of Crimea. The two men are believed to be accused of terrorism offences, but their lawyers have signed non-disclosure agreements and there has been no official statement about their detention. Both had taken part in peaceful demonstrations opposing the Russian intervention in Crimea, and Oleg Sentsov had taken part in the EuroMaydan demonstrations in Kyiv, Ukraine, as a member of the motorists' protest group "AvtoMaydan".

Friends and family members of the two men who spoke to Amnesty International believe that the charges against them are politically motivated and are related to their peaceful activism.

It is believed that Oleg Sentsov and Alexander Kolchenko were denied access to their Russian lawyers until 27 and 28 May, respectively four and five days after their transfer to Moscow, in violation of international fair trial standards and Russian law. Meeting rooms for lawyers are limited at Lefortovo prison, and Ukrainian human rights activists reported that Oleg Sentsov's lawyers were forced to queue from 9am to 5pm on 26 May before seeing their client on 27 May.

Please write immediately in Russian or your own language:

- Urging the Russian authorities to immediately return Oleg Sentsov, Alexander Kolchenko and other Ukrainian citizens from Crimea currently detained in Lefortovo prison in Moscow to Crimea;
- Expressing concern that Oleg Sentsov and Alexander Kolchenko may be detained because of their peaceful opposition to the occupation of Crimea and urging them to drop any charges that stem solely from their exercise of their rights to free expression and peaceful assembly;
- Urging them to ensure that Oleg Sentsov and Alexander Kolchenko are able to consult their lawyers at all stages of the legal process without hindrance and delay in accordance with international standards.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 11 JULY 2014 TO:

Prosecutor General

Yurii Yakovlevich Chaika
Prosecutor General's Office
ul. B. Dmitrovka, d.15a
125993 Moscow GSP- 3
Russian Federation
Tel: + 7 495 987 57 08
Fax: +7 495 987 58 41
+7 495 692 17 25

Director

Aleksandr Vasilievich Bortnikov
Federal Security Service
ul. Bolshaia Lubianka, d.1/3
107031 Moscow
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 495 914 26 32
Salutation: Dear Aleksandr Vasilievich

Salutation: Dear Yurii Yakovlevich!

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

At the end of February unidentified gunmen seized key buildings in Simferopol, the capital of the Crimea, and on 6 March the Crimean parliament voted to join the Russian Federation and scheduled a referendum for 16 March. Official results claimed that 97 percent of the population supported becoming part of the Russian Federation, but many members of the Ukrainian and Tatar minorities boycotted the vote. On 18 March, President Putin signed legislation making Crimea effectively part of the Russian Federation. Russian laws subsequently took effect in Crimea. By the end of April Ukrainian lawyers practising in Crimea were required to requalify and work according to Russian law

According to international law an occupation is deemed to have taken place when a state exercises effective control over a territory on which it has no sovereign title without the consent of the state concerned. These conditions have been met in Crimea and Amnesty International therefore considers Crimea to be an occupied territory. On 27 March the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution calling on all states, international organizations and specialized agencies "not to recognize any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on the basis of the above-mentioned referendum and to refrain from any action or dealing that might be interpreted as recognizing any such altered status."

The Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in the time of war specifies that as a general rule, the penal laws of the occupied territory should remain in force (Article 64), and prohibits transfer or deportation of protected persons from the occupied territory (Article 49).

Name: Oleg Sentsov, Alexander Kolchenko

Gender m/f: m

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