

URGENT ACTION

BLOGGER IN DETENTION FOR POLITICAL SATIRE

Political activist and blogger Darya Poliudova is serving five days in detention for online satire and criticism of Russia's policy towards Ukraine.

Darya Poliudova is a political activist and blogger from Krasnodar Region in southern Russia. On 16 July she was sentenced to five days of administrative detention under Article 20.3 of the Code of Administrative Offences (prohibition of public demonstration of Nazi symbols). This is in connection to two images that appeared in June in her postings on the social network VKontakte. Both are satirical images merging Russia's state symbols with those of Nazi Germany and featuring the swastika, accompanied by a text which likens the two.

Darya Poliudova is well known locally for her criticism of the Russian authorities, in particular their role in the conflict in eastern Ukraine, and her activism has been in the spotlight of the local authorities for a long time. She has been detained on numerous occasions for her peaceful street protests. On 29 August 2014, she was arrested under Articles 280(2) and 280.1(2) of the Criminal Code (public calls to commit extremist activities and public calls against territorial integrity of the Russian Federation). This was in connection to her displaying slogans that called to "remove Putin and then have a Socialist revolution" as well as her taking part in online discussions about organizing a "march for the federalisation of Kuban Region." She spent six months in detention and was released on 25 February 2015 under travel restrictions pending the conclusion of the criminal investigation against her. She has been repeatedly arrested since, and served five-day administrative detention on three occasions in connection to her peaceful protest. For instance, she was sentenced for violation of the regulations governing public assembly after she joined a pro-government gathering on 9 May 2015 but held up a banner protesting against government politics.

Please write immediately in Russian or your own language:

- Calling on the Russian authorities to release Darya Poliudova immediately and unconditionally as she has been convicted to administrative detention solely for peacefully exercising her right to freedom of expression;
- Urging them to respect the fundamental right to freedom of expression, including with respect to those who peacefully express criticism of the government or views that are contrary to the state policies and the views held by the majority in Russia.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 28 AUGUST 2015 TO:

Colonel General Igor Kolosov
 Head of the Regional Federal Security
 Service of the Russian Federation for
 Krasnodar Region
 Ul. Mira 46
 350063, Krasnodar
 Fax: +7 (861) 268 43 59
 Email: krasnodar@fsb.ru
**Salutation: Dear Colonel-General
 Kolosov**

Prosecutor of Krasnodar Region
 Leonid Gennadevich Korzhinek
 Prokuratura of Krasnodar Region
 Ul Sovetskaia 39
 350063, Krasnodar
 Fax: +7 (863) 287 70 01
Salutation: Dear Prosecutor

And copies to:
Prosecutor General of the Russian
 Federation
 Yurii Yakovlevich Chaika
 Prosecutor General's Office
 ul. B. Dmitrovka, d.15a
 125993 Moscow GSP- 3
 Russian Federation
 Fax: +7 495 987 5841 / +7 495 692 1725

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**



URGENT ACTION

BLOGGER IN DETENTION FOR POLITICAL SATIRE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In addition to the consecutive administrative cases under which Darya Poliudova has been repeatedly sentenced to short-term detention, she is also facing criminal proceedings, initiated by the Federal Security Service (FSB) under Articles 280(2) and 280.1(2) of the Criminal Code. This was in connection to her political social media posts, including photos of herself carrying political banners such as “No war with Ukraine but revolution in Russia”, blaming Vladimir Putin for “acts of terror and catastrophes in Russia” and calling for his removal and “a socialist revolution”. In addition, she and some friends had discussed on VKontakte plans to hold a “march for the federalisation of Kuban Region”. Such marches had been planned by political activists across Russia, but were banned by the authorities. These marches were suggested in response to Russia’s support of separatists in Ukraine, under slogans replicating the official discourse in relation to Ukraine, and calling for greater autonomy within the Russian Federation in various regions.

In May, Darya Poliudova lost her job in the legal department at a local hospital, following negative publications about her in the local media.

In June she was sentenced to 10 days administrative detention (of which she only served five) for another of her social media postings featuring swastikas. One was a photo of two bikers, one of whom had a swastika on his helmet; next to it was a text which welcomed a recent decision by the German authorities to deny members of a vocally pro-Putin Russian biker’s club Night Wolves entry into Germany. The other one was similar to the satirical image for which she was sentenced on 16 July.

There is a legal prohibition in Russia of the use of Nazi symbols in public, but the legislation does not distinguish between their propaganda and satirical use, which has led to several cases similar to those against Darya Poliudova.

Name: Darya Poliudova

Gender m/f: f

UA: 160/15 Index: EUR 46/2120/2015 Issue Date: 17 July 2015