

URGENT ACTION

DISCLOSE WHEREABOUTS OF MISSING ACTIVISTS

Artists and activists Seroe Fioletovoe and Viktoriya Miroshnichenko have been missing since 31 January after entering the self-proclaimed “Donetsk People’s Republic” (DNR) in Ukraine to perform a pacifist public action. The de facto authorities are refusing to acknowledge their detention and there are serious concerns about their safety.

Russian artistic activists **Seroe Fioletovoe** (passport name: Oleg Vasilyev) and **Viktoriya Miroshnichenko** had planned to visit Donetsk, eastern Ukraine, currently under the control of pro-Russian separatists, intending to perform a pacifist public action.

Visiting the self-proclaimed “Donetsk People’s Republic” (DNR) is fraught with security risks, particularly for activists, and so they agreed to regularly contact a friend in Russia. According to this friend, the last phone contact with Seroe Fioletovoe was made at 5pm on 31 January, moments before Seroe Fioletovoe and Viktoriya Miroshnichenko entered the separatist-controlled territory.

Since that last phone call, there has been no verifiable information about their fate and whereabouts, and they are fears that they have been subjected to enforced disappearance.

The de facto authorities in Donetsk refuse to acknowledge the detention of Seroe Fioletovoe and Viktoriya Miroshnichenko or to release any information about their fate. It is a common practice by the DNR’s “Ministry of State Security” to subject individuals they suspect of disloyalty to the DNR or “subversive” activities to 30-day incommunicado “administrative detention” and subsequently to extend their detention.

Please write immediately in Russian or your own language:

- Urging the de facto authorities to immediately disclose the whereabouts of Oleg Vasilyev (please use the passport name in the appeals) and Viktoriya Miroshnichenko;
- Urging them to ensure that Oleg Vasilyev and Viktoriya Miroshnichenko are not held in arbitrary detention;
- Urging them to ensure Oleg Vasilyev and Viktoriya Miroshnichenko’s physical and mental integrity.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BY E-MAIL ONLY BEFORE 24 MARCH 2017 TO:

Head of the DNR

Aleksandr Zakharchenko
Donetsk, Ukraine
Email: op@dnr-sovet.su
Salutation: Dear Mr

DNR Minister of State Security

Vladimir Pavlenko
Donetsk, Ukraine
Email: mgbdnr@yandex.ru
Salutation: Dear Mr

And copies to:

Ombudsman of the DNR
Daria Morozova
Donetsk, Ukraine
Email: ombudsman_dnr@mail.ru

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

The conflict in eastern Ukraine began in spring 2014, after the annexation of the Crimean peninsula by the Russian Federation. In April and May 2014, opponents of the new Kyiv government occupied buildings belonging to the local administrations and law enforcement agencies in several towns in the Donetsk and Luhansk Regions of eastern Ukraine (Donbass). Demanding increased local autonomy or independence from Ukraine, and closer ties with Russia, protest organizers formed armed groups and proclaimed the creation of the “Donetsk People’s Republic” and “Luhansk People’s Republic”. In response, the authorities in Kyiv launched what they characterized as a “counter terrorist operation” (antiteroristichna operatsiya – ATO) aimed at retaking control of the area.

In the self-proclaimed “republics”, local security services operate with no checks and balances, detain individuals arbitrarily and hold them in their own detention facilities. Often, detainees are subjected to 30 days of “administrative detention” during which they have no access to the outside world. Amnesty International has also previously documented cases when such detainees are tortured and ill-treated in order to extract a forced “confession”, which is then used by a “court” for conviction.

For more details about such practices, please see the joint report by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch *You Do Not Exist: Arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, and torture in eastern Ukraine*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur50/4455/2016/en/>

Name: Seroe Fioletovoe (passport name: Oleg Vasilyev, to be used in the appeals), please keep gender neutral, and Viktoriya Miroschnichenko (f)
Gender m/f: all

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