

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

MEDIA ADVISORY

AI Index: EUR 46/031/2012
30 July 2012

Release Pussy Riot from politically motivated charges

As the trial of members of Russian punk Pussy Riot group gets underway today in Moscow over a protest song *Virgin Mary, redeem us of Putin* in Christ the Saviour Cathedral on 21 February 2012, John Dalhuisen, Europe and Central Asia Programme Director at Amnesty International said:

“This trial should never have taken place. The three singers are being tried for making a legitimate protest -- this is not a criminal offence. They must be released immediately.

“They dared to attack the two pillars of modern Russian establishment – the Kremlin and the Orthodox Church. While many may have found their act offensive, the sentence of up to seven years in prison they may expect on the charges of hooliganism is wildly out of all proportion.

“In any case, we have serious concerns whether Maria Alekhina, Ekaterina Samutsevich and Nadezhda Tolokonnikova may have a fair trial thanks to the extremely prejudicial atmosphere cooked up in string of statements by politicians and clerics from the top echelons of Russian society.

“These widely have been broadcast by the media shaping public opinion against these three women. The trial is clearly politically motivated.”

See also:

[Russia urged to release ‘Pussy Riot’ group as court prolongs detention](#)

To arrange for an interview call:

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