AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MEDIA ADVISORY

AI Index: EUR 50/014/2012

16 October 2012

Amnesty International delivers petition against police abuse to Presidential administration Photo opportunity

(Kyiv) On Friday 19 October Amnesty International activists will gather in front of the President's Administration to urge him to take action to end rampant police criminality in Ukraine.

Over the past year Amnesty International has collected over 25,000 signatures calling on President Yanukovych to establish an independent agency for investigating allegations of police abuse.

The signatures will be delivered to the Presidential Administration following a short cage performance illustrating torture by the police and how such an agency could help protect people from police abuse.

Tetyana Mazur, Executive Director of Amnesty International in Ukraine, will be available for interviews during the event.

Alongside the petition Amnesty International will deliver an open letter signed by leading Ukrainian non-governmental organizations, calling for the establishment of an independent agency for investigating allegations of police abuse.

When: 19 October, 11:00-12:00

Where: Administration of President of Ukraine,

Bankova str., 11

Kyiv

For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

Bogdan Ovcharuk, Media and Communications Officer, Amnesty International in Ukraine: +38 067 551 69 44, e-mail address: b.ovcharuk@amnesty.org.ua

Background

One year ago Amnesty International launched the report <u>No Evidence of a Crime: Paying the Price for Police Impunity in Ukraine</u> exposing police criminality in Ukraine. The report included cases of torture, corruption and unlawful imprisonment by police, and highlighted the cases of Yakov Strogan, Sergei Fesik, Firdovsi Safarov, Svitlana Pomilyaiko and Ihor Indilo.

On the occasion of Euro 2012 Amnesty International raised several issues about human rights in the briefing *Ukraine: Euro 2012 jeopardised by criminal police force*.

/END