

URGENT ACTION

DETENTION OF PROTESTERS UNFAIRLY AUTHORISED

Of the nine street protesters unfairly detained in Ukraine, seven have had to be hospitalised. As soon as they are discharged from hospital they will be returned to the pre-trial detention centre.

Protesters **Yaroslav Pritulenko** and **Yuriy Bolotov** are being held in a pre-trial detention centre. **Gennadiy Cherevko, Mykola Lazarevskiy, Oleksandr Ostashchenko, Sergiy Nuzhnenko, Valery Garagutz, Vladyslav Zagorovko** and **Yegor Previr** were initially also detained, but had to be taken to hospital to treat the injuries they sustained, ranging from broken ribs and a detached retina to concussion. They may have been arbitrarily detained, and their arrest was approved by judges in flawed court proceedings.

The nine men were detained on 1 December at the site of violent clashes between riot police (Berkut) and demonstrators on Bankova Street, outside the presidential administration building. At least 50 riot police and dozens of protesters were injured during the clashes. There are reports of indiscriminate and excessive use of force by riot police towards perpetrators of violence, but also towards peaceful protesters, including the wounded. Video footage from the site shows about a dozen injured protesters being kicked and beaten by riot police despite the fact they are unarmed and lying on the ground.

On 3 December, the Shevchenkovskiy court in Kyiv approved continued detention of these nine men for two months, as requested by the prosecution. Judges approving their detention did not question the fact that statements presented by the police as evidence against the nine individuals were virtually identical and factually inaccurate. They also failed to uphold the legal requirement that the prosecution must prove that alternative measures such as bail or house arrest are not possible.

Please write immediately in Ukrainian, Russian or your own language:

- Urge an immediate review of the decision to detain the nine men named, pointing out the legal requirement that detention should only be applied if the prosecution can prove (in fair proceedings) that an alternative to detention is not possible;
- Urging them to ensure all detainees receive any medical attention they may require;
- Urging the Prosecutor General to ensure that all allegations of excessive and indiscriminate use of force by law enforcement officers are investigated promptly, independently and effectively, and the perpetrators are brought to account and the victims are offered redress.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 16 JANUARY 2014 TO:

Prosecutor General

Viktor Pshonka
Vul. Riznitska 13/15
01601 Kyiv
Ukraine
Fax: +380 44 280 2603
Email: interel@gp.gov.ua
Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

Prime Minister

Mykola Azarov
Vul. M. Grushevskogo 12/2
01008 Kyiv
Ukraine
Fax: +380 44 254 0584
Email: pm1@kmu.gov.ua
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

And copies to:

Minister of Internal Affairs

Vitaliy Zakharchenko
Vul. Akademika Bogomoltsa 10
01024 Kyiv
Ukraine
Fax: +380 44 253 97 96
Email: mvsinfo@mvsinfo.gov.ua

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. This is the first update of UA 325/13. Further information:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR50/017/2013/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Hundreds of thousands of people have been peacefully protesting in Kyiv and other cities of Ukraine since 21 November when the government stopped preparations for an Association Agreement with the EU days before it was due to be signed. On 30 November riot police violently dispersed a peaceful demonstration on Independence Square in the centre of Kyiv. According to eyewitnesses interviewed by Amnesty International, Berkut officers first told the demonstrators to disperse because the demonstration was “illegal”, then started to beat those that remained. Video footage shows Berkut officers beating protestors and in some cases pursuing men and women in order to beat them. Dozens of people are being treated for their injuries. At least one person who registered a complaint concerning use of force by riot police has been subjected to aggressive interrogation by prosecutors in what appears to be an attempt to trap him into confessing to participating in mass disorder, following which he had to be hospitalized.

Vladyslav Zagorovko, a 38-year-old long-distance truck driver and father of three from Brovary in Kyiv district, took part in the demonstrations because he wanted to witness the “historic events”. He was beaten by riot police and suffered numerous injuries including broken ribs and a detached retina. He is held in the pre-trial detention centre in Kyiv (SIZO) and urgently requires surgery. Valery Garutz, a journalist from Dnipropetrovsk, was present on Bankova street to cover the events for his newspaper, Litsa. He was beaten by riot police as he was attending to the wounded after the demonstration had been dispersed.

Name: Gennadiy Cherevko, Mykola Lazarevskiy, Oleksandr Ostashchenko, Sergiy Nuzhnenko, Valery Garagutz, Vladyslav Zagorovko, Yaroslav Pritulenko, Yegor Previr, Yuriy Bolotov

Gender m/f: all male

Further information on UA: 325/13 Index: EUR 50/018/2012 Issue Date: 6 December 2013