

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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Amnesty International clarifies position on Yuliya Tymoshenko

On 24 November Natalia Dulnyeva gave an interview to Radio Svoboda, in which she expressed a number of views regarding the conviction and detention of Yuliya Tymoshenko, which she represented as those of Amnesty International.

Amnesty International would like to stress that Natalia Dulnyeva's views do not correspond to those of the organisation and that she has no authority to speak on Amnesty International's behalf.

At the time of Yuliya Tymoshenko's conviction Amnesty International expressed the view that the acts for which she was convicted did not correspond to a recognisable criminal offence and that her prosecution had been politically motivated. We consequently called for the charges to be dropped, her conviction to be quashed and for Yuliya Tymoshenko to be released. We continue to do so. However, Amnesty International did not and does not consider Yuliya Tymoshenko a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for the expression of her conscientiously held beliefs.

With respect to Yuliya Tymoshenko's conditions of detention, Amnesty International calls for her to be provided with access to all necessary medical attention, in accordance with the international standards that should be applied for all detainees. Amnesty International understands that Yuliya Tymoshenko was taken to a hospital for diagnosis of her back complaint, and is now undergoing treatment in prison. Therefore the organization does not believe that the conditions of her detention amount to cruel, degrading or inhuman treatment within the meaning of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Media requests for comments from Amnesty International should be addressed either to the Director of Amnesty International Ukraine, Tetanya Mazur, or to the Press Office of Amnesty International's International Secretariat in London.

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