

URGENT ACTION

PROTESTORS UNFAIRLY DETAINED

Nine street protestors have been detained in Ukraine and are facing eight-year prison sentences. One is in urgent need of medical care.

Violent clashes erupted between riot police (Berkut) and demonstrators on 1 December in the capital, Kyiv, on Bankova Street, outside the presidential administration building. Video footage shows protestors driving a tractor and wielding heavy chains and other weapons. At least 50 riot police and dozens of protestors were injured before the protest was dispersed at about 4pm. There are reports of indiscriminate and excessive use of force by riot police towards peaceful protestors and the wounded. Further video shows about a dozen injured people lying on the street and riot police kicking and beating them.

Nine people, including **Mykola Lazarevskiy, Oleksandr Ostashchenko, Vladyslav Zagorovko, Valeriy Garagutz** and **Yuriy Bolotov**, were detained, and on 3 December the Shevchenkovskiy court in Kyiv ordered them to be detained for two months on suspicion of organizing violent disorder, a crime that carries a maximum sentence of eight years' imprisonment. Judges approving their detention failed to question statements presented by the police as evidence, and disregarded obvious contradictions and inconsistencies. 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. These nine people may have been indiscriminately detained and placed in custody in violation of their right to a fair trial and their right to freedom of assembly.

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. **Valeriy Garagutz**, 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.

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

- Urging the authorities to immediately review the decision to detain nine people in the light of the Criminal Procedural Code's requirement that alternatives to detention should be applied unless the prosecution can prove, in fair proceedings, that this is not possible;
- Urging them to ensure all detainees, particularly Vladyslav Zagorovko, receive any medical attention they may require;
- Urging the Prosecutor General to ensure that all allegations of use of force by law enforcement officers are investigated promptly, independently and effectively, and that 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.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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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. About 35 people have so far been charged with “hooliganism” under the Administrative Code and 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 was hospitalized.

Name: Mykola Lazarevskiy, Oleksandr Ostashchenko, Vladyslav Zagorovko, Valeriy Garagutz, Yuriy Bolotov

Gender m/f: all male

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