

UKRAINE Sergey Valkovanyish

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Amnesty International fears for the safety of Sergey Valkovanyish, who was reportedly tortured for five days in police custody in Ukraine, and whose whereabouts are now unknown.

According to information given to Amnesty International by unofficial sources, Sergey Valkovanyish was arrested at his office on 27 March 1997 by officers of the Girnyitsky and Kirovsky branches of the Makeivka city police in the Donetsk region. The reason for Sergey Valkovanyish's arrest is not known to Amnesty International.

During the first five days of detention, Sergey Valkovanyish's ribs were allegedly broken, and he was also said to have been beaten on his face, round his eyes, on his body, arms and feet. A gas mask was reportedly then put on his head, and a plastic bag put over this which was then filled with an allegedly poisonous gas. At the same time, sources report, Sergey Valkovanyish was hit repeatedly over the head and verbally abused.

After five days Sergey Valkovanyish was reportedly transferred to a different location, but his family are said still not to have been informed of his current whereabouts. Amnesty International is gravely concerned that he may be at risk of further torture.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Amnesty International has received numerous reports of torture and ill-treatment of criminal suspects in police custody and in prisons throughout Ukraine and in April 1997 submitted a report on this issue to the United Nations Committee against Torture. On 29 April the Committee reviewed Ukraine's third periodic report on its commitments under the Convention against Torture, and recommended among other things that Ukraine adopt a comprehensive action plan to stop torture.

Article 12 of the Convention against Torture, to which Ukraine is a party stipulates that *"Each State Party shall ensure that its competent authorities proceed to a prompt and impartial investigation, wherever there is reasonable ground to believe that an act of torture as been committed in any territory under its jurisdiction"*.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Ukrainian, Russian or English or your own language:**

- urging that the whereabouts of Sergey Valkovanyish be immediately established and made known to his family, and that he be immediately allowed access to a defence lawyer;
- urging that he immediately be allowed to see a doctor and be given any necessary medical treatment;
- calling for a full and comprehensive inquiry into the allegations of torture, for the findings to be made public, **and** for anyone found responsible for torture to be brought to justice in accordance with the norms of international law;
- urging that Ukraine follows the recommendations of the Committee against Torture, in particular the adoption of a new Criminal Code which should make torture a criminal offence, punishable by appropriate measures.

**APPEALS TO:**

Procurator General of Ukraine, Grigory VORSINOV

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ul. Reznitskaya, 13/15

Prokuratura Ukrainy

Generalnomu prokuroru VORSINOVU G.

**Fax: (380 44) 290 26 03**

**Telegrams: Ukraina, Kiev, Prokuratura**

**Salutation: Dear Procurator General**

Minister of Internal Affairs, Yury KRAVCHENKO

Ukraina

25204 g. Kiev

ul, Bogomoltsa, 10

Ministerstvo vnutrennikh del Ukrainy

Ministru Kravchenko Yu.F

**Faxes: (380 44) 291 17 33**

**Telegrams: Ukraina, Kiev, Ministru vnutrennikh del**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Procurator of Donetsk region, G. VASILIEV

Ukraina

Donetskaya oblast

g. Donetsk

Oblastnaya Prokuratura

Prokuroru Vasilievu G.

**Telegrams: Ukraina, Donetskaya oblastnaya prokuratura, Prokuroru**

**Salutation: Dear Procurator**

**COPIES TO:**

President of Ukraine, Leonid KUCHMA

Ukraina

252601 Kiev

ul. Bankovaya, 7

Prezidentu Ukrainy Kuchma L.

**Faxes: (380 44) 291 61 61**

Foreign Minister of Ukraine, Hennady UDOVENKO

Ukraina

252501 g. Kiev 24

ul. Karla Liebknecht 15/1

Ministerstvo inostrannykh del

Ukrainy

Ministru UDOVENKO H.Y

and to diplomatic representatives of UKRAINE accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 25 June 1997.