

# URGENT ACTION

## RUSSIA MUST ENSURE FAIR TRIAL FOR ACTIVIST

**Yulia Privedennaia, a Russian civil society activist, was released from Moscow's Serbskii psychiatric institute on 11 March after experts from the Institute held a formal meeting to assess her mental state. Amnesty International is concerned that she may not receive a fair trial.**

Yulia Privedennaia had spent 21 days in the Moscow Serbskii Institute of Social and Forensic Psychiatry. She had been hospitalized on 19 February following an order by the Moscow Regional Court for her mental health to be assessed in this psychiatric hospital. The court order was based on the recommendation of a state-appointed experts' committee, tasked with assessing her mental health, which had not come to a conclusion about whether Yulia Privedennaia was mentally ill, but stated it was not possible to assess her mental health during an out-patient examination. The court had subsequently ordered Yulia Privedennaia to undergo four weeks as an in-patient in Moscow Serbskii Institute of Social and Forensic Psychiatry and was upheld by the Russian Supreme Court in January 2010.

While in hospital, Yulia Privedennaia was under constant observation. According to her friends, she was not allowed to make telephone calls and was allowed to receive visitors only once a week.

An independent psychiatrist's review of the committee's written findings for Amnesty International appraised a compulsory period of in-patient examination as "disproportionate" and referred to the lack of any suspicion that Yulia Privedennaia had a serious disorder or any 'dangerousness' in relation to her psychiatric state, Amnesty International believes that her forced hospitalization amounted to arbitrary detention.

Yulia Privedennaia is on trial before the Moscow Regional Court, alleged of taking part in beatings of teenage members of the organization FAKEL-PORTOS (Formation of Altruistic Candidates for the Evolution of People - Poeticized Association for the Elaboration of a Theory of All-People's Happiness), which she is a member of, back in 2000. Yulia Privedennaia, although not in hiding, was not arrested until May 2008 after she participated in demonstrations for freedom of expression, against police violence and in support of the political opposition. According to her lawyer, her arrest and detention in May 2008 as well as the previous trial were subject to several procedural violations.

In the next few weeks, the Moscow Regional Court will use the psychiatric institute's report to decide how to proceed with Yulia Privedennaia's trial.

### **PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Russian, English or your own language:**

- Expressing concern that Yulia Privedennaia's forced hospitalization amounted to arbitrary detention;
- Calling on the authorities to ensure that Yulia Privedennaia's trial conforms to international fair trial standards.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 4 MAY 2010 TO:**

#### Prosecutor of Moscow Region

Aleksandr M. Mokhov  
Malyi Kiselnyi per., 5  
Moscow GSP-6  
107996 Russian Federation  
**Fax: +7 495 623 68 69**  
**Salutation: Dear Prosecutor**

#### Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation

Yurii Ya. Chaika  
Ul. Bolshaia Dmitrovka, 15a  
Moscow GSP-3  
125993 Russian Federation  
**Fax: +7 495 692 17 25**  
**Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General**

#### **And copies to:**

Ombudsperson of the Russian Federation: Vladimir P. Lukin,  
Ul. Miasnitskaia, 47, Moscow,  
107048 Russian Federation  
**Fax: +7 495 607 74 70**

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.** Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 43/10 (EUR 46/003/2010). Further information: [www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR46/003/2010/en](http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR46/003/2010/en)

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In 2000, four leaders of FAKEL-PORTOS (Formation of Altruistic Candidates for the Evolution of People - Poeticized Association for the Elaboration of a Theory of All-People's Happiness) were arrested. They were charged with "organization of or participation in an illegal armed group", "organization of a group activity which involves violence or incitement to unlawful actions", "unlawful deprivation of liberty by an organized group" and "causing physical or moral suffering to another by beating or other methods". Two of the four members were forcibly detained in a psychiatric hospital and two were imprisoned, even though all alleged victims of the crimes are reported to have withdrawn their statements in the court room, saying that they had been pressured into making them by the police.

Yulia Privedennaia is on trial for allegedly taking part in beating some teenage members of FAKEL-PORTOS, being involved in forcibly holding the teenagers at the premises where FAKEL-PORTOS was based, and creating an illegal armed group to forcibly maintain order in the organization. Yulia Privedennaia denies all charges.

She has been on a police list of wanted suspects since 2000 when the criminal case against the group's leaders was opened. Although she was never in hiding and was an active member of the organization, she was only arrested in May 2008 after she had started to participate in demonstrations for freedom of expression, against police violence and in support of the political opposition. She was released from pre-trial detention after 70 days. Initially no restraint measure was imposed on her after release. However, later the court made her sign a written undertaking from her not to leave her place of residence.

Further information on UA: 43/10 Index: EUR 46/004/2010 Issue Date: 23 March 2010

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