

URGENT ACTION

CONVICTED BLOGGER APPEALS SENTENCE

Blogger Darya Poliudova was sentenced on 21 December 2015 to two years' imprisonment in an open prison colony for criticizing the Russian government. The appeal hearing will take place on 10 March.

Political activist and blogger **Darya Poliudova** was sentenced on 21 December 2015 by the Oktiabrskii District Court in Krasnodar, southern Russia, to two years' imprisonment in an open prison colony. She has already spent six months in pre-trial detention which will be counted against the sentence. The Court found that her posts on the Russian social media site VKontakte (VK) criticizing Russia's annexation of Crimea and the official policy towards Ukraine constituted "calls to commit extremist activities" and "calls to take action threatening the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation". The judge did not order her immediate detention but she remains under travel restrictions.

Darya Poliudova insists that she only exercised her right to freedom of expression and appealed the sentence. The appeal hearing will take place on 10 March at the Krasnodar Regional Court.

The charges against Darya Poliudova relate to her social media posts in which she peacefully expressed her views, including photos of herself carrying political banners with slogans such as "No war in Ukraine but a revolution in Russia". Under one photo of her protesting against the Russian government, she posted a message blaming President Vladimir Putin for "acts of terror and catastrophes in Russia" that had occurred during his time in office. The judge considered that some of her online posts and comments on Ukraine were evidence that she wanted "a violent overthrow of the constitutional order".

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

- Insisting that the sentence against Darya Poliudova is quashed and urging the Russian authorities to stop the criminal proceedings against her;
- Stressing that Darya Poliudova is being prosecuted for peacefully exercising her right to freedom of expression;
- Urging them to respect and protect the right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association for all people in Russia, without discrimination against people with dissenting political and other views.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 8 APRIL 2016 TO:

Prosecutor of Krasnodar Region
Leonid Gennadevich Korzhinek
Prokuratura of Krasnodar Region
Ul Sovetskaia 39
350063, Krasnodar
Fax: +7 (863) 287 70 01

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor

Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation

Yurii Yakovlevich Chaika
Prosecutor General's Office
ul. B. Dmitrovka, d.15a
125993 Moscow GSP- 3
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 495 987 5841 / +7 495 692 1725

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

And copies to:

Colonel General Igor Kolosov
Head of the Regional Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation for Krasnodar Region
Ul. Mira 46
350063, Krasnodar
Fax: +7 (861) 268 43 59
Email: krasnodar@fsb.ru

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 second update of UA 160/15. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/EUR46/3053/2015/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Darya Poliudova is well known locally for her street actions and online activism. She is a vocal critic of the Russian authorities, particularly for their policies towards Ukraine. She has been detained on numerous occasions for her peaceful street protests against the annexation of Crimea and Russia's involvement in the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine.

On 29 August 2014, she was arrested under Articles 280(2) and 280.1(2) of the Criminal Code ("public calls to commit extremist activities" and "calls to commit actions threatening the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation"). Both Articles carry a sentence of up to four years' imprisonment. She was released from detention on 26 February 2015 and placed under travel restrictions pending the court hearing on her appeal.

Name: Darya Poliudova

Gender m/f: f

Further information on UA 160/15 Index: EUR 46/3534/2016 Issue Date: 26 February 2016