

# URGENT ACTION

## PROTESTOR SENT TO MENTAL INSTITUTION

**A Moscow court found Mikhail Kosenko guilty on 8 October and ordered him to be sent for forcible psychiatric treatment. He may be deprived of his freedom indefinitely. He is a prisoner of conscience.**

**Mikhail Kosenko** has been in detention since 8 June 2012, a month after he took part in an authorised protest in Moscow's Bolotnaya Square which led to some protesters clashing with the police. He was charged with participating in "mass riots" and use of force against a police officer, and was put on trial in Moscow's Zamoskvoretskii Court.

Mikhail Kosenko has a history of mild mental disability due to an injury sustained when he was a conscript in the army. The prosecution has sought to demonstrate that he is prone to violence and a danger to himself and society, and that he must be sent to forcible psychiatric treatment. This claim is based on a medical opinion requested by the prosecution. The judge refused to allow an independent examination of his mental health as requested by his defence.

Mikhail Kosenko denies any involvement in violence or any other illegal actions in Bolotnaya Square. Available video and witness testimony support his statement. As for his mental health, his records show no history of violence. For years he had been receiving treatment without hospitalization and he had never been recognised as a danger to society or himself.

The overwhelming weight of reliable evidence in Mikhail Kosenko's case points to his not being involved in any violence or other illegal activities during the Bolotnaya Square protest, and his innocence of the crimes of which he has been convicted. Mikhail Kosenko is a prisoner of conscience prosecuted for the peaceful exercise of the rights to freedom of expression and assembly.

### **Please write immediately in Russian or your own language:**

- Insisting that Mikhail Kosenko is a prisoner of conscience persecuted solely for the peaceful exercise of his rights to freedom of expression and assembly;
- Expressing concern that the Moscow Zamoskvoretskii Court failed to observe fair trial standards;
- Urging the authorities to ensure that Mikhail Kosenko is released immediately and unconditionally.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 20 NOVEMBER 2013 TO:**

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 58 41;

+7 495 692 17 25

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.**

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On the eve of Vladimir Putin's inauguration as president when he was elected for the second time, a march and demonstration were authorised for 6 May 2012 in Bolotnaya Square, in the centre of Moscow, to protest against the return of Vladimir Putin to the presidency after an election marred by numerous reports of electoral fraud. On the day of the demonstration, the police changed the agreed security arrangements, leaving a much narrower passage for the protestors to get into Bolotnaya Square. The resulting bottleneck increased pressure at the front of the protestors' column and led to breaking of the first police line at the entrance to the Square. However, the second police line was not broken and no attempts to break the second police line were reported. Nevertheless, the police detained hundreds of protesters, many of them arbitrarily, and dispersed the whole gathering.

There are numerous well-documented accounts of the use of excessive force by the police, and several demonstrators sustained injuries, including concussion, serious bruising and cuts. At the same time pieces of asphalt and various other objects were thrown at the police, and a number of police officers were injured.

According to eyewitnesses who testified in court, clashes between some of the protesters and the police were a reaction to police brutality and arbitrary arrests. Amnesty International has spoken to eyewitnesses who insist that that only a very small proportion of the demonstrators were directly involved in violence and this is corroborated by the extensive video available.

A criminal investigation into the use of violence by protesters against police officers was opened and criminal charges were brought against 26 people. Two of them pleaded guilty, 11 are still under investigation and 13 (including Mikhail Kosenko) are standing trial. Amnesty International recognised three of those standing trial, Vladimir Akimenkov, Aretm Savelov and Mikhail Kosenko, as prisoners of conscience. The organization is concerned that some of their co-defendants might also be prisoners of conscience.

Name: Mikhail Kosenko

Gender: m

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