

URGENT ACTION

DETAINED PROTESTERS RELEASED ON BAIL

Six of the nine street protesters unfairly detained in Ukraine have been released under bail conditions or house arrest. Two have confessed to participation in mass disorder, have been fined and released and one remains in detention.

On 11 December the Kyiv Appeal Court released **Gennadiy Cherevko** and **Sergiy Nuzhnenko** under bail conditions, and released **Mykola Lazarevskiy** under house arrest between 8pm and 7am. On 12 December **Oleksandr Ostashchenko** was released under bail conditions, and on 13 December the same court also released **Valeriy Garagutz** under bail conditions and **Yegor Previr** under house arrest between 8pm and 7am. **Yuriy Bolotov** and **Vladyslav Zagorovko** admitted to organizing public disorder and were fined 850 Hryvna (75 Euros) and released. **Yaroslav Prytulenko** remains in detention.

While it is good news that the six protesters were released and can access medical care unhindered, complaints of their ill-treatment at the hands of the Berkut riot police force should be promptly, independently and effectively investigated. Amnesty International renews its call for Yaroslav Prytulenko to be released on reasonable bail.

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

- Urge an immediate review of the decision to detain Yaroslav Prytulenko pointing out the legal requirement that detention should only be applied if the prosecution can prove (in fair proceedings) that an alternative to detention is not possible;
- Urging the Prosecutor General to ensure that all allegations of excessive and indiscriminate use of force by law enforcement officers are investigated promptly, independently and effectively, and the perpetrators are brought to account and the victims are offered redress.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 24 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. This is the second update of UA 325/13. Further information:

<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR50/018/2013/en>

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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. 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 had to be hospitalized.

The nine men were detained on 1 December at the site of violent clashes between riot police (Berkut) and demonstrators on Bankova Street, outside the presidential administration building. At least 50 riot police officers and dozens of protestors were injured during the clashes. There are reports of indiscriminate and excessive use of force by riot police towards perpetrators of violence, but also towards peaceful protestors, including the wounded. Video footage from the site shows about a dozen injured protestors being kicked and beaten by riot police despite the fact they are unarmed and lying on the ground.

On 3 December the Shevchenkovskiy court in Kyiv approved continued detention of these nine men for two months, as requested by the prosecution. Judges approving their detention did not question the fact that statements presented by the police as evidence against the nine individuals were virtually identical and factually inaccurate. 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.

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. 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.

Name: Gennadiy Cherevko, Mykola Lazarevskiy, Oleksandr Ostashchenko, Sergiy Nuzhnenko, Valeriy Garagutz, Vladyslav Zagorovko, Yaroslav Prytulenko, Yegor Previr, Yuriy Bolotov
Gender m/f: all male

Further information on UA: 325/13 Index: EUR 50/019/2013 Issue Date: 13 December 2013