

URGENT ACTION

FEMALE ACTIVIST HAS SENTENCE REDUCED

In November 2010, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation reduced on appeal the conditional prison sentence given to Yulia Privedennaia, a civil society activist. She was originally sentenced to four and a half years, which has now been reduced to three and a half years. Charges against her under article 127 (unlawful imprisonment) were dropped on grounds of statutes of limitations.

Yulia Privedennaia is a member 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). She had been on a police list of wanted suspects since 2000 when a criminal case against the group's leaders was opened.

She was charged with 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 denied all the charges. According to reports, all the alleged victims in the case withdrew their statements, claiming that they had given them under pressure from investigators. According to Yulia Privedennaia's lawyer, there were also several procedural violations during the trial.

In February 2010, while on trial before the Moscow Regional Court, she was detained by order of the court in a Moscow psychiatric hospital for three weeks, despite independent psychiatrists saying that there was no basis for hospitalizing her. She was ruled to be "sane" after being released on 11 March.

As Yulia Privedennaia is not being detained, no further action is required from the UA network at this stage.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals. No further action is requested from the UA network.

This is the third update of UA: 43/10. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR46/008/2010/en>

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