

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST JAILED FOR 25 YEARS FOR ANTI-WAR VIEWS

Vladimir Kara-Murza is a prominent Russian political activist and journalist. He was arrested in April 2022 and prosecuted for his criticism of the Russian aggression against Ukraine and for his human rights activism. He was charged with “high treason”, “dissemination of false information about the Armed Forces” and “cooperation with an undesirable organization”. On 17 April, he was convicted and sentenced to 25 years in prison. Vladimir Kara-Murza has serious health problems — he was reportedly diagnosed with polyneuropathy of his both feet. Amnesty International considers Vladimir Kara-Murza a prisoner of conscience. He must be immediately and unconditionally released, and his conviction quashed.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Krasnov Igor Viktorovich
Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation
ul. Bolshaya Dmitrovka, 15a, str. 1,
GSP-3, Moscow, 125993
Russian Federation

Dear Prosecutor General,

I am writing to urge you to take all necessary steps to ensure the immediate release of prominent political activist and journalist, **Vladimir Kara-Murza**. On 17 April, he was convicted and sentenced to 25 years in prison for "high treason" (Article 275 of the Criminal Code), "disseminating knowingly false information about Russian Armed Forces" (Article 207.3(2)) and "participating in activities of an undesirable organization" (Article 284.1(1)).

Vladimir Kara-Murza was arrested near his home in Moscow on 11 April 2022. He has been prosecuted solely for his peaceful political activism and for his criticism of the Russian authorities for the Russian aggression against Ukraine. No one should face restrictions, let alone long imprisonment, for exercising their human right to freedom of expression, which is guaranteed by both international law and the Russian Constitution.

Vladimir Kara-Murza reportedly suffers from polyneuropathy of the lower extremities, a diagnosis that prevents serving a sentence under Russian law. His continued detention risks further deterioration of his health.

In light of the above, I urge you to use your authority to ensure that Vladimir Kara-Murza's conviction is quashed and that he is released immediately and unconditionally. Pending that, ensure that Vladimir Kara-Murza is held in conditions that meet international standards and provided the adequate medical treatment he may require equivalent to the standard of health care that is available to the public.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Vladimir Kara-Murza, is a prominent Russian political activist and journalist. He was a close associate of prominent opposition leader Boris Nemtsov and cooperated with former prisoner of conscience Mikhail Khodorkovsky and other political opposition groups, human rights NGOs and independent media. He is known for campaigning in support of the "Magnitsky list" and other targeted sanctions against people suspected of human rights abuses in Russia.

Vladimir Kara-Murza survived two poisoning attempts, in 2015 and 2017. According to the investigative collective Bellingcat, prior to these poisonings he had been followed by the same Federal Security Service (FSB) unit that would later poison Aleksei Navalny. There has been no investigation by the Russian authorities into either poisoning.

He has been convicted under false charges of "high treason" (Article 275 of the Criminal Code), "disseminating knowingly false information about Russian Armed Forces" (Article 207.3(2)) and "participating in activities of an undesirable organization" (Article 284.1(1)). The basis for the accusations are his speeches, in which he criticized the Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and his participation in opposition political group "Open Russia".

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Russian. You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 12 June 2023

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PRONOUN: Vladimir Kara-Murza, (he/him)