

# URGENT ACTION

## ONE CAPTIVE RELEASED, FOUR STILL DETAINED

**Yuriy Lelyavskiy, a journalist working for Vik TV based in Lviv (western Ukraine) has been released from captivity and has returned home to Lviv. Journalist Serhiy Shapoval and three other men remain in detention.**

Released journalist **Yuriy Lelyavskiy** told Radio Free Europe that he had been released on 9 May, but he refused to give details about how his release came about. He did say that he had been held in the basement of the Ukrainian State Security headquarters in Slovyansk, along with other hostages. He said that he had not been treated badly, he had been fed once a day and taken outside. For the first ten days his eyes were covered with sticky tape.

**Serhiy Shapoval**, a journalist working for *Volyn Post*, is still being held along with **Pavlo Yurov**, a theatre producer, his colleague **Denis Grishchuk**, and **Igor Oprya**, a student from Kyiv.

**Please send the attached text (if possible by using the Russian text below) or your own message to the e-mail addresses we have located on the official website of the "People's Republic of Donetsk" (<http://donetsk-gov.su>):**

English: I am writing to welcome the recent release of journalist Yuriy Lelyavskiy and express my continuing concern for the safety of Serhiy Shapoval, Pavlo Yurov, Denis Grishchuk and Igor Oprya who are currently being held captive in Slovyansk, possibly along with others. I insist on an immediate and unconditional release of all captives. Wherever they are, their freedom as well as their mental and physical well-being must be assured.

Russian: Я приветствую недавнее освобождение Юрия Лелявского и хочу выразить озабоченность по поводу безопасности Сергея Шаповала, Павла Юрова, Дениса Грищука и Игоря Опря, которые в настоящее время содержатся в неволе в Славянске, как, возможно, и другие лица. Я настаиваю на немедленном освобождении всех захваченных лиц, без каких-либо условий. Где бы они ни находились, их свобода и их психическое и физическое благополучие должны быть полностью обеспечены.

### PLEASE SEND THE ABOVE MESSAGE BEFORE 23 JUNE 2014 TO THE FOLLOWING EMAIL ADDRESSES:

Email addresses located on the official website for the "People's Republic of Donetsk":  
[hunta.resist@gmail.com](mailto:hunta.resist@gmail.com)  
[abvgdasm@gmail.com](mailto:abvgdasm@gmail.com)

**And copies to:**  
[Valeria Lutkovska Chair of the Ukrainian Parliament Commission for Human Rights](#)  
Institutska Str. 21/8, 01008 Kyiv  
Ukraine

Tel: +380 44 253 2091  
Fax: +380 44 226 3427  
Email: [lutkovska@ombudsman.gov.ua](mailto:lutkovska@ombudsman.gov.ua)  
[hotline@ombudsman.gov.ua](mailto:hotline@ombudsman.gov.ua)

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 123/14. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR50/021/2014/en>

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The authorities in Kyiv have used police and military forces in an attempt to regain control of Donetsk and other towns and cities in eastern Ukraine from the armed anti-Kyiv protesters. The fighting continues, and has resulted in dozens of casualties and wounded on both sides. There are reports of individuals being held captive by both sides.

Amnesty International has expressed concern about the safety of the local population in eastern Ukraine, and has appealed to the interim authorities in Kyiv over incidents of unlawful deprivation of liberty and ill-treatment of captives by armed individuals who are evidently associated with the pro-Kyiv forces but are not competent officials or persons authorized to exercise those powers (<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR50/020/2014/en>). There are also reports, including substantive video footage, or the use of firearms by Kyiv-controlled security officials against unarmed protesters resulting in casualties (in particular in Krasnarmeisk on 11 May resulting in two reported deaths).

In Slovyansk, a city with a population of 150,000 in Donetsk region, the armed anti-Kyiv protesters were behind a string of abductions, including of military observers despatched by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) who have since been released following mediation by a Russian envoy. In a press conference on 23 April, the self-proclaimed "People's Mayor" of Slovyansk, Vyacheslav Ponomarev, said some of the detainees were being held as "bargaining chips" and he had no intention of letting them go. He accused the Kyiv government of detaining and torturing his "comrades". Some captives have already been released or exchanged. On 2 May Serhiy Lefter a journalist working with the Open Dialogue Foundation, and Artem Deynega, a Slovyansk resident were released from captivity. At a press conference organized by Open Dialogue Foundation in Kyiv on 8 May Serhiy Lefter described how he had been treated: "The first week was especially hard. I had my hands and feet tied with an adhesive tape, my eyes were sealed". He reported that the hostages were forced to sleep on a bare concrete floor, and were threatened and beaten.

Name: Serhiy Shapoval, Yuriy Lelyavskiy, Pavlo Yurov, Denis Grishchuk and Igor Oprya,  
Gender m/f: m

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