

URGENT ACTION

UKRAINIAN DETAINEE THREATENED WITH RAPE

Oleg Sentsov's lawyer reported on 11 June that his client had been beaten and threatened with rape when he was detained in Crimea, to force him to confess.

Oleg Sentsov is one of four Ukrainian citizens held in Moscow's Lefortovo pre-trial detention centre accused of terrorist acts. On 11 June Oleg Sentsov's lawyer gave a Skype interview to the organizers of the Odessa International film festival, in which he described how Russian State Security (FSB) officers had subjected him to torture and other ill-treatment to force him to confess to terrorist acts: "For three hours they tried to beat a confession out of him. They beat him on the back, on his legs." The lawyer reported that they also took off his trousers and threatened to rape him.

On 30 May the FSB announced on its website that it had detained Oleg Sentsov, Alexander Kolchenko and two others – G. Afanasiev and A. Chirniya – on suspicion of terrorist acts, organization of a terrorist group and illegal use of firearms.

Alexander Kolchenko and Oleg Sentsov have requested meetings with the Ukrainian consul and have so far been refused. Both have now been given access to their lawyers. Amnesty International has no information about the other two detainees.

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

- Asking the authorities to order a prompt, effective and independent investigation into the allegations that Oleg Sentsov has been tortured and otherwise ill-treated;
- Reminding them that all foreign nationals detained in the Russian Federation have the right to consular assistance and demanding that Oleg Sentsov, Alexander Kolchenko, Gennadii Afanasiev and Alexei Chirniya are given immediate access to the Ukrainian consul;
- Urging them to immediately return Oleg Sentsov, Alexander Kolchenko and other Ukrainian citizens from Crimea detained in Lefortovo prison to Crimea;
- Expressing concern that Oleg Sentsov and Alexander Kolchenko may have been detained because of their peaceful opposition to the occupation of Crimea and urging them to drop any charges that stem solely from the men's exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 5 AUGUST 2014 TO:

Prosecutor General

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 Yurii Yakovlevich!

Director

Aleksandr Vasilievich Bortnikov
Federal Security Service
ul. Bolshaia Lubyanka, d.1/3
107031 Moscow
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 495 914 26 32

Salutation: Dear Aleksandr Vasilievich

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 first update of UA 142/14. Further information:

<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR50/026/2014/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Gunmen seized key buildings in the Crimean capital, Simferopol, at the end of February, and on 6 March the Crimean parliament voted to join the Russian Federation and scheduled a referendum for 16 March. Official results claimed that 97 percent of the population supported becoming part of the Russian Federation, but many members of the Ukrainian and Tatar minorities had boycotted the vote. On 18 March, President Putin signed legislation making Crimea effectively part of the Russian Federation. Russian laws subsequently took effect in Crimea. By the end of April Ukrainian lawyers practising in Crimea were required to requalify and work according to Russian law

According to international law an occupation is deemed to have taken place when a state exercises effective control over a territory on which it has no sovereign title without the consent of the state concerned. These conditions have been met in Crimea and Amnesty International therefore considers Crimea to be an occupied territory. On 27 March the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution calling on all states, international organizations and specialized agencies "not to recognize any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on the basis of the above-mentioned referendum and to refrain from any action or dealing that might be interpreted as recognizing any such altered status."

The Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in the time of war specifies that as a general rule, the penal laws of the occupied territory should remain in force (Article 64), and prohibits transfer or deportation of protected persons from the occupied territory (Article 49).

Oleg Sentsov and Alexander Kolchenko, a social activist, are both Ukrainian citizens and were detained by Russian State Security (FSB) officers in the occupied territory of Crimea. Oleg Sentsov was detained on the night of 10 May by FSB officers who came to search his home. Alexander Kolchenko was detained on 16 May in the centre of the capital, Simferopol. They were transferred to Moscow on 23 May along with two other Ukrainian detainees from the occupied territory of Crimea. Both had taken part in peaceful demonstrations opposing the Russian intervention in Crimea, and Oleg Sentsov had taken part in the EuroMaydan demonstrations in Kyiv, Ukraine, as a member of the motorists' protest group "AvtoMaydan".

Name: Oleg Sentsov, Alexander Kolchenko, Gennadii Afanasiev and Alexei Chirniya
Gender m

Further information on UA: 142/14 Index: EUR 50/027/2014 Issue Date: 24 June 2014