

URGENT ACTION

LIBRARIAN DETAINED FOR HOLDING ‘EXTREMIST BOOKS’
Natalya Sharina spent two nights in a police cell and is currently under house arrest after “extremist books” were allegedly found in the library where she works. She is a prisoner of conscience and could face up to five years in prison.

Natalya Sharina, the Director of the state run Library of Ukrainian Literature in Moscow, was detained at her home early in the morning on 28 October by investigators from the Investigative Committee (the main federal investigating authority in Russia). They searched her home for several hours and then they took her to the library where they carried out a search looking for “extremist literature”. Investigators allegedly found works by Ukrainian nationalist Dmitry Korchinsky, in a pile of books that had not yet been indexed or made available to borrowers. In the evening of 28 October Natalya Sharina was interrogated by investigators and it was not until 3am that she was taken to a police station in Tagansky district. Once at the police station, she was held overnight in a crowded cell (which included men) and then transferred to the Temporary Isolation Centre (IVS) in the same district, where she was held until 30 October. She was not given any bedding, food or drink during her detention.

Natalya Sharina, age 58, suffers from high blood pressure and during the two days of her detention she required emergency medical assistance four times. The emergency doctors requested her hospitalization, one of the investigators gave a formal reply that it would take three days for that to happen but took no action.

On 29 October, the Investigative Committee started a criminal case against Natalya Sharina under Article 282 of the Criminal Code (“Inciting national hatred and enmity, as well as humiliation of human dignity”). A representative of the Investigative Committee told the press that during the search they found printed materials with “anti-Russian and anti-Russian state propaganda”. On 30 October Natalya Sharina was placed under house arrest, meaning she only has contact with her lawyer and the close relatives she lives with. She cannot use the internet or the telephone, except to call an ambulance. To leave the house, for any reason other than a medical emergency, she must have the investigator’s permission. A request for her to be allowed to take walks was refused.

Natalya Sharina is a prisoner of conscience who has been deprived of her liberty and is threatened with criminal prosecution solely for peacefully exercising her right to freedom of expression.

Please write immediately in Russian or your own language:

- Calling on the Russian authorities to release Natalya Sharina immediately and unconditionally as she has been detained solely for peacefully exercising her rights, and terminate the criminal proceedings against her;
- Urging them to respect the fundamental right to freedom of expression, including with respect to those who peacefully express criticism of the government or views that are contrary to the state policies and the views held by senior Russian officials or the views of the majority in Russia.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 31 DECEMBER 2015 TO:

Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation

Yurii Yakovlevich Chaika
 Prosecutor General’s Office
 ul. B. Dmitrovka, d.15a
 125993 Moscow GSP- 3
 Russian Federation
 Fax: +7 495 987 5841 / +7 495 692 1725
Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

Chairman of the Investigation Committee of the Russian Federation

Aleksandr Ivanovich Bastrykin
 Tekhnicheskii pereulok, dom 2
 105005 Moscow
 Russian Federation
 Fax: +7499 265 90 77; +7499 265 97 75
Salutation: Dear Chairman

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.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A criminal case was started in 2010 on the purported Library of Ukrainian Literature's distribution of "extremist literature" by Dmitry Korchinsky. His books were declared extremist by the Russian authorities only in 2013, but the library removed all his books in 2011, and the criminal case was stopped since there was no crime that had been committed.

The investigation against Natalya Sharina was started following a complaint by a former employee of the library who was dismissed in 2010.

Name: Natalya Sharina

Gender m/f: Female

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