

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST PRONOUNCED "SANE", TRIAL CONTINUES

Russian civil society activist Yulia Privedennaia, who was detained by order of a court in a Moscow psychiatric hospital for three weeks, has now been ruled to be "sane". Her trial before the Moscow Regional Court will therefore continue, but Amnesty International fears that her trial may not be fair.

On 14 April, a Moscow Regional Court judge read out a report by experts at the Serbskii Institute of Social and Forensic Psychiatry, where **Yulia Privedennaia** was ordered to stay until being released on 11 March. The expert panel found Yulia Privedennaia to be sane and in no need of coercive measures.

The trial of Yulia Privedennaia, an activist and 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), will continue with a hearing on 28 April. She is on trial for allegedly 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 denies all 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 have been several procedural violations during the trial.

Four other FAKEL-PORTOS leaders were arrested in the same case in 2000. They were charged with "organization of or participation in an illegal armed group", "organization of a group activity which involves violence or incitement to unlawful actions", "unlawful deprivation of liberty by an organized group" and "causing physical or moral suffering to another by beating or other methods". Two of the four were forcibly detained in a psychiatric hospital and two were imprisoned, despite the withdrawal of the testimony against them. Yulia Privedennaia had been on a police list of wanted suspects since 2000. Although she was never in hiding and was an active member of the organization, she was only arrested in May 2008 after she had participated in demonstrations for freedom of expression, against police violence and in support of the political opposition. She was released from pre-trial detention after 70 days.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Russian, English or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to ensure that Yulia Privedennaia's trial conforms to international fair trial standards;
- Expressing concern that she was sent to a hospital by order of the Moscow Regional Court, and urging the authorities to investigate the procedures which led to her being forcibly hospitalized for 21 days.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 1 JUNE 2010 TO:

Prosecutor of Moscow Region

Aleksandr M. Mokhov
Malyi Kiselnyi per., 5
Moscow GSP-6
107996 Russian Federation
Fax: +7 495 623 68 69
Salutation: Dear Prosecutor

Prosecutor General of the Russian

Federation
Yurii Ya. Chaika
Ul. Bolshaia Dmitrovka, 15a
Moscow GSP-3
125993 Russian Federation
Fax: +7 495 692 17 25
Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

And copies to:

Ombudsperson of the Russian
Federation:
Vladimir P. Lukin,
Ul. Miasnitskaia, 47, Moscow,
107048 Russian Federation
Fax: +7 495 607 74 70

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the second update of UA 43/10 (EUR 46/003/2010). Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR46/003/2010/en and <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR46/004/2010/en>

Further information on UA: 43/10 Index: EUR 46/008/2010 Issue Date: 20 April 2010

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