

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST STILL IN PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

Raisa Radchenko, a 70 year-old human rights activist in Ukraine, continues to be detained in a psychiatric hospital against her will, despite increased public scrutiny. The pressure generated by the Urgent Action issued on her behalf has forced the authorities to react, but more action is now needed to ensure she is released and given a psychiatric examination outside the Zaporizhzhya region.

On 11 July, **Raisa Radchenko** was detained by police, and taken to the Zaporizhzhya Regional Psychiatric Hospital. She has no history of mental illness, and was subjected to psychiatric treatment in the absence of any court decision authorizing forced treatment. On 15 July a court ordered that Raisa Radchenko should be treated as a psychiatric in-patient because she displayed behaviour that “posed a threat to society”.

On 16 July **Daryna Radchenko**, Raisa Radchenko’s daughter, was visited by two policemen and a representative of the district Children’s Rights Administration. They informed her that they had received an anonymous phone call concerning possible child abuse, and that they needed to inspect her home to decide whether her five year-old son needed to be taken into care.

The Urgent Action issued on 15 July has generated interest in the Ukrainian media and among international bodies. Ukrainian government authorities have started to react. On 17 July a delegation from the Ombudsman’s office visited Zaporizhzhya and met with all parties including Raisa Radchenko. On the same day the governor of Zaporizhzhya Region announced that he was taking the case under his personal control. The press service of the Zaporizhzhya police department also announced that the two police officers who had visited Daryna Radchenko in connection with the complaint of child abuse were being disciplined. Despite these measures, Raisa Radchenko remains in psychiatric detention.

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

- Asking for Raisa Radchenko to be immediately released and given a psychiatric examination outside the Zaporizhzhya Region to ensure impartiality, with the participation of a psychiatrist from the Ukrainian Psychiatric Association;
- Reminding the authorities that they have an obligation not only to ensure that human rights defenders can carry out their activities unhindered but also to protect them against any violence, threats, or retaliation in conformity with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders (1999);
- Asking for an investigation into the alleged ill-treatment of Daryna Radchenko and Raisa Radchenko by police officers.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 29 AUGUST 2013 TO:

Governor of Zaporizhzhya Region

Alexander Peklushenko
Prospekt Lenina 164
Zaporizhzhya, Ukraine
Fax: +380 61 224 61 23
E-mail: adm@zoda.gov.ua

Salutation: Dear Alexander

Peklushenko

Prosecutor General

Viktor Pshonka
Vul Riznitska 13/15
01601 Kyiv, Ukraine
Fax: + 380 44 280 2851
Salutation: Dear Prosecutor

Ombudsman

Valeriya Lutkowska
Vul Instytutska 21/8
01008 Kyiv, Ukraine
E-mail: omb@ombudsman.kiev.ua
Salutation: Dear Ombudsman

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 177/13. Further information:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR50/010/2013/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Raisa Radchenko is a member of several local citizens' associations in Zaporizhzhya, Ukraine and has actively campaigned against local corruption and police abuse, supporting local people who have attempted to claim their rights. In early June she visited the capital Kyiv to present petitions on behalf of residents of Zaporizhzhya to the Prosecutor General's office and the Presidential Administration. She had previously also organized a petition asking for the resignation of the Mayor of Zaporizhzhya.

Daryna Radchenko, Raisa Radchenko's daughter, reported that on 10 July two police officers and a psychiatrist came to their home and informed Raisa Radchenko that there had been a court decision stating that she should be subjected to an in-patient psychiatric examination. She has no history of mental illness. Raisa Radchenko refused to open the door because they were unable to produce any documents confirming the court decision. On 11 July she went with her daughter and five year-old grandson to Lenin District Court for more information. According to Daryna Radchenko as many as 30 police officers immediately detained her mother and restrained all three; Daryna Radchenko sustained bruising on her arm. The following day Daryna Radchenko met the head doctor at the Zaporizhzhya Regional Psychiatric Hospital and was informed that a court decision had been taken based on the testimony of two cleaners working in Raisa Radchenko's block who reported anti-social behaviour. Only subsequently did Daryna Radchenko see a copy of the court decision ordering an in-patient psychiatric evaluation.

Name: Raisa Radchenko, Daryna Radchenko

Gender: f

Further Information on UA: 177/13 Index: EUR 50/011/2013 Issue Date: 18 July 2013