

URGENT ACTION

THREE FURTHER DISAPPEARANCES IN CRIMEA

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of three EuroMaydan activists who disappeared on the evening of 13 March in Crimea.

Oleksiy Gritsenko, Natalya Lukyanchenko and Sergiy Suprun have not made contact with friends or family since 11pm on 13 March. Oleksiy Gritsenko's father told Amnesty International that he believes they have been abducted by paramilitary forces in *de facto* control in Crimea.

The three activists have been in Crimea since last week. On 13 March they travelled from Sevastapol to the capital of Crimea, Simferopol. Earlier that day they reported that they had been followed. That same evening Natalya Lukyanchenko called fellow activists and said their car was being chased by three vehicles and that shots were being fired at them. There has been no contact with them since and their car is also missing.

The mobile telephone signals of both Oleksiy Gritsenko and Natalya Lukyanchenko were located in the vicinity of the military conscription commission (*kommisariat*) in Simferapol, which is being guarded by military officers who are not wearing any identifying insignia and who deny they are holding the activists there.

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

- Urging the Crimean parliament to immediately take all necessary steps to locate and secure the release of Oleksiy Gritsenko, Natalya Lukyanchenko and Sergiy Suprun and ensure their safety;
- Calling on the Crimean parliament to ensure the safety and freedom of movement for activists, journalists and any other persons in Crimea, including visitors from the mainland Ukraine;
- Reminding the Crimean parliament of their obligations under international human rights law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention against Torture.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 25 APRIL 2014 TO:

Chairman

Vladimir Andreyevich Konstantinov
Supreme Council of the Autonomous
Republic of Crimea, 18 K. Marx Street
Simferopol, Ukraine, 95000
Autonomous Republic of Crimea
Fax: +380 652 27 25 81
Email: letter2@rada.crimea.ua
Salutation: Dear Vladimir Konstantinov

And copies to:

Acting Minister of Internal Affairs
Arsen Borisovich Avakov
10 Bohomoltsya Street, Kyiv, Ukraine,
01601
Fax: +380 44 256 1633
Email: vidkrytist@mvs.gov.ua
Salutation: Dear Acting Minister

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

The Crimea is an autonomous republic within Ukraine, and the home of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, in Sevastopol, in accordance with a bilateral Ukrainian-Russian agreement.

On 26 February, clashes were reported in Crimea's capital city Simferopol and elsewhere in Crimea, between pro-Russian activists and supporters of the so-called EuroMaydan protests in Kyiv that had resulted in the ousting of President Viktor Yanukovych and the creation of an interim central government.

On the night of 26 to 27 February, buildings belonging to the local authorities across Crimea were simultaneously taken control of by armed groups. A number of objects belonging to the Ukrainian military forces and fleet have been effectively blocked and sieged by organised units of armed men in military uniform without insignia driving military vehicles.

Meanwhile, a new regional administration opposed to the interim central Ukrainian authorities was formed in Simferopol. On 27 February, the Crimean parliament elected a new prime minister in the presence of armed unknown men.

On 6 March, the Crimean parliament voted to hold a referendum in Crimea on 16 March on the question of the region's status, cessation from Ukraine and accession to Russia. The region is effectively controlled by military and paramilitary forces. There is overwhelming evidence – including unofficial admissions by some of the officers – suggesting that the military are Russian personnel, although Moscow has consistently denied that it has deployed its forces in Ukraine's Crimea outside the areas designated to its Black Sea Fleet.

Name: Oleksiy Gritsenko (m), Natalya Lukyanchenko (f) and Sergiy Suprun (m)

Gender m/f: both

UA: 58/14 Index: EUR 50/016/2014 Issue Date: 14 March 2014