

URGENT ACTION

NATALYA SHARINA VICTIM OF TRAVESTY OF JUSTICE

On 5 June, Natalya Sharina, ex-Director of the Ukrainian Library in Moscow, was found guilty of “incitement of hatred and enmity” and “embezzlement” and given four years suspended sentence. Her prosecution was unfounded and politically motivated and she is going to appeal the conviction.

Natalya Sharina, the ex-Director of the Ukrainian Library in Moscow, was sentenced to four years suspended sentence on 5 June after being found guilty of “incitement of hatred and enmity” and “embezzlement”. Her prosecution for holding “extremists books” was unfounded and politically motivated.

Natalya Sharina’s trial at the Moscow Meschanskiy District Court has been ongoing since 2 November 2016. The prosecution presented about 18 witnesses but according to Natalya Sharina’s lawyer none of them was able to provide evidence to support the charges. Nevertheless, the prosecution asked for five years suspended sentence with five years probationary period and prohibition to work as a civil servant for three years.

Natalya Sharina was arrested in October 2015 after works by Ukrainian nationalist Dmytro Korchynsky were found in an unindexed pile of books in the library she headed. Dmytro Korchynsky’s works are officially banned in Russia and the books were defined as ‘extremist’ and ‘anti-Russian propaganda’ by the prosecutor. Natalya Sharina has been under house arrest since 30 October 2015 and this time will be counted as part of her sentence. This restriction measure is now lifted and at last she can freely leave her house.

Natalya Sharina denied all charges and intends to appeal the sentence. Her lawyer said that they will go all the way to the European Court of Human Rights if needed.

Amnesty International will continue monitoring the situation and supporting Natalya Sharina in her fight for justice.

Thank you to all those who sent appeals. No further action is requested from the UA network at this point.

This is the fourth update of UA 261/15. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/EUR46/5101/2016/en/>

Name: Natalya Sharina

Gender m/f: f

Further information on UA: 261/15 Index: EUR 46/6477/2017 Issue Date: 9 June 2017

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