

URGENT ACTION

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE BEATEN IN COURT

Aleksey Polikhovich, prisoner of conscience and one of the Bolotnaya case convicts, was severely beaten by an escorting police officer at the Moscow Zamoskvoretskiy court on 24 February. His lawyers filed a complaint to the prosecutor's office but have not received any reply yet.

On 24 February 2014, following the announcement of the verdict in Bolotnaya case, **Aleksey Polikhovich** repeatedly asked a group of police escort guards for a hard copy of the verdict while being led out of the courtroom. In response a guard started insulting him. Aleksey Polikhovich asked the guard to stop the insults but instead he violently hit Aleksey on his head and neck and when Aleksey fell to the ground the guard forcefully kicked Aleksey's knee, he later told his lawyer. After the incident, Aleksey Polikhovich was struggling to stand up straight and was feeling dizzy.

Aleksey Polikhovich was then transferred to the prison hospital where he was diagnosed with an injury of soft tissue of more than 7cm in depth around his knee. He was not provided with adequate medical treatment for two days until a huge hematoma had developed around the injured tissue. His lawyers filed a complaint to the prosecutors' office.

Please write immediately in Russian or your own language:

- Calling on the Prosecutor General and the Director of the Federal Penitentiary Service for an immediate, impartial and effective investigation into the beating;
- Calling on the Director of the Federal Penitentiary Service to ensure that prison guards comply with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and other international human rights standards and country's legislation and that no incidents of ill-treatment or torture of detainees take place at any stage of their detention;
- Calling on the Prosecutor General to ensure immediate and unconditional release of Aleksey Polikhovich and other Bolotnaya prisoners of conscience and to remove charges of participation in mass riots against Andrey Barabanov and Aleksandra Dukhanina (Naumova).

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 17 APRIL 2014 TO:

Prosecutor General

Yurii Ya. Chaika
Bolshaia Dmitrovka 15 A
125993 Moscow
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 495 692 1725

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

Director of the Federal Penitentiary Service of the Russian Federation

Gennady A. Kornienko
ul. Zhitnaya 14
GSP-1119991 Moscow
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 495 982 1950; +7 495 982 1930
Email: udmail@fsin.su

Salutation: Dear Director

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

Hundreds of peaceful anti-government protesters were arrested during the Bolotnaya Square protest on 6 May 2012 which police dispersed using excessive and unlawful force. Although the demonstration was predominantly peaceful, and all violence limited to certain areas and involving only a small number of protesters, the authorities described the event as “mass riots”, which allowed them to bring heavier charges against the accused.

Criminal proceedings were subsequently initiated against 28 individuals. Eleven individuals were amnestied and two sentenced to prison terms. On 24 February 2014 the Moscow Zamoskvoretskiy Court sentenced Aleksey Polikhovich, Stepan Zimin and Denis Lutskevich to three and a half years, Sergey Krivov to four years and Yaroslav Belousov to two and a half years. Artiom Saviolov got two years and seven months in prison. Aleksandra Duhanina (Naumova) received three years and three months of suspended sentence and Andrey Barabanov received three years and seven months.

Amnesty International is calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Aleksey Polikhovich as well as the other Bolotnaya prisoners: Artiom Saviolov, Stepan Zimin, Denis Lutskevich, Sergey Krivov and Yaroslav Belousov. They are prisoners of conscience convicted solely for participating in a peaceful protest in May 2012. All charges against them should be dropped. Two other co-defendants, Aleksandra Dukhanina (Naumova) and Andrey Barabanov, have been caught up in the same injustice. Their convictions on charges of participating in mass riots should be overturned. The verdicts in the Bolotnaya case are part of a wider clampdown on freedoms of assembly, association and expression since Vladimir Putin resumed the Russian presidency on 7 May 2012.

The beatings of Aleksey Polikhovich are not the first time that Bolotnaya prisoners are reportedly being assaulted on court premises. Denis Lutskevich claims that he was attacked in April 2013 by his police escort in another Moscow court. The officer was offended by the way Lutskevich had looked at him and he hit Lutskevich on the neck, handcuffed him and placed him in a 1m² cell for an hour.

It was also reported that six months later, in October, Bolotnaya defendant Sergei Krivov was assaulted in the corridor of a yet another Moscow court before the hearing. Vyacheslav Makarov, his lawyer, said police forced Krivov to undress and made him squat several times before punching him in the shoulder. The repeated assault of the Bolotnaya detainees exemplifies the inhumane conditions in Russian detention facilities.

Name: Aleksey Polikhovich (m), Aleksandra Dukhanina (Naumova) (f) and Andrey Barabanov (m)
Gender m/f: both

UA: 46/14 Index: EUR 46/016/2014 Issue Date: 6 March 2014