

URGENT ACTION

DISAPPEARED MAN RETURNED HOME

Kostyantyn Beskorovaynyi returned home on 25 February, having spent 15 months in secret detention. In July, Ukraine's Chief Military Prosecutor promised an effective investigation into Kostyantyn Beskorovaynyi's allegations of enforced disappearance and torture by members of the Security Service of Ukraine. Kostyantyn Beskorovaynyi has since given media interviews about his ordeal.

Kostyantyn Beskorovaynyi was abducted on 27 November 2014 by masked armed men who broke down the door of his house in government-controlled Kostyantynivka, Donetsk Region, eastern Ukraine, and drove him away. He told Amnesty International how he was held secretly in compounds belonging to the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) in the towns of Kramatorsk, Izyum and, for most of the 15 months, in Kharkiv. Kostyantyn Beskorovaynyi was tortured and otherwise ill-treated in the period immediately after his detention and forced to "confess" to having planned to poison the local water source.

On 25 February, Kostyantyn Beskorovaynyi was taken to a bus station in Kharkiv and given 200 Ukrainian Hryvnia (just over US\$7) to buy a ticket home. Throughout the period of his secret detention, the Ukrainian authorities denied any knowledge of his whereabouts. Prior to his release and after his return home, Kostyantyn Beskorovaynyi was repeatedly warned by officials not to tell anyone about his secret detention and to come up with an alternative explanation about his long absence. He refused to do so, and gave his consent for his story to be included in detail in the report *You don't exist²: Arbitrary Detentions, Enforced Disappearances, and Torture in Eastern Ukraine* (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/EUR50/4455/2016/en/>), which Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch published jointly on 21 July. Kostyantyn Beskorovaynyi has also given a number of media interviews about his ordeal since. With the help of his lawyer, he has been able to resume his job as a dentist.

A formal investigation into Kostyantyn Beskorovaynyi's abduction was opened shortly after he went missing in November 2014, but no tangible progress was made in establishing what had happened to him and identifying the alleged perpetrators.

Prior to the publication of the report, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch had a meeting with Ukraine's Chief Military Prosecutor who promised to conduct an effective investigation into Kostyantyn Beskorovaynyi's allegations and into other cases of alleged enforced disappearances documented in the report. Later on the same day, members of the local Military Prosecutor's office visited Kostyantyn Beskorovaynyi at home as part of the inquiry. The Ukraine team will continue monitoring the case.

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

This is the first update of UA 17/16. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/EUR50/3275/2016/en/>

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