

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST FORCIBLY DETAINED IN PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

Activist Dmitry Vorobyovsky was forcibly taken from his home to the Voronezh Regional Neurological Dispensary on the evening of 6 May. Once there he underwent involuntary psychiatric treatment. His lawyer was unable to see him until 8 May in the morning and he has not been brought before a judge.

Dmitry Vorobyovsky is well known in the city of Voronezh for his frequent protests in support of political prisoners and in opposition to government policy. He told his lawyer that some men knocked at his door at about 5pm on 6 May claiming to be from the gas company, but when he opened the door they turned out to be paramedics from the psychiatric hospital who forcibly detained him and drove him to the Voronezh Regional Neurological Dispensary. At the hospital he was tied to a bed for three hours during which he was injected with an unknown substance and given pills against his will. The doctors at the hospital claim not to know who called the psychiatric services and there was no known incident that led to his forced psychiatric treatment. When his lawyer saw him on 8 May he was calm and rational, however, he is not allowed to leave the hospital. It remains unclear what the alleged medical grounds for his detention and forcible treatment were and what medicines were administered.

According to Russian law nobody can be detained for more than 48 hours without a judge's order. When his lawyer asked the local prosecutor to intervene and demanded his release she was told that nothing could be done because of the Victory Day public holiday on 9 May. Dmitry Vorobyovsky may have been detained because of his outspoken criticism of government policy, in violation of his right to freedom of expression. Furthermore, his detention beyond 48 hours without a judge's order is in violation of Russian law and international standards.

Please write immediately in Russian or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to immediately bring Dmitry Vorobyovsky before a judge and examine the grounds for his forcible detention at the psychiatric hospital, or release him immediately as he is being detained in violation of Russian law and international standards;
- Reminding the authorities that involuntary psychiatric treatment should only be used in cases of severe mental illness when it is likely that that person will cause immediate or imminent harm to themselves or others;
- Demand an investigation into the circumstances of his detention by paramedics claiming to be gas workers and of his detention at a psychiatric institution, and into the involuntary administration of drugs, and bring anyone found responsible to account.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 20 JUNE 2016 TO:

Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation

Yurii Yakovlevich Chaika
Prosecutor General's Office
ul. B. Dmitrovka, d.15a
125993 Moscow GSP- 3
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 495 987 5841 / +7 495 692 1725

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

Prosecutor of Voronezh Region

Nikolai Shishkin
394006 Voronezh
Pereulok Krasnoarmeisky 12 B
Russian Federation

E-mail: mailto:prokuratura_vrn@yandex.ru

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Salutation: Dear Prosecutor

Head Doctor

Voronezh Regional Neurological
Dispensary

Russian Federation

Fax: +7473 271 2104

Salutation: Dear Head Doctor

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. EXCELLENCY MR ALEXANDER V. YAKOVENKO, Embassy of the Russian Federation (Residence of the Ambassador), 13 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QX tel: 020 7229 3620 or 020 7792 1408 Fax 020 7229 5804 email: info@rusemb.org.uk and foreignpolicy@rusemb.org.uk, salutation: Your Excellency

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Name: Dmitry Vorobyovsky

Gender m/f: m

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