

# URGENT ACTION

## PROVIDE ADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE TO JAILED LAWYER

**A lawyer sentenced to eight and a half years' imprisonment for alleged extortion and damage to property after a possibly unfair trial is in urgent need of specialized medical care.**

Lawyer **Olga Gisich** was sentenced to eight and a half years in prison in March 2016 for alleged extortion and damage to property after a possibly unfair trial. She has appealed against her sentence and has been in detention for the past year and a half. She is currently in the pre-trial detention centre (SIZO) in Syzran, in Samara Region, southwestern Russia. According to her brother, she has a number of chronic health conditions including kidney disease, a stomach ulcer and a prolapsed uterus and is currently suffering from heavy bleeding and frequent blackouts.

The prison administration have refused to allow her family to provide her with food appropriate for her stomach condition, and claim that they are able to provide her with the necessary diet and medication. However, she has not seen a gynaecologist since her incarceration, and the prison hospital can only offer general care of a low standard. Her brother has told Amnesty International that he fears she will not survive her sentence.

### Please write immediately in Russian or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to provide Olga Gisich with an independent medical examination by a doctor not working for the penitentiary system;
- Calling on them to provide her with adequate medical care as required, including by transferring her to a civilian hospital if necessary;
- Reminding the authorities that they have an obligation to provide health care to prisoners that is of the same standard as that available in the community.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 23 JUNE 2016 TO:

Director of the Federal Penitentiary Service

Gennady Kornienko  
Federal Penitentiary Service  
ul. Zhitnaya 14  
Moscow 119991  
Russian Federation  
Fax: + 7 495 982 1950  
Email: [udmail@fsin.su](mailto:udmail@fsin.su)

**Salutation: Dear Director**

Director of SIZO

Andrei Burkin  
Sizo-2 GUFSSIN  
ul. Khlebtsevicha 1  
Syzran 446010  
Samara Region  
Russian Federation  
Email: [scentral@rambler.ru](mailto:scentral@rambler.ru)

**Salutation: Dear Director**

**And copies to:**

Chairperson  
Dmitry Shtokov  
Public Monitoring Commission  
ul. Molodogvardeiskaya d. 2014, ofis 21  
Samara 443001  
Russian Federation  
Email: [onk63reg@gmail.com](mailto:onk63reg@gmail.com)

**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](mailto:info@rusemb.org.uk) and [foreignpolicy@rusemb.org.uk](mailto: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

Olga Gisich was convicted of extortion after she demanded compensation from the director of a private clinic in the city of Samara, in Samara Region. The clinic had employed an unqualified doctor to carry out an operation on her in 2013 and subsequently misdiagnosed her with ovarian cancer. She was told that she had only two months to live and was offered another expensive operation. She sought a second opinion and a different clinic informed her that the cancer was at an early stage. Olga Gisich successfully applied to a court in Samara regarding numerous incidents of medical negligence relating to her care. She assisted other women to sue the clinic in her professional capacity as lawyer. Olga Gisich decided to seek an out of court settlement for compensation with the clinic. It was during negotiations with the director that she was accused of extortion and taken to court. During the court proceedings additional charges of threatening the director and ordering his car to be burnt were added.

Olga Gisich was convicted on the testimonies of the clinic doctors, and other witnesses. The witnesses included the man who allegedly burnt the car, who was Olga Gisich's client and had been accused of serious crimes. He gave his testimony as part of a so called "special procedure" according to which he pleaded guilty in return for a reduced sentence. He is currently serving a two and a half year sentence.

UA: 113/16 Index: EUR 46/4018/2016 Issue Date: 12 May 2016