

URGENT ACTION

VICTIM OF UNFAIR TRIAL, HEALTH AT RISK

Stanislav Klykh is currently in pre-trial detention after being sentenced on 26 May to 20 years in prison after an unfair trial. His mental condition, likely caused by torture and other ill-treatment which the Russian authorities are refusing to investigate, requires urgent attention and independent assessment.

Stanislav Klykh, a Ukrainian national, was sentenced in an unfair trial to 20 years' imprisonment on 26 May, along with co-defendant Mykola Karpyuk, for purportedly being a member of a group of fighters and killing 30 Russian soldiers during the conflict in Chechnya in 1994 – 96. Stanislav Klykh, who is currently being held in the pre-trial detention centre in Grozny, in Chechnya, has appealed against the sentence. The date for an appeal hearing has not been set, and his allegations of torture and other ill-treatment have been dismissed, depriving him of a chance of a fair trial.

Stanislav Klykh and Mykola Karpyuk allege that they were tortured following their arrest in August 2014 and March 2014 respectively. Their lawyers were denied access and basic information about their clients' whereabouts for several months after their arrest. Stanislav Klykh told his lawyer that he had been deprived of food and water for several days and forced to kneel on gravel in the yard. He was made to drink vodka until he lost consciousness, and given psychotropic drugs. He was hung from bars in his cell and given electric shocks. Between August 2014 and September 2015 Stanislav Klykh was kept in solitary confinement and not allowed any visitors. Stanislav Klykh, who has no history of mental illness, appeared severely disturbed throughout the trial which began in October 2015; he undressed himself, shouted abuse, hung himself upside down inside the defendant's cage. In November, he cut himself with a blade to protest against the authorities' refusal to carry out a medical examination. Stanislav Klykh's behaviour during recent meetings with his lawyer has deteriorated and he has shown aggression and refused to cooperate with her.

Stanislav Klykh has been examined twice at a state psychiatric hospital in Chechnya and declared fit to stand trial. In February an independent psychiatric expert commissioned by his lawyer concluded that he was showing signs of mental illness and should have a full examination. The judge refused to include this conclusion in the casefile and failed to order a full independent examination. The authorities have not provided detailed information about the treatment received by Stanislav Klykh, but his lawyer believes that he may have received one dose of a drug normally administered to patients suffering from schizophrenia.

Please write immediately in Russian or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to ensure Stanislav Klykh is provided with a full mental healthcare assessment by an independent expert from outside of Chechnya and that he is provided with adequate medical treatment as required;
- Calling on them to carry out a prompt, effective and impartial investigation into the torture allegations by Stanislav Klykh and Mykola Karpyuk.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 17 AUGUST 2016 TO:

General Prosecutor
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 the Chechen Republic
Abdul-Kadyrov Sharpuddi
Ul. Idrisova 42
364000 Grozny
Republic of Chechnya
Russian Federation
Email: procurat-chech@mail.ru
Salutation: Dear Prosecutor

And copies to:
Chairman of the Investigative Committee
Aleksandr Bastrykin
Tekhnicheskii pereulok, d. 2
105005 Moscow
Russian Federation

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 email: info@rusemb.org.uk

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

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The trial of Mykola Karpyuk and Stanislav Klykh is one of a number of highly political trials of Ukrainian citizens held in the Russia over the past year; in August 2015 Oleg Sentsov and Aleksandr Kolchenko were sentenced to long prison terms on terrorism charges (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur46/2325/2015/en/>) and in March 2016 Nadiya Savchenko was sentenced to over 20 years for having allegedly killed two Russian journalists during fighting in the Lugansk region in Ukraine (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur46/3710/2016/en/>). Nadiya Savchenko has since been released as part of a prisoner exchange. All these highly politicized trials have raised serious fair trial concerns and have been used in the propaganda war in Russia against Ukraine.

The choice of Chechnya for the trial of Mykola Karpyuk and Stanislav Klykh exacerbates the fair trial concerns. Chechen authorities headed by Ramzan Kadyrov, effectively control virtually every sphere of life in this North Caucasus republic in the Russia Federation including the judiciary. Any form of dissent is brutally suppressed, and human rights defenders, media workers and political activists, including those from outside Chechnya, as well as, on rare occasions, members of the general public who express any form of criticism of the Chechen leadership and its policies, face threats, harassment and often physical violence (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur46/3255/2016/en/>). The assassination of journalist Anna Politkovskaya in 2006 and the abduction and murder of Chechen human rights defender Natalia Estemirova in 2009 were preceded by similar threats.

The Chechen leadership exercises direct pressure on the judiciary. On 5 May, Ramzan Kadyrov called a meeting of all judges and forced four of them to resign. Investigation by the independent newspaper, Novaya Gazeta, has revealed recurring instances in which judges and members of juries in Chechnya were given direct orders to ensure a conviction, and those who failed to do so faced serious reprisals. In 2011, a jury acquitted four suspected armed group members following a trial. After this, all members of the jury panel were apprehended by armed law enforcement officers and taken to a forest to “take part” in a security operation against the “armed group members” they had supposedly “let go”. The judge and lawyers involved in this case were summoned by Chechen officials to “give explanations” about their role in the case.

Given such practices, psychiatrists and other experts in Chechnya cannot be expected to deliver an impartial opinion on a patient who is standing trial in a high-profile criminal case in the republic.

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