

URGENT ACTION

BLOGGER IMPRISONED AFTER APPEAL REJECTED

On 20 April political activist and blogger Darya Poliudova arrived in the open prison colony in Novorossiisk, Krasnodar Krai, where she will be serving her sentence after her appeal was rejected on 30 March. She has submitted another appeal. Darya Poliudova is a prisoner of conscience.

On 30 March, the Krasnodar Krai Court rejected **Darya Poliudova's** appeal against her two year sentence. She has already spent six months in pre-trial detention, which will be counted against the sentence. On 18 April Darya Poliudova submitted a cassation appeal to the Krasnodar Krai Court, which has not yet been heard. She arrived at a penal colony in Novorossiisk on 20 April.

Darya Poliudova was convicted for exercising her right to freedom of expression. She is a prisoner of conscience and must be released immediately and unconditionally.

Please write immediately in Russian or your own language:

- Urging the Russian authorities to quash the sentence against Darya Poliudova and release her immediately and unconditionally as she is a prisoner of conscience imprisoned solely for exercising her right to freedom of expression;
- Calling on them to respect and protect the right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association for all people in Russia, without discrimination against people with dissenting political and other views.

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 Krasnodar Krai

Leonid Gennadevich Korzhinek
Prosecutor's Office of Krasnodar Krai
Ul Sovetskaia 39
350063, Krasnodar
Fax: +7 (863) 287 70 01
Salutation: Dear Prosecutor

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. This is the third update of UA 160/15. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/EUR46/3534/2016/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Political activist and blogger Darya Poliudova was sentenced on 21 December 2015 by the Oktiabrskii District Court in Krasnodar, southern Russia, to two years' imprisonment in an open prison colony. The Court found that her posts on the Russian social media site VKontakte criticizing Russia's annexation of Crimea and the official policy towards Ukraine constituted "calls to commit extremist activities" and "calls to take action threatening the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation".

Darya Poliudova was convicted for social media posts in which she peacefully expressed her views, including photos of herself carrying political banners with slogans such as "No war in Ukraine but a revolution in Russia". Under one photo of her protesting against the Russian government, she posted a message blaming President Vladimir Putin for "acts of terror and catastrophes in Russia" that had occurred during his time in office. Darya Poliudova did not plead guilty insisting that she had only exercised her right to freedom of expression.

Darya Poliudova is well known locally for her street actions and online activism. She is a vocal critic of the Russian authorities and has been detained on numerous occasions for her peaceful street protests against the annexation of Crimea and Russia's involvement in the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Name: Darya Poliudova
Gender m/f: f

Further information on UA: 160/15 Index: EUR 46/3991/2016 Issue Date: 9 May 2016