

URGENT ACTION

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE WRITES OF TORTURE

In a letter addressed to his wife and published on a news website on 1 November, prisoner of conscience Ildar Dadin revealed that prison staff, including the director of the prison colony in Segezha, in the Karelia region of Russia, have beaten and tortured him since his arrival on 10 September.

Activist **Ildar Dadin** was imprisoned on 7 December 2015 after being sentenced to three years for “repeated violations of the law on public assemblies” (Article 212.1 of the Russian Criminal Code). His sentence was reduced on appeal to two-and-a-half years on 31 March 2016. In a letter sent to his wife and published on a news website on 1 November, Ildar Dadin describes his ordeal since his arrival at the prison colony in Segezha in Russia’s Karelia region on 10 September, including severe beatings, rape threats, other torture and other ill-treatment.

Ildar Dadin is a prisoner of conscience. He is the first person in Russia to be sentenced under Article 212.1, which effectively criminalizes peaceful demonstrations by making it a crime to violate Russia’s highly restrictive Law on Public Assemblies more than twice in 180 days. Ildar Dadin was found guilty of participation in four street actions in 2014, all of which were peaceful.

In a letter to his wife, dictated to his lawyer, he recounts how he was immediately placed in the punishment cell on arrival in Segezha prison colony after prison guards purportedly found two razor blades among his possessions. He declared a hunger strike in protest. He describes how on 11 September he was beaten and kicked four times by groups of 10-12 prison guards, including on one occasion by the director of the prison colony. After his third beating, he claims, his head was pushed down the toilet in the prison cell, and he was threatened with rape. On 12 September he was hung by handcuffs to force him to end his hunger strike. The prison director threatened him in the presence of other officers that if he did not stop his hunger strike he would be “buried on the other side of the prison fence”. Ildar Dadin has been placed in the punishment cell seven times since his arrival in the prison colony. According to Ildar Dadin, the beatings have continued, and the same treatment is meted out to other prisoners. Torture and other ill-treatment had been reported in Segezha prison colony in the past.

Please write immediately in Russian or your own language:

- Urging the Russian authorities to release Ildar Dadin immediately and unconditionally, and stressing that he has been imprisoned in contravention of Russia’s human rights obligations, for exercising his rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly;
- Urging them, in the meantime, to ensure that neither Ildar Dadin nor any other inmate at Segezha prison colony are subjected to torture or other ill-treatment, and that all prison inmates in Russia are treated in accordance with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the treatment of prisoners;
- Calling on them to investigate promptly and effectively the allegations of torture and other ill-treatment of Ildar Dadin and other inmates at Segezha prison colony, and bring the perpetrators to justice in fair trials.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 14 DECEMBER 2016 TO:

Prosecutor of Karelia Region
Karen Karlenovich Kabrileyev
Prosecutor’s Office of Karelia
ul. Germana Titova d. 4
185910 Petrozavodsk
Fax: +7 142 717 810
Salutation: Dear Prosecutor

Director of the Penitentiary Service
Gennadii Aleksandrovich Kornienko
Director of the Federal Service of
Execution of Punishments
ul. Zhitnaya 14, GSP-1
119991 Moscow
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 495 982 1950 / +7 495 982 1930
Salutation: Dear Director

And copies to:
Prison Director
Sergei Leonidovich Kossiev
ul. Leygubskaya
186420, Segezha
Republic of Karelia
Russian Federation
Email: ik7us@mail.ru

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. HIS EXCELLENCY MR ALEXANDER VLADIMIROVICH YAKOVENKO, Embassy of Russia, 6-7 Kensington Palace Gardens, London, W8 4QP, 020 7229 6412
Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ildar Dadin was arrested on 15 January 2015 when he was holding a picket in support of Charlie Hebdo (a French satirical weekly magazine that suffered an armed attack in January 2015). Although this was a single-person picket, which is the only form of street protest that does not require prior approval by the authorities in Russia, he was accused of holding an “unauthorised” public assembly. Under Russian law, when committed the first time, this is an administrative violation and Ildar Dadin was sentenced to 15 days in detention.

On the last day of his detention he was brought to Basmannyi Court in Moscow to be tried for a similar “offense” in relation to a peaceful protest on 5 December 2014. Instead, the judge ruled that Ildar Dadid should face criminal proceedings because he had been repeatedly arrested for “unauthorised” public assemblies. A criminal case was opened against Ildar Dadin on the same day, and on 3 February 2015 he was placed under house arrest.

He was convicted on 7 December 2015, sentenced to three-year imprisonment, and immediately taken into custody. On appeal, his sentence was reduced to two-and-a-half years, but his conviction was upheld.

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