

URGENT ACTION

DISCLOSE FATE AND WHEREABOUTS OF DETAINED MAN

Oleksandr Dydovych was arbitrarily arrested on 17 December 2015. His wife was allowed to exchange letters with him until 16 April, while he was in the Security Service of Ukraine's unofficial detention. His fate and whereabouts are unknown since then, and there are serious concerns about his safety.

Oleksandr Dydovych was convicted on 17 December 2015 by a court in Kostyantynivka, in the Donetsk Region in eastern Ukraine, of transmitting information to the pro-Russian separatists in Donetsk about the Ukrainian forces' movements. Oleksandr Dydovych confessed and pleaded guilty. He received a three-year conditional sentence and was released in the courtroom. However, according to his wife, moments after he left the courtroom, two men in camouflage uniforms approached him, forced him into a car and drove off.

Oleksandr Dydovych's wife explained that on 18 December she went to the compound of the Security Service of Ukraine (Sluzhba Bespeky Ukrayiny, SBU) in Kramatorsk, a town and local administrative center about 30 kilometers away from Kostyantynivka, to enquire about his fate. The guards confirmed that Oleksandr Dydovych was being held there. She was allowed to deliver food packages and exchange letters with her husband once a week, but she never received an official explanation for why he was being held there or on what grounds. The last letter that she received from Oleksandr Dydovych was dated 16 April. Under Ukrainian law, the SBU has no authority to hold anyone in detention, except in its only official detention center in the capital Kyiv and only for up to 10 days.

On 20 April, the guards told Oleksandr Dydovych's wife that he was sick and did not eat the food, and that there was no point in her coming back. They gave her no explanation regarding his health and current whereabouts, and when she called the SBU hotline she was told to contact the local Prosecutor's Office in Kostyantynivka, which she did. She also submitted an official complaint to the SBU on 20 April and received a reply dated 25 April stating that the SBU had "not detained Dydovych Oleksandr Olekseevych between 17 December and 21 April 2016".

Oleksandr Dydovych's wife filed a second request with the Prosecutor's Office in Kostyantynivka, which then opened an investigation into his disappearance. On 10 June, an investigator visited his mother to compare the handwriting in his school notebooks and the letters his wife had received, and confirmed it is the same person's handwriting. The investigation is still ongoing, but Oleksandr Dydovych's family have remained unaware of his fate and whereabouts since April.

Please write immediately in Ukrainian, Russian or your own language urging the Ukrainian authorities to:

- Immediately disclose Oleksandr Dydovych's fate and whereabouts to his family;
- If he is in detention, release him immediately or charge him with a recognisable offence and ensure he has access to a lawyer and is allowed contact with his family;
- Investigate promptly, effectively and impartially the allegations of his arbitrary arrest and unlawful detention, and bring all those responsible to account in fair trial proceedings.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 24 AUGUST 2016 TO:

Head of the Security Service of Ukraine

Vasyl Hrytsak
Volodymyrska St., 35
01034, Kyiv-34, Ukraine
Fax: +380 44 279 3040
Email: pressinfo@ssu.gov.ua

Salutation: Mr

Prosecutor General of Ukraine

Yurii Lutsenko
Vul. Riznytska 13/15
01601, Kyiv, Ukraine
Fax: +380 44 280 2603
Email: press-service@gp.gov.ua

Salutation: Mr

And copies to:

Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner on
Human Rights
Valeriya Lutkovska
21/8, Instytutska street
Kyiv 01008, Ukraine
Email: hotline@ombudsman.gov.ua

Also send copies to:

Ambassador Valeriy Chaly, Embassy of Ukraine
3350 M St NW, Washington DC 20007
Phone: 1 202 349 2920 | Fax: 1 202 333 0817 | Email: letters@ukremb.com

Please let us know if you took action so that we can track our impact! EITHER send a short email to uan@aiusa.org with "UA 166/16" in the subject line, and include in the body of the email the number of letters and/or emails you sent, OR fill out this [short online form](#) to let us know how you took action. Thank you for taking action! Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International has previously received credible information about unlawful detention of individuals, as well as torture and other ill-treatment of detainees, by both sides of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine. In June 2016, Amnesty International sent a letter to the SBU detailing some of the well-founded allegations involving members of this agency. The SBU reply denied holding any persons in detention in any of its premises except its temporary detention facility in Kyiv. Cases of enforced disappearance and unlawful detention reported by Amnesty International and others to the Ukrainian authorities since the beginning of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine in spring 2014 have not been effectively investigated.

In May 2016, a delegation from the UN Subcommittee for Prevention of Torture cut short a visit to Ukraine because the Ukrainian authorities did not grant them access to some of the detention sites they wanted to visit, including in particular the building of the Security Service of Ukraine in Kramatorsk. The delegation chief, Malcolm Evans, stressed that the team was prevented from visiting "some places where we have heard numerous and serious allegations that people have been detained and where torture or ill-treatment may have occurred." See: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54041#.V2q5xrsrJhE>

The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (HRMMU) has also reported on the use of practice of secret and incommunicado detention and torture and other ill-treatment in eastern Ukraine, including of such reported instances in late 2015 and early 2016 that mostly implicated the Security Service of Ukraine.

Name: Oleksandr Olekseevich Dydovych

Gender m/f: m

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