

URGENT ACTION

WHISTLE BLOWER DETAINED ON SPURIOUS CHARGES

Aleksandr Eivazov, a former court secretary, is unjustly detained on charges of interfering with the course of justice after he exposed violations in the judicial system. His health is at risk and he should be immediately released.

Aleksandr Eivazov, 22 years-old, started working as a court secretary in October 2016, in the October District court in St Petersburg, hoping to become a judge one day. He was shocked by the violations of judicial ethics and labour rights that he witnessed in the court, such as secretaries being asked to falsify records of court sessions and judges violating the principle of judicial independence by not conducting their deliberations in secret. Aleksandr Eivazov sent dozens of complaints to the chairs of higher courts, the judicial qualification body, the Federal Security Service and the Investigative Committee, and when he received no response he published his criticism on social media and sent information to journalists. He resigned in December 2016. Following his resignation, he was visited at his home in January 2017 by the Deputy Chair of the October District court accompanied by police officers and he was asked to sign a backdated record of a court session that had been prepared by another secretary, which he refused to do. Shortly afterwards, the Chair of the court asked the Investigative Committee to instigate a case against him for interfering in the work of the court claiming that Aleksandr Eivazov had failed to prepare and sign court records. Aleksandr Eivazov was detained on 22 August in Sochi, in the southwest of Russia, and is currently in pre-trial detention in St Petersburg. He has suffered from asthma since childhood and is not receiving the drugs that he requires nor adequate treatment for his condition. The poor conditions of detention and particularly the conditions during transportation between the court room and the detention centre have exacerbated his condition.

Aleksandr Eivazov is prisoner of conscience who is being prosecuted for the exercise of his right to freedom of expression and he should be immediately released.

1) TAKE ACTION

Write a letter, send an email, call, fax or tweet:

- Urging the authorities to release Aleksandr Eivazov immediately and unconditionally as he is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for the exercise of his right to freedom of expression;
- Pending his release, calling on them to ensure that he is provided with access to any medical care he may require, including the medication he needs to treat his asthma.

Contact these two officials by 14 November, 2017:

Prosecutor of Saint Petersburg
Sergei Litvinenko
Saint Petersburg Prosecutor's Office
ul. Pochtamtskaya 2/9
190000 Saint Petersburg, Russia
Fax: + 7 812 315 4853/ 3182649
Email via website <http://procspb.ru/reception>
Salutation: Dear Prosecutor

Ambassador Anatoly Antonov, Embassy of the Russian Federation
2650 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington DC 20007
Phone: 1 202 298 5700 | Fax: 1 202 298 5735
Email: rusembusa@mid.ru
Twitter: @RusEmbUSA
Salutation: Dear Ambassador

2) LET US KNOW YOU TOOK ACTION

[Click here](#) to let us know if you took action on this case! *This is Urgent Action 228.17*

Here's why it is so important to report your actions: we record the actions taken on each case—letters, emails, calls and tweets—and use that information in our advocacy.

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The failings of the judicial system in Russia are well known. According to a poll carried out by the social research organization Levada-Centre in 2016, of all public institutions in Russia, the court system has the lowest level of trust compared to the president, the Orthodox Church, security apparatus, army, government and parliament.

In 2014, the UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of the judiciary expressed “strong concern about allegations of direct and indirect threats to, and improper influence, interference and pressure on the judiciary”, and expressed the view that this was a serious threat to the rule of law in the Russian Federation.

Name: Aleksandr Eivazov
Gender m/f: m

UA: 228/17 Index: EUR 46/7200/2017 Issue Date: 3 October 2017