

URGENT ACTION

PRISONER SUBJECTED TO FORCED PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT

Stanyslav Klykh, a Ukrainian national detained in Russia in 2014, has been subjected to forced psychiatric treatment by prison authorities. His mother is in Ukraine, unable to regularly visit him due to the prison's remote location, and his health is rapidly deteriorating.

Stanyslav Klykh, held since 3 March 2017 in a prison colony in the town of Verkhneuralsk, in Russia's Chelyabinsk region, staged a 12 day hunger strike in July 2017 in protest of his imprisonment after a grossly unfair trial. He subsequently felt unwell and wrote to the prison administration requesting medical treatment for his low blood pressure and hemoglobin level. Instead of sending him to a regular medical facility, the prison authorities transferred Stanyslav Klykh to a psychiatric hospital in the city of Magnitogorsk on 28 August, where he was held against his will until 8 September.

At the hospital, Stanyslav Klykh was subjected to forced psychiatric treatment and the medical staff repeatedly injected him with substances, in what may amount to torture or other ill-treatment. His mother said the treatment made him feel "stiff like a log". The authorities have not disclosed the name of the medication Stanyslav Klykh was being forced to take nor its purpose.

Following his stay at the psychiatric facility in Magnitogorsk, Stanyslav Klykh lost 15 kilograms. According to his mother, Tamara Klykh, who was able to visit him on 10, 11 and 12 October, Stanyslav Klykh had bedsores and five of his fingers were heavily injured. His mother told Amnesty International that her son was behaving "like a small child" and was unable to perform basic tasks such as washing. The prison nurse told Tamara Klykh that following his return from the psychiatric hospital, Stanyslav Klykh was unable to use his arms. There are concerns that Stanyslav Klykh has not received the adequate medical care he requires.

Stanyslav Klykh is being held in Verkhneuralsk, more than 2,500 kilometers from where his mother lives in Ukraine. Stanyslav Klykh's mother has therefore only twice been able to visit her son since he's been detained in 2014.

1) TAKE ACTION

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

- Calling on the Russian authorities to immediately disclose the details of the treatment and medication Stanyslav Klykh was forced to take and ensure he has access to the adequate medical treatment he may require, including a full mental healthcare assessment by an independent expert;
- Urging the authorities to carry out a prompt, thorough, independent and impartial investigation into Stanyslav Klykh's allegations of torture and other ill-treatment and ensure his access to effective remedies;
- Urging the authorities to transfer Stanyslav Klykh to a prison colony closer to the Ukrainian border and ensure he has regular access to visits from his mother.

Contact these two officials by 19 January, 2018:

Prosecutor General

Yurii Yakovlevich Chaika
Prosecutor General's Office
ul. B. Dmitrovka, d.15a 125993 Moscow
GSP- 3
Fax: +7 495 987 5841/ +7 495 692 1725
Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

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: @mfa_russia
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 157.16*

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Stanyslav Klykh and his co-defendant Mykola Karpyuk were sentenced on 26 May 2016 after a grossly unfair trial at the Supreme Court of Chechnya to 20 and 22 years' imprisonment respectively. Mykola Karpyuk was accused of having formed and led a band of fighters that participated in the conflict in Chechnya in 1994-1996 and allegedly killed 30 Russian servicemen.

Stanyslav Klykh was accused of having participated in an armed group. The accusation was based on the two men's "confessions" extracted under torture, and the testimony of one witness, who had also been sentenced for killing Russian servicemen in Chechnya.

Evidence supporting Stanyslav Klykh and Mykola Karpyuk's alibis that they could not have been in Chechnya during this conflict was not admitted by the court. At the appeal hearing, the defence lawyers presented evidence that the two men's rights to a fair trial had been violated and that the judge had attempted to unduly influence the jury, and argued the fact that the men were held in a cage in the court room, in accordance with Russian practice, creates an impression of guilt incompatible with the presumption of innocence. The appeal court agreed to include the vital evidence supporting the two men's alibis, but upheld the conviction. Both men were denied access to lawyers of their choice during several months after they were first detained, and allege that they were tortured to confess.

Stanyslav Klykh told his lawyer that during the first few months after his arrest 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 Stanyslav Klykh was kept in solitary confinement and not allowed any visitors.

The torture and other ill-treatment Stanyslav Klykh has endured during his detention appears to have severely affected his mental health. He has no previous history of mental illness, but appeared severely disturbed throughout the trial which began in October 2015. He undressed himself in the court room, shouted abuse, and hung himself upside down inside the defendant's cage in the courtroom. In November, he cut himself with a blade to protest against the authorities' refusal to carry out a medical examination. On 17 October 2015, during a separate hearing on charges of insulting the prosecutor during the trial, he claimed not to remember his date of birth and then declared that he refused the services of his defence lawyer and preferred to be defended by Stanyslav Mikhailov – a Russian pop star. All requests for Stanyslav Klykh to be offered an independent psychiatric examination have been refused and he has been declared fit to stand trial by official forensic experts.

The trial of Mykola Karpyuk and Stanyslav Klykh is one of a number of highly politicised trials of Ukrainian citizens held in Russia over the past three years; in August 2015, Oleg Sentsov and Aleksandr Kolchenko were sentenced to long prison terms on excessive terrorism charges following a grossly unfair trial (<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 under a presidential pardon as part of a Russia-Ukraine prisoner exchange, and she was present at the hearing on 26 October 2016 in Moscow. These highly politicized trials have raised serious fair trial concerns.

Name: Stanyslav Klykh
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 157/16 Index: EUR 46/7552/2017 Issue Date: 8 December 2017