

President Vladimir Putin
Administration of the President of the Russian Federation
Ul. Ilika 23/16, pod'ezd 11
103132 Moscow
Russian Federation

Dear President Putin,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the continued imprisonment of Ukrainian film director Oleg Sentsov, who is serving a 20-year prison sentence following an unfair trial on politically-motivated charges.

Oleg Sentsov was sentenced on August 25, 2015 to 20 years imprisonment for allegedly setting up a branch of a 'terrorist group' and organizing 'terrorist acts' in April 2014. His conviction in a military court in Russia, followed a grossly unfair trial, on politically-motivated charges, and was based on "confessions" obtained through torture. During his arrest by the Russian State Security (FSB), Oleg was tortured by FSB by putting a plastic bag over his head until he passed out. They also threatened him with rape and murder, which forced Sentsov to "confess" to organizing explosions, acts of terrorism, and illegal possession of firearms.

I urge you to immediately release Oleg Sentsov as he was convicted on politically-motivated charges, with no evidence of his guilt, and his conviction was based on "confessions" obtained under torture. In addition, any allegations of torture and other ill-treatment by Oleg Sentsov, witnesses and their lawyers must be promptly, effectively and impartially investigated, and anyone who is found responsible be brought to justice in fair trial proceedings.

Sincerely,