

URGENT ACTION

RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF INJURED POW

Artem Kolomiets is a prisoner of war combat medic who was captured in May 2022 during the siege of Mariupol. His health condition is critical, and his life is in danger due to torture and other ill-treatment inflicted health issues and denial of adequate medical aid. He is kept incommunicado. As a gravely ill POW, he must be immediately repatriated to Ukraine or accommodated in a neutral country on health grounds.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **UA 19.25**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

[*Note: USPS does not offer delivery to Russia. Email target below.](#)

Send a copy of your letter to the Russian Permanent Mission to the UN (see address below):

Tatiana Moskalkova
Human Rights Commissioner

Emails: moskalkova@ombudsmanrf.ru
A.Ovchinnikova@rightsruf.ru
A.Scherbakova@rightsruf.ru

CC: Russian Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Ambassador Nebenzia Vassily Alekseevich
136 East 67 Street,
New York, NY 10065

Email: mission@russiaun.ru or
press@russiaun.ru

Dear Human Rights Commissioner,

I am writing to express my grave concern with the case of a seriously ill and wounded Ukrainian POW combat medic, **Artem Kolomiets**. He was captured in May 2022 in Mariupol, and his captivity was confirmed by ICRC. He is held incommunicado in Perm, tortured and subjected to other forms of ill treatment that caused his health condition grave deterioration and now puts his life at risk according to the recent testimonies of former POWs.

All POWs who are gravely wounded or gravely sick, or whose mental or physical well-being is endangered by captivity must be repatriated to Ukraine or accommodated in neutral country.

I urge you to take all steps within your authority to ensure that Artem Kolomiets is released from captivity on health grounds. Pending his release, ensure that he is treated humanely, provided with adequate healthcare, and guaranteed the right to correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Senior Sergeant Kolomiiets is a Ukrainian combat medic, senior sergeant of the 12th brigade of the Ukrainian National Guard of Ukraine ("Azov"). He has been in Russian captivity for over 1000 days. He is held incommunicado, so the only information about him comes to his relatives from former POWs who were in captivity with Artem. The last update the relatives received was in December 2024. Since childhood, Artem has been helping wounded stray animals. As an adult, he had a dream of being a doctor because he wanted to help people, and his dream was fulfilled in the army. In the first days of the full-scale invasion, Mariupol was surrounded by Russian forces. The defense of Mariupol lasted for 86 days (82 of which it was completely surrounded). As the city was being razed to the ground by Russian attacks and Russian forces were gaining ground inside Mariupol, civilians and Ukrainian military used Azovstal plant as a shelter.

As a combat medic, Artem was tending to the wounded and saving lives during Mariupol defense (including providing medical aid to civilians) and on Azovstal. His brothers-in-arms note that he was truly dedicated to performing his medical duties, risking his life to do so. The actual number of people seeking shelter there over the course of over 2 months is likely to be higher. Unfortunately, due to severe shelling, it is also likely that many civilians and Ukrainian fighters died there. Artem was wounded during Mariupol and Azovstal defense and went into captivity on May 20, 2022. As Russia does not have POW camps (which is also a violation of IHL), he, like many other Ukrainian POWs, was transferred between Russian penal colonies throughout his captivity. It is known that at some stage of his captivity he was in Taganrog. It is known from former POWs that in a colony that allowed medical aid for POWs, Artem continued fulfilling his medical duties while in captivity. His most recent known place of captivity is in Perm, Russia. There are testimonies that in Perm, POWs are collectively punished for asking for medical aid, so Artem is both unable to help other POWs and unable to get the medical care that he needs.

IHL (particularly, the Third Geneva Convention) guarantees basic rights to prisoners of war. The rights of POWs include, but are not limited to, humane treatment (art. 13), adequate living conditions (art. 25), food quality and quantity (art. 26), medical care (art. 30), the right to send and receive correspondence (art. 71), and to receive relief shipments (art. 72-74). Those who are gravely wounded or gravely sick, or whose mental or physical well-being is endangered by captivity must be repatriated to Ukraine or accommodated in neutral country, as guaranteed by art. 109 and 110.

According to Amnesty International research and UN OHCHR report, Ukrainian POWs face widespread and systemic torture and ill-treatment in captivity and are often held incommunicado. Artem's family received no letters from him, the only information they have is from former POWs, according to whom Artem did not receive any letters from his family either, which is a violation of the right to correspondence.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Russian or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: April 28, 2025

NAME AND PRONOUN: Artem Kolomiiets (He/Him)