

# URGENT ACTION

## UKRAINIAN NURSERY TEACHER JAILED BY RUSSIA

Olha Baranevska, a retired nursery teacher from Melitopol, Ukraine, didn't want to work under Russian control. In May 2024, she was taken from her home by the authorities and reportedly tortured. A month later, she was released but then arrested again and accused of hiding explosives in her garden. She was sentenced to six years in prison. During this time, her elderly mother passed away, and her own health is in danger.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: May 31, 2025**

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 17.25. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

\*NOTE: USPS does not offer delivery to Russia. Email contact below:

Tatiana Moskalkova

Human Rights Commissioner

Emails: Moskalkova@ombudsmanrf.ru

A.Ovchinnikova@rightsrf.ru

[A.Scherbakova@rightsrf.ru](mailto:A.Scherbakova@rightsrf.ru)

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

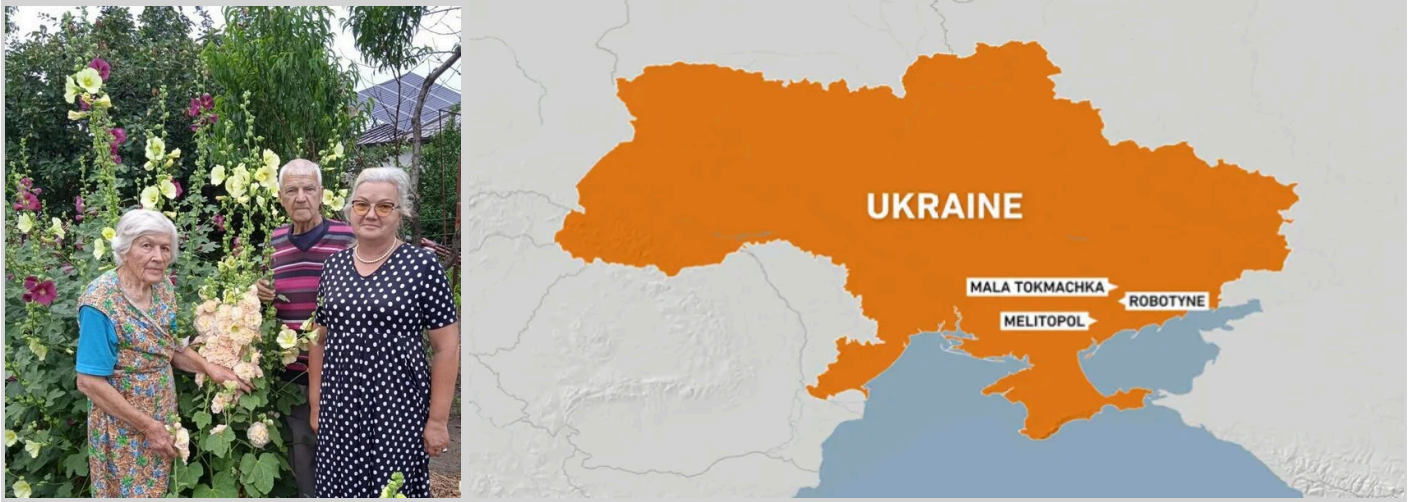
Dear Human Rights Commissioner,

I'm writing to share my concern about how Ukrainian people are being treated in the areas controlled by Russia. Olha Baranevska is a retired nursery school teacher who has been targeted for her support of Ukraine. On May 15, 2024, she went missing from her home in Melitopol. On May 19, 2024, a witness reported seeing her being brought back home with bruises and then taken away again by three men who were not wearing uniforms.

On June 27, 2024, Olha was arrested by the police for breaking the curfew. The authorities said they found explosives in her garden. At her trial in November, the court found her guilty of having explosives and sentenced her to six years in prison, even though the evidence was not strong.

I ask you to make sure that Olha Baranevska is released immediately, unless there is clear evidence of a crime. Anyone responsible for physically and mentally harming Olha should be held accountable.

Yours sincerely,  
[Your Name]



**Left Photo:** Olha spending time with her mother, who recently passed away, in her garden.

**Right Photo:** Map of Ukraine showing Melitopol, the place where Olha is from.

### Learn More About Olha

Melitopol is a town in Ukraine where Ohla Baranevska is from. In February 2022, Russian soldiers took control of this area. Some people left, but Olha stayed to take care of her **elderly** mom. Sadly, her mom passed away while Olha was in jail.

Olha shared videos on Facebook about life in Melitopol. She also told a story about a friend who was treated badly by the soldiers. They searched her house and broke her things that had Ukrainian symbols on them.

Olha used to work at a nursery school. The school reopened, but Olha didn't want to go back to work there because of the violence and **intimidation** from Russian authorities. Russian soldiers were mean to Ukrainian teachers and forced them to teach Russian lessons, erasing Ukrainian **culture** and **identity**.

Olha is 61-years-old and has **diabetes**. While in jail, she got **insulin** but not other treatments she needed. Amnesty International, a group that helps protect people's human rights, found that Russian soldiers took Ukrainian people from their homes, put them in jail, and hurt them. This has been happening in other parts of Ukraine and Russia too.

### Learning Activities

- [Vocabulary Chart](#)
- [The Universal Declaration of Human Rights Worksheet](#)
- [Tips for Letter Writing](#)