

URGENT ACTION

IMPRISONED POET IS IN NEED OF HEALTHCARE

Russian poet, Artyom Kamardin, is serving his seven-year sentence for a public reading of his anti-war poem. His pre-existing health problems, including severe back pain and anxiety, have deteriorated in detention. He urgently needs healthcare that prison authorities are denying him. As he was prosecuted solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression, the authorities must release him immediately and unconditionally.

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 **Second UA 102.24**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

Head of the Penal Colony IK-4 for Vladimir region
Shek Aleksander Vasilievich
Email: ik4@33.fsin.gov.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 Aleksander Vasilievich,

I am writing to you to express my deep concern about the health of poet **Artyom Kamardin**, who was sentenced to seven years imprisonment on trumped-up charges for a public reading of one of his poems.

According to public information, Artyom is suffering from severe back pain and anxiety, which causes him confusion and speech difficulties. He has several officially diagnosed health conditions, including “intervertebral osteochondrosis”, “posterior median disc herniation”, and “Asperger-depressive syndrome”. Furthermore, reportedly he was subjected to torture during his arrest, which has further exacerbated his conditions. Despite the deterioration of his health, he has not been provided with adequate healthcare in detention. The authorities must ensure prisoners are provided with adequate healthcare, including in an outside hospital when the required treatment is not available inside the prison.

Artyom Kamardin was unjustly imprisoned and should not be in prison in the first place. I urge you to do everything in your power to facilitate his prompt release. In the meantime, I urge you to ensure he is provided with adequate healthcare, including in an outside hospital if the required healthcare is not available inside the prison.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On September 22, 2022, activist and poet, **Artyom Kamardin**, participated in a public poetry reading in Moscow Triumfalnaya Square. These readings, called the “Maykovsky Readings”, have been held near the monument for the poet, Vladimir Mayakovsky, and continue the tradition of Soviet dissidents. The readings in September 2022 were held in protest against the troop mobilization declared the previous day to replenish Russian forces fighting the war of aggression against Ukraine.

On September 26, 2022, armed police broke into the home of Artyom Kamardin and his partner, Aleksandra Popova. The police did not let Artyom’s lawyer be present during the search. Based on information provided by Aleksandra Popova, the law enforcement officers tortured Artyom Kamardin, subjecting him to sexual violence, filming it, and making her watch the video. Then, they forced Artyom Kamardin on to his knees and made him record an “apology” video for his anti-war poem.

Aleksandra Popova was also tortured by the police officers, who attached stickers to her face with superglue, pulled out her hair, and beat her, which, according to Aleksandra Popova, resulted in concussion and a head injury. She was also verbally abused and threatened with gang rape. Artyom Kamardin was diagnosed with concussion, multiple bruises and other injuries, according to his lawyer. The authorities refused to hospitalize him.

A criminal case was opened against Artyom Kamardin and two other men, Yegor Shtovba and Nikolay Daineko, who were also present at the Maykovsky Readings. They were charged with "incitement of hatred and enmity" (Article 282 (2) of the Criminal Code) and "public calls for actions directed against state security" (Article 280.4(3) of the Criminal Code). Nikolay Daineko entered a guilty plea and was sentenced to four years imprisonment in May 2023. On December 28, 2023, the Moscow Tverskoy District Court sentenced Artyom Kamardin to seven years imprisonment. Yegor Shtovba was sentenced to five and a half years imprisonment.

Artyom Kamardin was diagnosed with "intervertebral osteochondrosis" and "posterior median disc herniation", as well as “Asperger-depressive syndrome” prior to his arrest and sentencing. These conditions deteriorated during his imprisonment. Since April 2024, he has been suffering from severe back pain and reported other health issues, including headaches, nausea, dizziness, and tinnitus. His psychological state has also deteriorated resulting in anxiety, disturbed sleep and other issues.

While he was detained on remand, Artyom’s family tried unsuccessfully to get him medically examined. On October 21, 2024, Artyom was finally transferred to a hospital ward of another pre-trial detention center. However, no adequate medical examination was conducted due to the absence of the necessary equipment. According to his family, he did not receive adequate treatment, and his condition did not improve. His health further deteriorated after his transfer to the penal colony.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Russian, English, or your own language

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: June 30, 2025

NAME AND PRONOUN: Artyom Kamardin (he/him)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/urgent-action-imprisoned-poet-is-at-risk-of-torture-russia-102-24/>