

URGENT ACTION

PERSECUTION OF IMPRISONED UKRAINIAN CONTINUES

Ukrainian citizen, **Oleksandr Marchenko**, imprisoned in Russia on fabricated charges of espionage, continues to be harassed and ill-treated in custody. The penal authorities have intermittently placed **Oleksandr Marchenko** in punishment or confinement cells on spurious grounds and deny him contact with his partner. He has been regularly denied urgent health care which poses a risk to his life.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
- [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Fourth Urgent Action 64.22**. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

Mikhail Yurievich Filichev
Prosecutor of the Republic of Buryatia
23a, Borsoeva Street
g.Ulan-Ude, Republic of Buryatia
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 3012 21-76-75; 21-14-10;21-44-98
Email: prokreb@03.mailop.ru

Russian Embassy in the United States
Ambassador Anatoly I. Antonov
2650 Wisconsin Avenue,
NW, Washington DC 20007
Email: rusembusa@mid.ru
Salutation: Dear Ambassador Anatoly I. Antonov

Dear Prosecutor, or Dear Ambassador,

I am deeply concerned about the ongoing persecution and harassment of **Oleksandr Marchenko**, a Ukrainian citizen, imprisoned on the fabricated charges of espionage and is currently serving his ten-year sentence.

On January 3, 2024, the penal colony administration placed him in a punishment isolation cell (SHIZO) for a week. On January 10, they placed him in a confinement cell (PKT) for six months. The penal authorities have repeatedly subjected **Oleksandr Marchenko** to arbitrary disciplinary measures on spurious grounds. Furthermore, **Oleksandr Marchenko** is denied contact with his partner. The circumstances of his case and the manner of his treatment in the penal institutions give grounds to believe that he is being targeted for harsher treatment because of his citizenship.

I am extremely concerned that repeated placement of **Oleksandr Marchenko** in punishment cells could lead to deterioration of his health. In 2016, **Oleksandr Marchenko** had his thyroid removed due to cancer. He requires daily medication, monthly blood tests, and other medical examinations once every three months. However, I understand that he is not provided with the health care he needs, while the vital medication must be supplied by his family at their own cost.

I urge you to initiate a review of the treatment of **Oleksandr Marchenko** in penal colonies in Buryatia, to ensure that he does not face disciplinary measures on spurious grounds, is provided with the health care he requires, and that his allegations of ill-treatment are promptly, effectively, and impartially investigated.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ukrainian citizen, **Oleksandr (Aleksandr) Marchenko**, told his lawyers that in December 2018, he travelled from Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, via Russia to Donetsk, in Russian-occupied eastern Ukraine, on personal business. On December 18, 2018, he was abducted by masked men when crossing back into Russia. According to Oleksandr Marchenko, the men put a bag over his head, took away his mobile phone and other personal belongings, and drove him to a secret prison established by the forces of the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic" (DNR). There he was held incommunicado in the basement, in a cell without windows, bed, toilet, or running water. From the first day of his abduction Oleksandr Marchenko was subjected to torture and other ill-treatment, including electrocution, until he agreed to read out his self-incriminating "confession" on video.

On February 18, 2019, he was made to sign papers that he had no complaints against the "Ministry of State Security of the DNR", was driven to the Russian border, and was handed over to the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB). The FSB officers put a bag over Oleksandr Marchenko's head and drove him for several hours to the Krasnodar Regional FSB Headquarters. There, he was questioned about a man whom he says he had never met. Based on a fabricated record of an administrative offense, drawn by the police, a court ruled the next day to have Oleksandr Marchenko detained for 10 days. Subsequently, the police fabricated two more administrative cases against Oleksandr Marchenko – each time on the day when he would have been released for serving in full his previous administrative detention, and he continued to be kept in custody. During his arbitrary administrative detention, FSB officials, together with "security officials" from the "DNR", repeatedly interrogated Oleksandr Marchenko and made him sign a "confession". They made threats against him and his family and denied him access to a lawyer. On May 1, 2019, Oleksandr Marchenko was remanded by a court, on accusations of smuggling contraband, initially for two months. This detention was subsequently extended several times. On December 6, 2019, Oleksandr Marchenko was charged with espionage. On November 26, 2020, the Krasnodar Regional Court found Oleksandr Marchenko guilty under Article 276 of the Russian Criminal Code ("Espionage") and sentenced him to ten years' imprisonment in a strict regime penal colony. His appeals were rejected.

In 2016, Oleksandr Marchenko had his thyroid removed due to cancer. Following the surgery, he requires daily medication, monthly blood tests, and other medical examinations once every three months. However, since 2018, he had only had one blood test privately arranged by his family in July 2021. According to Marchenko's lawyers, on at least two occasions, he was denied the medication he requires by the penitentiary authorities for extended periods.

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

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: March 29, 2024

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Oleksandr (Aleksandr) Marchenko (he/him)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur46/6522/2023/en/>