

URGENT ACTION

NEWSPAPER EDITOR ABDUCTED IN EAST UKRAINE

Sergei Dolgov, the editor of a Ukrainian newspaper, has been missing since his abduction by armed men in June. Media reports suggested that he had been killed, but eyewitnesses and relatives believe he is being held in the Ukrainian city Zaporizhzhya.

The deputy editor of *Khochu v SSSR* ("I want to be in the USSR") told Amnesty International that at around 12pm on 18 June six armed, masked men in civilian clothing stormed the offices of the newspaper in Mariupol, a city in the south east of Ukraine, and brutally dragged **Sergei Dolgov** into a car parked in front of the office. The men took all the technical equipment from the offices with them.

The newspaper employees contacted the police, and Sergei Dolgov's wife has since filed several complaints with the police and other authorities. The police opened an investigation, but an officer working on the case reportedly said that there were different Ukrainian forces active in Mariupol that the police would not necessarily be aware of and "it might well be that Dolgov is being officially detained rather than having been abducted".

The head of the Ukrainian government security agency, Sluzhba Bezpeky Ukrayiny (SBU), in Mariupol said in an interview published by media on 21 June that Sergei Dolgov had been arrested by the National Guard of Ukraine and is being held in Zaporizhzhya. However the SBU denied having any information about his detention or whereabouts ever since.

On 13 July, media reported that Sergei Dolgov had been killed, citing a Facebook post by one of the main separatist leaders in the east of Ukraine, Konstantin Dolgov, stating that after the abduction Sergei Dolgov had been transported to Dnipropetrovsk and tortured to death by the Ukrainian Battalion Dnepr-1. Sergei Dolgov's death remains officially unconfirmed. His wife and eyewitnesses told Amnesty International that there is evidence suggesting that he is alive and kept either in a detention facility in Zaporizhzhya or at a military base there.

Please write immediately in English or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to immediately establish Sergei Dolgov's whereabouts and ensure his safety;
- If he is in detention, urging them to ensure his immediate access to a lawyer and charge him with a recognizable criminal offence, or immediately release him;
- Calling on them to promptly, impartially and effectively investigate the abduction and allegations of his ill-treatment and hold anyone found responsible to account.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 17 OCTOBER 2014 TO:

Minister of Defence

Valeriy Heletey

Povirofots'ky avenue 6,
03168 Kyiv

Ukraine

Fax: +380 44 226 20 15

Email: admou@mil.gov.ua

Salutation: Dear Minister

Minister of Internal Affairs

Arsen Avakov

Akademika Bogomoltsa Str. 10
01024 Kyiv

Ukraine

Fax: +380 44 253 97 96

Email: mvsinfo@mvsinfo.gov.ua

Salutation: Dear Minister

And copies to:

Chairman of the Security Service of
Ukraine

Valentyn Nalyvaichenko

Volodymyrska St. 33

01034 Kyiv

Ukraine

Email: pressinfo@ssu.gov.ua

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Forces loyal to Kyiv regained control of the city of Mariupol on 13 June, subsequently cleansing the city of alleged separatist in an ongoing wave of arrests.

A number of battalions made up of volunteers are fighting alongside regular forces and there have been recurring reports that some are not sufficiently integrated with the official command structures, and act independently or semi-independently and in defiance of orders from above, often violating international legal standards.

As Ukraine seeks to regain control of territory seized by separatists the authorities have restricted access to what is seen as pro-separatist media. For instance on 12 June the Ukrainian newspaper *Ukrainskaya Pravda* published a piece "In Kyiv separatist papers are sold", where *Khochu v SSSR* was quoted as an example. In the same article a spokesperson of the Ukrainian SBU was cited saying that they were intending to "prevent" such papers from operating.

Name: Sergei Dolgov

Gender m/f: m

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