

URGENT ACTION

UKRAINIAN ACTIVIST TORTURED AND LEFT FOR DEAD

Dmitrii Bulatov, the Ukrainian Euromaydan activist, who disappeared on the evening of 22 January has been found alive. He was abducted, beaten and 'crucified'.

Dmitrii Bulatov was thrown from a car into a forest on the outskirts of Kiev late in the evening of 30 January. He managed to walk to a nearby village to find shelter and call friends. Soaked in blood, covered in cuts and bruises and his clothes stained, he spoke of his ordeal, saying "I was crucified. My hands were pierced. They cut my ear. They cut my face. There is no spot on my body that is not injured. You can see yourself. But I am alive, thank God." Dmitrii Bulatov was taken to a hospital in Kyiv where he is being treated for his injuries.

Dmitrii Bulatov said that he had been abducted by unidentified men speaking with Russian accents who had tried to force him to reveal who was funding his activities. He had been kept blindfolded throughout his ordeal and in the last few days had been given very little food, before being thrown into the forest in freezing temperatures.

Dmitrii Bulatov disappeared on the evening of 22 January. He is one of the main organizers and participants of the Automaydan rallies whereby convoys of cars participate in the Euromaydan demonstrations which have been ongoing in Kyiv since November 2013.

Dmitrii Bulatov's disappearance came one day after another Euromaydan activist, Yury Verbytsky, had been found dead in a forest outside of Kyiv. His ribs were broken and there were traces of duct tape round his head. There have been a number of instances of police detaining protestors without informing their families. Some Euromaydan activists alleged that they were abducted, beaten and driven to forests and left there by unknown men; one activist was certain they were police officers. Reportedly Yury Verbytsky and a well-known journalist and activist, Igor Lutsenko, were abducted by unidentified men on 21 January when they sought medical treatment in a local hospital. Igor Lutsenko was also dumped in a forest in freezing temperatures but managed to find help and is alive.

Please write immediately to the Ukrainian authorities in Ukrainian, Russian or your own language:

- Calling on them to open an immediate, independent and effective investigation into Dmitrii Bulatov's case;
- Urging them to ensure that those who carried out this attack face criminal proceedings, as appropriate;
- Calling of them to investigate similar incidents of the mistreatment of Euromaydan protestors;
- Urging them to take all effective measures to prevent the repetition of such incidents.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 14 MARCH 2014 TO:

Prosecutor General

Viktor Pavlovich Pshonka
Riznitska Str.13/15
01601 Kyiv
Ukraine

Tel: +380 44 200 7574
Fax: + 380 44 280 2603
Email: interel@gp.gov.ua

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

Minister of Internal Affairs

Vitaliy Zakharchenko
Akademika Bogomoltsa Str. 10
01024 Kyiv
Ukraine

Tel: + 380 44 256 03 33
Fax: +380 44 253 97 96
Email: mvsinfo@mvsinfo.gov.ua

Salutation: Dear Minister

And copies to:

Valeria Lutkovska
Chair of the Ukrainian Parliament
Commission for Human Rights
Institutska Str. 21/8
01008 Kyiv
Ukraine
Tel: +380 44 253 2091
Fax: +380 44 226 3427
Email: lutkovska@ombudsman.gov.ua
hotline@ombudsman.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. This is the first update of UA 16/14. Further information:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR50/004/2014/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The current security situation in Ukraine is of grave concern to Amnesty International, which has been documenting cases of torture and other ill-treatment and use of indiscriminate and abusive force by police with impunity in Ukraine.

Following the decision by the Ukrainian government in November 2013 not to sign an agreement with the European Union which would have given Ukraine stronger trade and political ties with the EU, thousands of Ukrainians took to the streets and their protests have been ongoing and focused mainly in the centre of Kyiv.

The overwhelmingly peaceful demonstrations in Kyiv turned violent after the government rushed through a series of new laws criminalizing protests and severely limiting freedom of assembly, association and expression. The new laws came into effect at midnight on Wednesday, 22 January. Although the Ukrainian Parliament has since voted to repeal the new laws, amid widespread condemnation and a deteriorating security situation, President Yanukovich has yet to approve the changed legislation. At the time of writing, the laws are still in force.

Name: Dmitrii Bulatov

Gender m

Further information on UA: 16/14 Index: 50/005/2014 Issue Date: 31 January 2014

