URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST SEEKS MEDICAL TREATMENT ABROAD

Dmitrii Bulatov, the Ukrainian EuroMaydan activist who was abducted, beaten and 'crucified', has been given permission to leave the country to obtain treatment for the severe injuries he received at the hands of unknown assailants.

Dmitrii Bulatov has been charged by the Ukrainian authorities with 'organising mass disorder'. On Saturday 1 February a judge from Shevchenkovskiy Court granted him permission to seek medical treatment abroad. A spokesperson from the General Prosecutor's Office stated to the BBC Ukrainian Service: "On the request of the General Prosecutor's Office the Shevchenkovskiy Court gave permission for Bulatov to travel abroad. There were no reasons why he should not travel abroad taking into consideration his request, the request of his family, parliamentary delegates and foreign organizations."

On the evening of 2 February a message appeared on the Facebook page of Piotr Poroshenko (a prominent Ukrainian businessman and independent Member of Parliament) that he and Dmitrii Bulatov were on their way to Lithuania.

It is clear that international appeals, including the efforts of the Urgent Action Network played an important role in this outcome.

Dmitrii Bulatov, one of the main organizers and participants in the EuroMaydan protests in the Ukraine, disappeared on the evening of 22 January. It later transpired that he had been abducted and tortured by the authorities. He was thrown from a car into a forest on the outskirts of Kiev late in the evening of 30 January, in freezing temperatures. 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."

Thank you for all your appeals. We are now moving towards planned campaigning and will be issuing a campaign document with guidelines for ongoing work as soon as possible. No further action is required from the UA Network at this point.

This is the second update of UA 16/14. Further information: http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR50/005/2014/en

Name: Dmitrii Bulatov Gender m

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