

URGENT ACTION

PRISONER IN URGENT NEED OF MEDICAL CARE

Andriy Snigovyj is currently in pre-trial detention in Ukraine. He is HIV positive and is currently suffering painful and debilitating AIDS-related infections. Andriy Snigovyj is not receiving treatment or medication for his condition and the qualified doctor of a local human rights group says he could die in great pain unless he is admitted to a hospital for treatment immediately.

Andriy Snigovyj was originally detained by the police on 6 August 2008, on suspicion of having caused serious bodily harm leading to death. He was in police detention for almost five months despite the fact that under Ukrainian law he should only have been held by police for a maximum of 10 days. The police refused to hospitalise Andriy Snigovyj claiming that they did not have the resources to provide a guard beside his hospital bed. Instead, police officers organised four unsuccessful attempts to transfer the seriously-ill detainee to Dnipropetrovsk remand prison, south east of Kiev.

Andriy Snigovyj was forced to make the journey between Nikopol police detention centre and Dnipropetrovsk remand prison four times in a prisoner car, as twice the personnel of the remand prison refused to accept him. This journey can take up to 22 hours as the train takes an indirect route in order to collect prisoners from several towns. According to a local human rights group, on another two occasions he was not even allowed to board the train because his medical documents indicated he needed to be hospitalized. The last time Andriy Snigovyj was refused, 28 December 2008, he attempted to slit his wrists at the train station in an act of protest. According to his mother the police officers accompanying him beat him for trying to do this and then transferred him to a police detention centre in Ordzhonikidze, a remote town, where he was detained in an isolated cell and not given any medical treatment.

On 26 January 2009, Andriy Snigovyj was at last accepted by the remand prison and since then his health has seriously deteriorated. He has lost over 10 kg in weight and started to suffer from complications of his HIV-infection, consisting of pus-oozing sores in his mouth and all over his body. Following complaints by Andriy Snigovyj's mother to the prosecutor, the Ministry of Health, the National Aids Centre and the state agent of Ukraine at the European Court of Human Rights Andriy Snigovyj was taken to the Dnipropetrovsk AIDs Treatment Centre at the request of the state agent of Ukraine at the European Court of Human Rights. After a short medical examination he was told that there was "no indication for antiretroviral therapy", which could slow the progression of his disease. He was then transferred back to the Dnipropetrovsk remand prison where he received no treatment. Andriy Snigovyj's mother visited him a week ago and told a local human rights group that he is in constant pain, almost immobile and that she fears he could die at any moment.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Russian, Ukrainian or your own language:

- urging authorities to ensure that Andriy Snigovyj is immediately hospitalized and receives adequate medical treatment;
- calling on the authorities to ensure an effective and independent examination of Andriy Snigovyj's health and to administer all necessary treatment.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 13 August 2009 TO:

General Prosecutor
Oleksandr MEDVEDKO
Riznitska Str.13/15
01601 Kyiv, Ukraine
Fax: +380 44 280 26 03
Salutation: Dear General Prosecutor

Minister of Justice
Mikola Onishchuk
Gorodetskogo Str. 13
01001 Kyiv, Ukraine
Fax: + 380 44 278 37 23
Email: themis@minjust.gov.ua
Salutation: Dear Minister

And copies to:
Vasil Koshchinets
Director of the State Department for the
Execution of Sentences
Fax: 380 44 461 8600
e-mail: reception@kvs.gov.ua
Salutation: Dear Vasil Koshchinets

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

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

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