Governor of Zaporizhzhya Region

Alexander Peklushenko

Prospekt Lenina 164

Zaporizhzhya,

Ukraine

Dear Alexander Peklushenko

**Re: Raisa Radchenko still in Psychiatric Hospital**

We write to express our concerns over the continued detention of **Raisa Radchenko** without her consent in a psychiatric hospital.

**Raisa Radchenko**, a 70 year old human rights activist, was detained on 11 July by police and taken to Zaporizhzhya Regional Psychiatric Hospital. Despite having no history of mental illness and without a court order authorising treatment without consent, she was nevertheless subjected to psychiatric treatment.

Her daughter, **Daryna Radchenko**, was visited by the district Children’s Rights Administration and police officers, alleging possible child abuse, declaring they would inspect her home to see if her child should be taken into care.

We welcome the decision that the Zaporizhzhya police department have admonished the police officers who visited **Daryna Radchenko.**

We also welcome your announcement that you have taken personal control. We ask you to release Raisa Radchenko immediately and obtain a psychiatric examination beyond Zaporizhzhya Region to demonstrate impartiality and to include a psychiatrist from the Ukrainian Psychiatric Association.

We wish to remind you that you have an obligation to conform with the UN Declaration of Human Rights Defenders (1999) to ensure human rights defenders can conduct their activities unhindered and to protect them from violence, threats or retaliation.

Finally, we urge the authorities to investigate the alleged ill-treatment by police officers of **Daryna Radchenko** and **Raisa Radchenko**.

We look forward to your immediate and constructive response to our requests.

Yours sincerely

cc His Excellency Mr Volodymyr Khandogiy, Embassy of Ukraine