Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation

Yurii Yakovlevich Chaika

Prosecutor General’s Office

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Russian Federation

Dear Prosecutor General

**Re: Mikhail Kosenko sent to Mental Institution**

I am concerned that **Mikhail Kosenko** has been sent for forcible psychiatric treatment and may be deprived of his freedom indefinitely. **Mikhail Kosenko**, detained since 8 June 2012 after he took part in an authorised protest in Bolotnaya Square on 6 May, was charged with participating in “mass riots” and use of force against a police officer.

While an army conscript, he was injured and sustained a mild mental disability. The prosecution claimed he was a danger to himself and others and should be sent for forcible psychiatric treatment. This claim was based on a medical opinion they themselves obtained. The judge refused the defence request for an independent assessment of his mental health. **Mikhail Kosenko** was found guilty on 8 October.

**Mikhail Kosenko** denies any involvement in any illegal activity in Bolotnaya Square. This is corroborated by witness and video evidence. He has no history of violence. Amnesty International believes he is a prisoner of conscience, persecuted solely for the peaceful exercise of his rights to freedom of expression and assembly.

I am concerned that the Moscow Zamoskvoretskii Court did not observe fair trial standards, and I urge the authorities to ensure **Mikhail Kosenko** is released immediately and unconditionally.

Yours sincerely

cc His Excellency Dr Alexander V Yakovenko, Embassy of the Russian Federation, London