Lucian Nicolae Bode

Minister of Internal Affairs

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Piaţa Revoluţiei nr.1 A, sector 1, Bucureşti, Romania

Dear Minister Bode,

**Amina Gerikhanova** is a Chechen woman who has been living in Ukraine since 2016. She fled there with her toddler son after facing political persecution in Chechnya. On 13 March 2022, Amina crossed the Romanian border fleeing from the violence resulting from the Russian invasion, along with millions of other refugees.

Amina was arrested at the Romanian border based on a Russian extradition request, and her eight-year-old son was temporarily placed in an orphanage. On 18 April, the Suceava Court of Appeal authorised her extradition to Russia, subject to the impending final decision by the High Court of Cassation and Justice.

Instead of finding safety and protection, Amina Gerikhanova has been detained in prison in Suceava for over a month and separated from her son for whom she is the sole caregiver.

Russian authorities have accused Amina Gerikhanova of participating in military operations in Syria, however these charges appear to be baseless. During the time when she allegedly was in Syria, she was peacefully living in Ukraine for over five years without any criminal charges brought against her.

I urge you to comply with your obligations under international human rights law and standards, including Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, and halt the extradition of Amina Gerikhanova to Russia. Here she would be at real risk of torture or other ill-treatment. Please release her so she can pursue her right to seek refuge and reconnect with her son.

Yours sincerely,