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Honourable General Prosecutor,

With great concern I have learned, that Ukrainian history teacher Stansilav Klykh finds himself in pre-trial detention in Grozny Chechnya, sentenced for 20 years, alongside Mykola Karpyuk, on grounds of allegedly having fought alongside Chechen separatists in 1994. Not only have Mr Klykh's and Mr Karpyuk's appeal to this sentence been ignored, but also they reported that they were tortured, which in the case of Mr Klykh has resulted in a severe damage to his mental and physical health, which the authorities have refused to examine or take into account.

As member of the Council of Europe and signatory to the European Convention on Human Rights, the Russian Federation has to respect the rule of law and refrain from torture and inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment.

The case of Stansilav Klykh and his co-defendant Mykola Karpyuk, constitutes yet another case in a series of illegal abduction, detention and conviction by Russian authorities, ending in politicized show trials. The unfairness of these trials, the random charges as well as the inhuman detention, have revealed these litigations as being part of a broader propaganda war against Ukraine.

In your position as highest representative of the Russian judicial system, I hereby urge you to take responsibility and effectuate an investigation of the torture allegation made by Mr Klykh as well as Mr Karpyuk. Further, I call upon you to take into account Mr Klykh's critical health situation and do what is in your power to provide Mr Klykh with a mental and medical treatment by specialists from outside of Chechnya.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Harms