



Brussels, 1 September 2016

Mr President Putin,

We, Members of the European Parliament, hereby address you regarding the fate of Mr Ilmi Umerov, one of the leaders of the Crimean Tatars and the Deputy Head of the Crimean Tatars Mejlis.

We were shocked to learn that Mr Umerov is not only facing a politically motivated prosecution by the Russian occupation authorities but was on August 18, 2016, forcibly taken from an ordinary hospital to a psychiatric clinic in Simferopol, Crimea.

We are extremely worried about the health condition of Mr Umerov as we read the reports about his blood pressure, blood sugar level and other factors that are all alarming. Mr Umerov, 59-year-old, is seriously ill as diabetic and exactly this medical care should be urgently ensured for him.

Instead, the Russian authorities seem to have returned to the forced psychiatric confinement, which was shamefully used against the political dissidents during the Soviet times. Such punitive actions is a clear violation by Russia of international human rights standards and contradict to the European Convention for Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

We hereby call for immediate release of Mr Ilmi Umerov from a psychiatric hospital and appropriate medical treatment being provided for him with no delay.

We also express our gravest concern with overall situation in occupied Crimea, in particular the deterioration of the human rights of Crimean Tatars, the indigenous population of the region. Russia's decision to outlaw the Crimean Tatars Mejlis, persecution of those persons who opposed illegal annexation of Crimea, dozens of abductions and disappearances with no proper investigation followed, suppression of religious rights and freedom of the media - these are all extremely shameful actions by occupation authorities for which the Kremlin must and will bear a proper responsibility.

Finally, we remind you that the European Union remains fully committed to its policy of non-recognition of the illegal occupation and annexation of Crimea, part of Ukraine.

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