

Defend Ildar Dadin

A [letter from political prisoner Ildar Dadin](#), dated 31 October 2016, in which he reports he has been subjected to torture and threats to his life by the prison authorities, has been published in the media.

Ildar Dadin, the only person to have been convicted under the unconstitutional Article 212.1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, is serving a prison term in Prison Colony No. 7 of the Federal Penitentiary Service for the Republic of Karelia, located in the town of Segez' in the Republic of Karelia (the same prison colony where Mikhail Khodorkovsky served the last years of his sentence).

In the letter, Ildar Dadin reports systematic imposition of unlawful punishments by the prison authorities against him, and his unlawful incarceration in a punishment cell, combined with a transfer to 'strict' conditions of detention. Moreover, Dadin reports outrageous instances of systematic beating to which he, and other prisoners, have been subjected, and also of the use against him of torture by the authorities of Prison colony No. 7 in which the head of the prison administration, S. L. Kossiev, took part in person. Finally, in his letter Ildar Dadin talks about a direct threat of murder made by Kossiev if Dadin refused to obey unlawful demands. The Federal Penitentiary Service has already confirmed that force and special equipment have been used by the prison authorities against Dadin.

We know that all the time he was kept in detention before his arrival at prison colony No. 7 of the Penitentiary Service for the Republic of Karelia, Dadin had not been penalized for any breaches of regulations. Moreover, Memorial Human Rights Centre has regularly stated that it [considers Ildar Dadin to be a political prisoner](#) (in Russian), [his conviction unlawful](#), and [Article 212.1 of the Russian Criminal Code itself unconstitutional](#) (in Russian). We have no reason to doubt the essential truth of Dadin's allegations.

Memorial Human Rights Centre demands an unconditional end to the criminal prosecution of Dadin and his immediate release. But while he remains unlawfully held in the prison colony, it is all the more necessary that immediate measures be taken to protect his rights and to put an end to the lawlessness to which he is being subjected. Those guilty of violating the rights of Ildar Dadin and other prisoners must be identified and brought to justice.

We call on the leadership of the Federal Penitentiary Service and the General Prosecutor's Office, the Federal Human Rights Ombudsperson and the members of the Public Oversight Commission of the Republic of Karelia to immediately do everything that is in their power to protect the legal rights of Ildar Dadin.

We call on Russian and foreign citizens and organizations to bring these demands to the attention of those authorities on whom the life and health of Ildar Dadin depends.

We call on Russia's foreign partners, in all their contacts with the Russian authorities, to raise the question of the fate of Ildar Dadin and of other Russian political prisoners.

Aleksandr Vladimirovich Cherkasov, Chair of the board of Memorial Human Rights Centre

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