

Memorial demands the immediate extradition of Khayser Dzhemilov to Ukraine

Khayser Dzhemilov, the son of Crimean Tatar leader Mustafa Dzhemilev, is being held in Russia illegally. He was convicted of unintentional murder and also kidnapping and the illegal possession of a firearm, and transferred to a colony in Astrakhan. Even in the context of the widespread violations of international law associated with the annexation of Crimea the holding of Dzhemilov in Russia is unprecedented. We believe that there isn't the slightest reason that would allow the Russian authorities to be involved in this case.

As a citizen of Ukraine, registered in Kiev, Dzhemilov committed a crime against a citizen of Ukraine in Crimea in 2013. The case was investigated by Ukrainian law-enforcement bodies, but after the annexation of the peninsula the Russian authorities launched the criminal case for the second time.

At present there is a legitimate sentence from a Ukrainian court from April 7, 2015, which in the absence of the defendant ordered a punishment of three years and eight months in prison. This sentence is in accord with the Russian one: three years and six months in prison under similar articles. Dzhemilov fully admits his guilt and has not contested the punishment in essence. Thus the Russian sentence duplicates the Ukrainian one simply to create the illusion of the legality of Dzhemilov being held in Russia.

Ukraine has twice sent requests to extradite the convicted man, but has received refusals. Moreover, on July 10, 2015 the European Court of Human Rights ordered Russia to release Dzhemilov, but that ruling was ignored too.

We consider the actions of the Russian authorities in relation to Khayser Dzhemilov a means of exerting pressure on his father, who was previously banned from entering Russia, and now has been arrested in Russia *in absentia*. In August 2014 Mustafa Dzhemilev said in the media that advisors to Vladimir Putin were insisting on talks between him and Putin, hinting that the fate of his son may depend on this. Furthermore, the Russian investigative bodies not only got involved in this criminal case illegally, but also tried to bring Dzhemilov to justice for premeditated murder, which envisages a punishment of up to life imprisonment.

Memorial considers Khayser Dzhemilov a hostage of the political activity of his father and demands his immediate extradition to Ukraine, which is free to make any decision about his further fate in accordance with its own laws.