

Memorial Considers the Ukrainian Citizen Sergey Litvinov a Political Prisoner

Sergei Litvinov, working as a farmer in the border village in the Luhansk region, was arrested in the summer of 2014 in Rostov-on-Don, Russia, where he was undergoing treatment after a surgery on his jaw. For more than a year he was being accused of large-scale war crimes. The investigative Committee called Litvinov a fighter of the *Dnopr* battalion and imputed to him the murder and rape of dozens of civilians in the Luhansk region. Quite soon it became clear that the charges were absurd and imagined, and the names of the “victims” are fictitious. However, the prisoner was not released and was accused of robbery.

On April 20, 2016 Tarasovskiy District Court of Rostov region sentenced Sergey Litvinov to 8 years and 6 months of imprisonment in a penal colony in accordance with Part 3 of Art. 162 (robbery committed with illegal breaking in a dwelling, a premise or other storehouse/robbery of large amounts of property) of the Criminal Code. According to the verdict, in summer of 2014, in the village of Konstantinovka-Stanichno, Luhansk region, Litvinov with two unidentified Ukrainian law enforcers stole two cars, *Opel Frontera* and *UAZ-452*, from a citizen of the Russian Federation A.G. Lysenko. At the same time, according to the investigation, they threatened Lysenko with Kalashnikov guns and beat him.

Having studying the facts of the case, we find this accusation fabricated. According to the Ukrainian side, at that time, Lysenko was not in Ukraine. One of the alleged stolen cars was deregistered in 1997 without the right of recovery (and the plate belongs to the wanted car of another brand). Another car does not belong to Lysenko. Damage to health is confirmed only by a conclusion of the expertise that Lysenko’s nose has been once broken. We consider it unacceptable to pass a guilty verdict based on such low quality and contradictory evidence.

Obviously, the first charge in the massacre was deliberately false. Even if, according to the implausible explanation of the Investigative Committee, Litvinov slandered himself due to his good imagination, his “confession” could be checked in a few days. Their unreliability was obvious from the beginning (for example, a battalion of *Dnopr* has never fought in the Lugansk region). There are good reasons to believe that Litvinov was subjected to torture and psychological pressure. In particular, according to data on psychological and physiological examination: 73% of Litvinov’s reactions signified that he had been tortured.

Litvinov, in our opinion, has become a victim of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict and has been used for propaganda purposes. At the same time, Litvinov it is one of those Russian-speaking civilians in the Luhansk whom the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation declared to protect, having unjustifiably appropriated the functions of the International Criminal Court.

We demand the immediate release of Sergei Litvinov.

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Read more about the case [on the website of the HRC "Memorial"](#)

PayPal – an e-wallet for giving help to all Russian political prisoners helppoliticalprisoners@gmail.com.