

Prosecutor General
Yurii Yakovlevich Chaika
Prosecutor General's Office
ul. B. Dmitrovka, d.15a
125993 Moscow GSP- 3
Russian Federation

Director
Aleksandr Vasilievich Bortnikov
Federal Security Service
ul. Bolshaia Lubianka, d.1/3
107031 Moscow
Russian Federation

Amsterdam, 1 July 2014

Subject: **Human Rights Film Festivals Worry About Fate of Ukrainian Filmmaker Oleg Sentsov**

Dear Yurii Yakovlevich Chaika and Aleksandr Vasilievich Bortnikov,

According to the information currently available, the Ukrainian filmmaker Oleg Sentsov is one of the four Ukrainian citizens held in Moscow's Lefortovo pre-trial detention centre accused of terrorist acts.

On 11 June, Oleg Sentsov's lawyer gave a Skype interview to the organizers of the Odessa International Film Festival, in which he described how Russian State Security (FSB) officers had subjected him to torture and other ill-treatment to force him to confess to terrorist acts. The lawyer reported that they also took off his trousers and threatened to rape him.

Oleg Sentsov has requested meetings with the Ukrainian consul and has so far been refused. He has now been given access to his lawyer.

We, members of the Human Rights Film Network, are deeply worried. Therefore, we

- Ask you to order a prompt, effective and independent investigation into the allegations that Oleg Sentsov has been tortured and otherwise ill-treated;
- Remind you that all foreign nationals detained in the Russian Federation have the right to consular assistance and demand that Oleg Sentsov, Alexander Kolchenko, Gennadii Afanasiev and Alexai Chirniya (the four Ukrainian citizens detained), are given immediate access to the Ukrainian consul;
- Urge you to immediately return Oleg Sentsov and other Ukrainian citizens from Crimea detained in Lefortovo prison to Crimea;
- Express concern that Oleg Sentsov may be detained because of his peaceful opposition to the occupation of Crimea and urge you to drop any charges that stem solely from their exercise of his rights to free expression and peaceful assembly.

The Human Rights Film Network is a partnership of 38 human rights film festivals around the world. The Network promotes human rights films and supports film makers, in particular

those at risk for their life or repressed by censorship. These filmmakers often act as the eyes and ears of the world in situations of conflict and crisis.

Yours faithfully,

Members of the Human Rights Film Network, including:

Gediminas Andriukaitis, Inconvenient Films, Lithuania
Jose Miguel Beltran, Festival de Cine y Derechos Humanos, Spain
Maurizio del Bufalo, Naples Human Rights Film Festival, Italy
María Carrión, FiSahara, Algeria, Dakhla refugee camp
Francesca Casariego, Tenemos que Ver, Uruguay
Abdoulaye Diallo, Festival Ciné Droit Libre, Burkina Faso
Isabelle Gattiker, Festival du Film et Forum International sur les Droits Humains, Switzerland
Giulia Grassilli, Human Rights Nights, Italy
Anna Har, Komaz Freedom Film Festival, Malaysia
Gennady Kofman, DocuDays Ua, Ukraine
Andrea Kuhn, Nuremberg International Human rights Film Festival, Germany
Ketil Magnussen, Human Rights Human Wrongs, Norway
Humberto Mancilla, The seventh eye is yours, Bolivia
Ella McNeill, Human Rights Arts & Film Festival, Australia
Vincent Mercier, Festival International du Film des Droits de l'Homme, France
Maciej Nowicki, Watch Docs, Poland
Branka Pavlovic , Free Zone Belgrade Human Rights Film Festival, Serbia
Sridhar Rangayan, Flashpoint Human Rights Film Festival, India
Lindsay Reid, Document - International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival, Scotland
Taco Ruighaver, Movies that Matter Foundation, The Netherlands
Florencia Santucho, Festival Internacional de Cine de Derechos Humanos, Argentina
Orly Yadin, Vermont International Film Festival, USA
Olivia Welke, Festival des Libertés, Belgium