

I am writing to express my grave concern on political activist and blogger Darya Poliudova who is serving five days in detention for online satire and criticism of Russia's policy towards Ukraine. She has been repeatedly arrested since, and served five-day administrative detention in connection to her peaceful protest.

For instance, she was sentenced for violation of the regulations governing public assembly after she joined a pro-government gathering on 9 May 2015 but held up a banner protesting against government

I call on the Russian authorities to release Darya Poliudova immediately and unconditionally as she has been convicted to administrative detention solely for peacefully exercising her right to freedom of expression. I also urge the authorities to respect the fundamental right to freedom of expression, including with respect to those who peacefully express criticism of the government or views that are contrary to the state policies and the views held by the majority in Russia.

Yours respectfully,