

I am writing this to express my grave concern for Dmytro Koroliiov, a former Ukrainian riot policeman, who joined the pro-Russian separatist forces in June 2014, leaving them a month later.

He was arrested on January 5, 2015 and on July 2, 2015, he was convicted of creating an unlawful armed group and dodging conscription. He was given a suspended five-year sentence. On August 3, when he was due to be released, a man whose description matched his according to eyewitnesses, was apprehended by a group of unknown men while he was leaving the detention centre. He has been missing since then.

Dmytro Koroliiov unexpectedly called his mother in October asking her to urge the de facto separatist authorities in Donetsk to include him in the prisoner exchange list. He called her again in April, May, and June, confirming that he was being held in secret detention by the SBU for a prisoner exchange.

His mother reported his abduction to the authorities, and an official investigation into his disappearance was opened on August 8, 2015. She received official replies from the SBU, among other agencies, which denied knowledge about his whereabouts after his official release from the detention centre on August 3, 2015.

I, therefore, urge you to reveal Dmytro Koroliiov's fate and whereabouts after August 3, 2015 to his family, and immediately release him in accordance with the court's decision of July 2, 2015 . Please immediately end the practice of enforced disappearances, and provide victims with full reparation . I also call on you to bring those responsible for this practice to justice in proceedings that meet fair trial standards.

Thank you for your prompt attention to the above.

Sincerely yours,