

I am writing this to express my grave concern for Stanislav Aseev, a Ukrainian freelance journalist who Donetsk Peoples' Republic authorities have kept in detention on spurious charges since June 2017. He has declared a hunger strike.

Amnesty International has received information from a confidential source suggesting that in June 2017 Stanislav Aseev was subjected to torture and other ill-treatment in detention. According to other sources, Stanislav Aseev is being held in a humid, cold room in the basement of Izolyatsia, and as a result, has developed a bad cough, for which he has not received regular treatment.

So I urge you to Immediately release Stanislav Aseev and to allow him to be visited by the UN Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and I also urge you to ensure that he has regular access to adequate medical care and that Stanislav Aseev and other journalists are able to carry out legitimate journalist activities without interference, including when travelling in and out of the territories affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine;

Last but not the least, I urge you to remind that under international humanitarian law, which is binding on all parties in conflict, arbitrary, abusive and prolonged detention of civilians is prohibited.

Thank you for your prompt attention to the above.

Sincerely yours,