

I am writing this to express my grave concern on Mikhail Benyash, lawyer, who was arrested, beaten, detained after meeting his client who had taken part in a peaceful protest in Krasnodar. Although being recently released on bail, he still faces up to five years imprisonment if found guilty.

I should call on you to immediately drop all charges against him as they stem solely from his work as a human rights lawyer. You are asked to conduct a thorough, effective and impartial investigation into the circumstances of his arrest and allegations of ill-treatment by the police, and ensure those suspected to be responsible are brought to justice in fair trials.

Thank you for your attention.