

Yuriy Yakovlevich Chaika
Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation
Prosecutor General's Office
ul. B. Dmitrovka, d.15a
125993 Moscow GSP- 3
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 495 987 58 41; +7 495 692 17 25

Dear Prosecutor General,

I would like to express my concern regarding the ongoing criminal proceedings against Jehovah's Witnesses **Artur Severinchik**, **Sergei Loginov** and **Yevgeniy Fedin**. They are being persecuted solely for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of religion. While we welcome the release from pre-trial detention of Artur Severinchik on 15 March and Sergei Loginov and Yevgeniy Fedin on 11 April, all three are still under investigation under unfounded charges and subjected to a number of restrictions, including curfew and a prohibition to use phones or the internet.

Moreover, I am concerned that no effective investigation has been conducted into allegations of torture of several Jehovah's Witnesses following the raids of Jehovah's Witnesses' homes in Surgut on 15 February 2019. At least seven of around 40 people who were arrested during the raids complained of torture and other ill-treatment to which they were subjected by law enforcement officers while in their custody.

I therefore urge you to:

- Terminate the criminal proceedings against Artur Severinchik, Sergei Loginov and Yevgeniy Fedin, and any Jehovah's Witnesses in Russia, under unfounded "counter-extremism" charges, and;
- Instigate prompt, effective and impartial investigations of the allegations of torture and other ill-treatment of Sergei Loginov, Artur Severinchik, Yevgeniy Fedin, and other Jehovah's Witnesses, and the prosecution in fair trial proceedings of anyone found responsible for these crimes.

Yours sincerely,