

Prosecutor of Rostov Region
Yurii Alekseevich Baranov
Prosecutor's Office of Rostov Region
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Dear Prosecutor,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding criminal prosecution of Yan Sidorov and Vladislav Mordasov on charges of attempted organization of civil unrest (Article 30(3), Article 212(1) of the Russian Criminal Code) and Viacheslav Shashmin on charges of attempted participation in civil unrest (Article 30 (3), Article 212 (2) of the Russian Criminal Code). Since November 2017 Yan Sidorov and Vladislav Mordasov have been remanded in detention and Viacheslav Shashmin held under house arrest. Both Yan Sidorov and Vladislav Mordasov have complained of torture and other ill-treatment by police to extract their "confessions". Their complaints have not been investigated.

Yan Sidorov and Vladislav Mordasov were arrested on 5 November 2017 when they were preparing to hold a picket in front of the Rostov regional government building in support of dozens of Rostov citizens who had lost their houses in mass fires in July-August 2017. Viacheslav Shashmin was arrested outside a block of flats some distance away. He maintains that he did not take part in the picket.

I therefore urge to:

- Immediately and unconditionally release Yan Sidorov, Vladislav Mordasov and Viacheslav Shashmin, as they are prisoners of conscience, detained and prosecuted solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression;
- Ensure that Yan Sidorov's and Vladislav Mordasov's complaints of torture and other ill-treatment are promptly, effectively and impartially investigated, and all responsible are brought to justice in fair trial proceedings.

Yours sincerely,