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Dear Prosecutor General,

I am writing concerning the ongoing prosecution of Crimean Tatars Emir-Usein Kuku, Muslim Aliev, Vadim Siruk, Enver Bekirov, Arsen Dzhapparov and Refat Alimo. Emir-Usein Kuku is a human rights defender who is being prosecuted as a reprisal for his human rights work.

The six men stand accused of being members or organising a local group of Hizb ut-Tahrir, an organisation banned as "terrorist" in the Russian Federation. Emir-Usein Kuku has also been charged with "forcible seizure of power or forcible retention of power" (Article 278 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation). There is no credible evidence that they have been involved in any internationally recognizable crime.

In violation of international humanitarian law, they have been prosecuted under Russian criminal law, and transferred from Crimea to Rostov-on-Don, in Russia, where their case is being heard by a military court.

I urge you to take all necessary steps, within your authority as the Prosecutor General, to ensure that the trumped-up charges against Emir-Usein Kuku and his co-defendants are dropped and that they are released immediately and unconditionally.

Yours sincerely,