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Dear Prosecutor General,

I am indignant about the prosecution of woman human rights defender from Krasnodar, Yana Antonova. The charge of "cooperating" with an "undesirable organisation" has been brought against her solely for her peaceful activism. She has not committed any recognisable criminal offence, and therefore this charge should be dropped, and the criminal proceedings against her closed immediately.

Yana Antonova has been targeted via criminal prosecution since 29 March 2019, when her house was searched and she was taken to the Investigative Committee for questioning. On 22 May, she was officially charged under article 284.1 of the Criminal Code for "cooperating" with an "undesirable organisation" on account of her past involvement with the Russian movement Open Russia, which brought together people interested in activism including promotion of human rights, rule of law and government accountability. The movement was never registered as an organisation and it ceased to exist in March 2019. Yana Antonova has also lost her job, and other members of her extended family have faced harassment by Russian law enforcement agencies in connection with the criminal proceedings against her.

By prosecuting Yana Antonova for her peaceful activism, the Russian authorities are in violation of their obligations under international human rights law, including in relation to the rights to freedom of expression and association, and the right to a fair trial.

I call on you to take all necessary steps to ensure that the criminal prosecution of Yana Antonova stops, and that she is not persecuted for her activism.

Yours sincerely,