

Col. Andrei Vladimirovich Ryabkov
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Dear Colonel Ryabkov,

I am writing to you concerning human rights defender **Yan Sidorov** who is serving his sentence at IK-10. On 22 October, the Dmitrovgrad Town Court rejected his parole application. His defence team has appealed this decision.

Yan Sidorov and his friend Vladislav Mordasov were arrested on 5 November 2017 for trying to organise a peaceful protest in support of dozens of Rostov-on-Don residents who had lost their houses in mass fires. They were 18 and 21 years old respectively at the time. They were falsely charged with “organizing mass disturbances” and following an unfair trial, on 4 October 2019 they were sentenced, Yan Sidorov to six years and six months and Vladislav Mordasov to six years and seven months in strict regime penal colony. On 10 December, the Third Court of Appeal in Rostov-on-Don upheld their convictions. In July 2020 each of their sentences were reduced to four years.

Yan Sidorov and Vladislav Mordasov committed no crime and are prisoners of conscience imprisoned solely for exercising their right to freedom of expression and intending to exercise their right to freedom of peaceful assembly. They should be released immediately and unconditionally, and their convictions should be quashed.

As the head of the Federal Penitentiary Service for the Ulyanovsk Region, I urge you to use your authority to support Yan Sidorov’s appeal for parole.

Yours sincerely,