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Dear Director of the Penal Service,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the denial of necessary medical care to Oleksandr Marchenko, a Ukrainian citizen serving a ten-year sentence at the penal colony IK-8, in the Republic of Buryatia.

In 2016, Oleksandr Marchenko had his thyroid removed due to cancer. Following the surgery, he requires daily medication, monthly blood tests and other medical examinations once every three months. However, since he was deprived of his liberty in 2018, he had only had one blood test privately arranged by his family in July 2021. According to Oleksandr Marchenko's lawyers, on at least two occasions he was denied the medication he requires by the penitentiary authorities for extended periods. First, in April-May 2021, while he was being held in remand centre SIZO-1 and penal colony IK-14 in Krasnodar, and from 12 to 28 December 2021 while being held in SIZO-1 in Ulan-Ude, Buryatia. Being deprived from his vital medication caused a significant deterioration of his health. Currently, in penal colony IK-8, he is denied the regular tests he requires, while the vital medication has to be supplied by his family at their own cost. The denial of medical care may amount to torture or other ill-treatment.

I am further concerned that, according to Oleksandr Marchenko's lawyers, the administration of SIZO-1 in Ulan-Ude issued death threats against him and threatened him with sexual violence. He was also reportedly placed in a punishment cell for 15 days with a man who had tuberculosis, for trying to contact the Ukrainian Consul. In March 2022, the administration of the penal colony IK-8 placed him in a disciplinary cell for 28 days, for his pro-Ukrainian views.

I urge you to ensure that Oleksandr Marchenko is provided with the medical care he requires, and that his allegations of torture and other ill-treatment are promptly, effectively and impartially investigated.

Yours sincerely,