

Prosecutor General's Office

Igor Viktorovich Krasnov
Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation
str. Bolshaya Dmitrovka, 15a, Moscow,
Russian Federation, GSP-3, 125993

Dear Prosecutor General Igor Victorovich,

I am writing to express concern for **Aleksei Gorinov** (62), an opposition municipal deputy (councillor) in the Krasnoselsky District of Moscow. He is recognised as a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International.

On 15 March 2022, he spoke at a municipal council's session calling for an end to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and stated that children were dying in the conflict every day. He was arrested on 26 April 2022 and charged with "disseminating knowingly false information about Russian Armed Forces," a newly instituted criminal offence under Article 207.3 of the Criminal Code. Aleksei Gorinov, who is currently in the prison hospital in Vladimir region, was the first person to receive a prison sentence (7 years long) for spreading "false information" about Russia's Armed Forces (Article 207.3 of the Criminal Code) simply for calling the "special military operation" in Ukraine – "a war" and stating that children are dying in it. An appeal hearing on 19 September 2023 upheld the conviction but reduced the sentence by one month.

On 5 December 2023, Russian human rights defenders reported that Aleksei Gorinov, who had just been transferred to Penal Colony No. 2 in Pokrov, was ill. He complained of respiratory problems, which were exacerbated by the fact that part of his lung had been removed several years ago. The lawyer who visited Aleksei Gorinov on 8 December 2023 described the prisoner's condition as "very bad" and noted that his skin was pale blue, he was exhausted and barely able to sit on the chair. Aleksei Gorinov, who is 62 years old, was transferred to a prison hospital in the city of Vladimir in December 2023, but his health remains in a serious condition.

I call on you to take all necessary steps to immediately and unconditionally release Aleksei Gorinov as he is detained solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression and to ensure, in the meantime, that he is able to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health. I further call on you to take all necessary steps to have Article 207.3 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation repealed, as it violates Russia's international human rights obligations.

Yours sincerely,