AS OF MID-OCTOBER 2017, AT LEAST 59
UKRAINIAN CITIZENS HAVE BEEN
DETAINED
FOR POLITICAL REASONS IN DIFFERENT
REGIONS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
AND IN OCCUPIED CRIMEA.
32 OF THEM ARE CRIMEAN TATARS.

These are people of different nationalities, denominations, professions and political views. Among them are journalists, activists, farmers, miners, directors, teachers and students. Most of them are proactive in public and political life and actively voice their political stance; some just happened to be at the wrong place at the wrong time.

21 of the 59 prisoners have also been sentenced by Russian courts and/or occupation authorities in Crimean courts: from 1.5 to 22.5 years in prison.

In 2017 only, 18 persons were detained. Most of these arrests took place in Crimea.

The Investigative Committee and the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation prosecute "Kremlin prisoners" by charging them falsely for common criminal offences and invoking so-called anti-extremist and anti-terrorist legislation, the purpose of which is to punish and convict all active protestors. For example, for publicly stating that Crimea is Ukrainian, a person can be sentenced to five years in prison.

These people are, in fact, hostages. Moreover, Russia uses these criminal cases mainly for propaganda campaigns to discredit Ukraine.

The detention of "Kremlin prisoners", as they are called by their human rights advocates, in prisons and penal colonies in Russia and Crimea is accompanied by gross violations of their basic rights. This is what we would like to demonstrate in this exhibition.

The last successful negotiations, which ended with the release of two Ukrainian citizens, were organized with the help of Turkey in fall 2017. Nonetheless, the number of Kremlin prisoners continues to rise steadily. Thus far, only 8 persons out of several dozens were released.







## THE CASE AGAINST RENAT PARALAMOV

Renat Paralamov was tortured in the autumn of 2017; torture was used so openly that it struck even those who systematically monitor human rights violations in occupied Crimea.

Moreover, the injuries and mutilations were documented.

Paralamov was found with traces of beatings and torture at the train station in Simferopol (the capital of the occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea). He had been illegally detained in the FSB premises in Crimea for two days.

What he described about the events that preceded his release is, essentially and unfortunately, a reflection of daily occurrences in the annexed Crimea: kidnappings by "siloviki" (official security goons) with a bag placed over the head, beatings, use of electric shocks, then signing of a protocol with "confessions to crimes" and accusations against friends and neighbours.

Today, Renat is safe.



PHOTO BY LOCA ACTIVISTS





## THE CASE AGAINST STANISLAV KLYKH

A number of Ukrainian citizens illegally held by Russia is critically ill.

Several authoritative non-governmental organizations (such as Amnesty International) and the Royal College of Psychiatrists (UK) have voiced their concerns about the mental state of Stanislav Klykh. The latter addressed the Presiding Judge of the Supreme Court of the Chechen Republic with the suggestion to carry out an independent assessment of Klykh's mental health. The query, though, was never satisfied by the Chechen court. Stanislav Klykh was sentenced based on fabricated evidence to twenty years in a penal colony in Chelyabinsk Oblast in Ural.

Demands and requests for an independent psychiatric examination have been systematically ignored by the Russian authorities.

Instead, in the summer of 2017, Klykh was transferred to a hospital for several weeks, where human rights activists suspect that he was administered psychotropic drugs.

His condition is getting worse. His mother, who visited him in October 2017, said that she had to admit – although it was very difficult for her – that her son was mentally ill. A year ago, he was aggressive, and now, following his "treatment" at the hospital, he is "like a defenseless child".

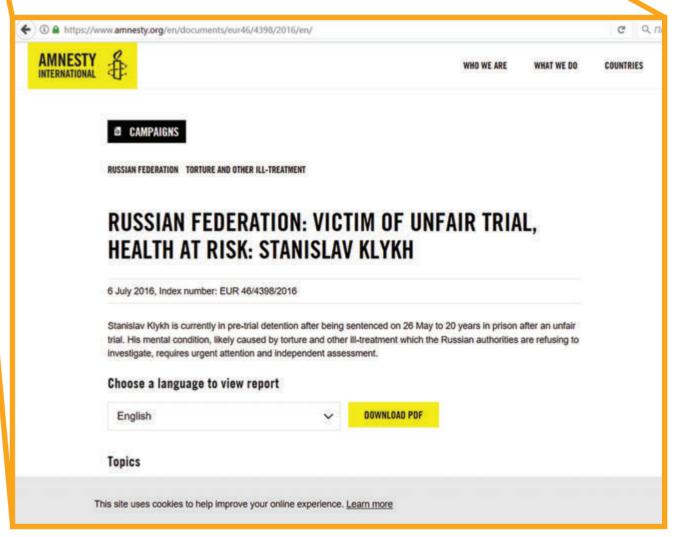
Klykh had not suffered from any psychological or mental disorders before his imprisonment in Russia.

After his arrest, he endured brutal torture which left traces on his body (arms and legs), and the Ukrainian consul and independent lawyers had no access to him. Essentially he was held incommunicado for 10 months.

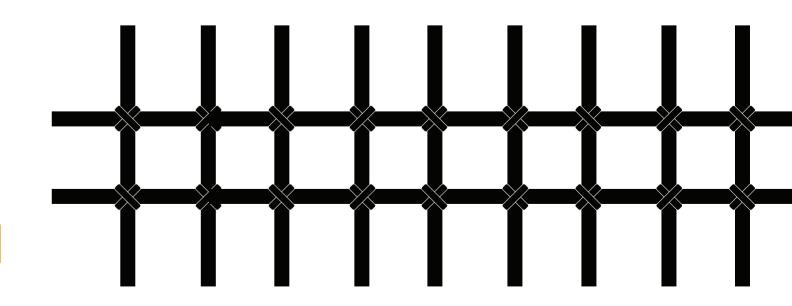
Klykh's testimony, extracted under torture, was used to build an absurd criminal case, whereby Russia tried to post an international search alert for Arseniy Yatsenyuk, the former Prime Minister of Ukraine.



S.KLYKH DURING THE TRIAL IN GROZNY.



SCREENSHOT FROM AMNESTY.ORG











## **PAVLO HRYB**

Pavlo Hryb, a 19-year-old citizen of Ukraine, was abducted during his private visit to Belarus and transferred to a prison in the Russian city of Krasnodar. He suffers from a chronic disease called "portal hypertension", which, according to his doctors, requires certain drugs and special nutrition that he does not receive in the Russian prison. His condition can deteriorate at any moment, causing severe internal bleeding in the stomach area or esophagus.

In mid-October 2017, Ukrainian doctors tried to visit Pavlo. They arrived in Krasnodar, but were denied access by Russian security services.

According to Vasyl Prytula, Professor at the Bohomolets National Medical Institute, Pavlo Hryb's condition can be qualified as relatively serious. But, given the conditions in Russian prisons, he believes that Pavlo's condition is critical.

The Russian prison administration has also forbidden to pass on medical drugs that Pavlo requires for maintaining his health.



CONGENITAL
MALFORMATION:
CERVICAL
TRANSFORMATION OF THE
PORTAL VEIN. PORTAL
HYPERTENSION. [...]
SUSTAINED
MORPHOLOGIC AND
FUNCTIONAL DISORDERS
OF KIDNEY FUNCTIONING.



- APPOINTMENT TO THE INSTITUTE OF SURGERY AND TRANSPLANTOLOGY FOR THE SURGICAL CORRECTION OF PORTAL HYPERTENSION

- PROVIDE STATUS OF DISABILITY FOR HEALTH REASONS

- TOTAL LIMITATION OF PHYSICAL LOAD [...]







## THE EXHIBITION WAS PREPARED FOR YOU BY



Media Initiative for Human Rights (MIHR) is a Ukrainian NGO which was launched in September 2016 by Maria Tomak, a journalist and human rights activist, and Olga Reshetylova, a journalist and civic volunteer. It aims to combine investigative journalism and human rights defence to combat human rights violations in Ukraine and provide legal and advocacy support for the victims.

Maria Tomak has been working with the problem of political prisoners since Summer 2014, which includes managing the cases, advocacy, and assistance for the families of detainees.

Ukrainian citizens kept in detention for political reasons are one of the priority issues for MIHR.

**6** MediaInitiativeForHumanRights



**Euromaidan Press (EP)** is an online English-language independent newspaper launched in 2014 by Ukrainian volunteers. EP focuses on events covering Ukraine and provides translations of Ukrainian news and expert analysis as well as independent research. Through its work, EP strives to bridge Ukraine with the English-speaking world. The plight of the Ukrainian prisoners of the Kremlin is a special topic for EP, as the outlet works to raise awareness about the victims of Russia's undeclared war against Ukraine among foreign audiences as part of the LetMyPeopleGo campaign.

**Euromaidanpress.com** 

Euromaidanpress.en

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All-Ukrainian Association of Public Organizations Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union (UHHRU) is a non-profit organization, founded by 15 public human rights organizations in 2004. UHHRU's mission is Realization and protection of rights and freedoms by promoting practical implementation of humanitarian articles of the Helsinki Final Act, other international laws based on it and all other obligations accepted by Ukraine as to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It's major activities are focused around constant monitoring of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Ukraine, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in courts and state bodies, drafting laws etc.

Helsinki.org.ua

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Design of the project was created by Anna Gavryliuk.