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Mr Salil Shetty
Secretary General
Amnesty International
1 Easton Street,
London,
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Dear Mr Shetty

Our Association has always supported and greatly valued the work that Amnesty International does to campaign for and support human rights throughout the world.

We are grateful for your continued focus on human rights issues affecting Ukraine and Ukrainians, in particular, your reports on the conflict in Eastern Ukraine and on the continuing deterioration of the human rights situation in Crimea, particularly in relation to the Crimean Tatar population. We fully support your strong position on the politicised and biased Russian judicial process which led to sentences of 20 and 10 years respectively for Oleg Sentsov and Oleksandr Kolchenko on fabricated charges, in what you rightly referred to as a 'fatally flawed' trial marred by credible allegations of torture.

We are concerned, however, that Amnesty International has not yet taken a similarly strong public position in relation to Nadiya Savchenko. As you will know, Nadiya is a Ukrainian pilot with a distinguished service record, who was captured by pro-Russian separatists in Eastern Ukraine on 18 June 2014 and transferred against her will to Russia, where she has been held in captivity since then. She is charged with the murder of two Russian journalists on evidence that is fabricated, and faces a 25-year prison sentence, with little confidence that the trial will be any more fair and credible than the previous Sentsov and Kolchenko trials.

Court proceedings against Nadiya began on 22 September and will resume on 29 September – to avoid any negative publicity for President Putin's appearance at the UN on 28 September.

The European Parliament has condemned Nadiya's abduction and illegal detention and has called for her to be released and for those responsible for her prosecution to be subject to sanctions.

We urge Amnesty International to take a principled stand for Nadiya Savchenko: to acknowledge the political nature of the case against her and the numerous breaches of her

human rights and publicly call for her release. Without continuing strong international pressure, Nadiya will not receive a fair hearing or the justice that she deserves.

Yours sincerely



Zenko Lastowiecki
President



Fedir Kurlak
CEO