



OSCE ODIHR

HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING 2016

side-events

Sofitel Victoria Warsaw,
Królewska St. 11,
00-065 Warsaw, Poland

INVITATION
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INTERPOL'S REFORM AND RIGHTS OF VICTIMS OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED EXTRADITION REQUESTS: steps forward and emergence of new threats

CONVENORS: Open Dialog Foundation & Center for Civil Liberties

Starting from 2015, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), widely criticized for being instrumentally misused by the authoritarian regimes, opened up for civil society's recommendations and begun adopting policies of protecting persons who obtained asylum from automatism of Red Notice procedure. Recent months also brought signals that credible information on political background of the extradition requests are being treated with greater care, and number of persons who had long been at risk of being rendered to respective regimes, including for instance executives of the former YUKOS Oil Company in Russia, were deleted from the INTERPOL records.

However, new cases and new dangerous trends emerge: Azerbaijan widely uses the INTERPOL-related schemes to persecute a wide circle of persons critical to its authorities. Russia attempts to obtain extradition of a whistle-blower, Nail Malyutin. Some old cases, positively resolved by the national judiciary of the host countries in the past, are being rebranded by the demanding regimes in order to find new rationale for extraditions (e.g. case of Tatiana Paraskevich in the Czech Republic). Questions arise about efficiency of the INTERPOL procedures in arresting perpetrators of crimes committed during Euromaidan.

With Turkey invigorating attempts to reach the alleged opponents of the government abroad, the INTERPOL, UNHCR, national law-enforcement and justice systems must proactively anticipate likely expansion of the misuse of INTERPOL in the near future, cement recent achievements and continue the reforming drive.

Languages: English, Russian

SPEAKERS:

Mrs Oleksandra Matviychuk,

Head of the Board of the Center for Civil Liberties, Coordinator of civil initiative Euromaidan SOS;

Mrs Oleksandra Yatsenko,

lawyer who represents the interests of Maidan victims' relatives, Member of Advocacy Advisory Panel;

Mr Alovzat Aliyev,

Azeri political refugee, co-founder of the Network Against Human Trafficking In Azerbaijan (NAHTAZ);

Mr Dmitry Morgun,

lawyer of Mr Alovzat Aliyev;

Mr Pavel Ivlev,

former lawyer for YUKOS Oil Company, Chairman of the Committee for Russian Economic Freedom;

Mrs Natalia Sytnik,

wife of Mr Nail Malyutin, Russian whistle-blower;

Mr Yevgeny Zhovtis,

Chair of the Board of the Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law, founder and board member of the "BOTA" Foundation and a Member of the OSCE ODIHR Expert Panel on Freedom of Assembly;

Mr Muratbek Ketebayev,

Kazakh opposition politician;

Mr Marcin Swiecicki,

Member of the Polish Parliament – TBC.

MODERATOR:

Ms Anna Koj,

Head of the EU Office of the Open Dialog Foundation

«HOSTAGES OF THE KREMLIN»:

increase of the number of Ukrainian political prisoners in the Russian Federation and the illegally occupied Crimea

CONVENORS: Open Dialog Foundation & Center for Civil Liberties

Thanks to the continued pressure, the international community was able to secure the release of Nadiya Savchenko, one of the most renowned Ukrainian political prisoners in the Russian Federation. Two other 'hostages of the Kremlin', Yuriy Soloshenko and Gennadiy Afanasyev, were also recently released in an exchange procedure. However, the number of Ukrainian citizens who face politically motivated criminal prosecution in the Russian Federation and the illegally annexed Crimea has only increased over the last year. The side-event aims to present and discuss the cases of 29 Ukrainians who are currently unlawfully kept behind bars.

The former victims of the Russian regime and human rights defenders from the EU and the Russian Federation will try to find answers on the following questions, who is a 'hostage of the Kremlin'? How to stop the increase of the number of political prisoners in the Russian Federation and Crimea? What is the situation of Russian citizens who protest against the ongoing conflict in Ukraine?

Moreover, the side-event will draw particular attention to the difficult situation in the illegally occupied Crimea, where, under the guise of fighting terrorism, the Russian Federation pursues the most socially active Crimean Tatars. Thus, Russian propaganda creates the image of the Muslim Tatar people as an ethnic minority, prone to extremism.

SPEAKERS:

Mrs Oleksandra Matviychuk,
Head of the Board of the Center for Civil Liberties, Coordinator of civil initiative Euromaidan SOS who launched the «LetMyPeopleGo» advocacy campaign;

Mr Gennadiy Afanasiev,
former Ukrainian political prisoner in the Russian Federation;

Mr Pavel Ivlev,
former lawyer for YUKOS Oil Company, Chairman of the Committee for Russian Economic Freedom;

Mr Marcin Swiecicki,
Member of the Polish Parliament – TBC.

MODERATOR:

Mr Tomasz Kłosowicz,
Advocacy Officer at the Open Dialog Foundation