

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

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Amnesty International urges Ukraine to ensure greater protection against violence for women, children, journalists and activists

Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Ukraine

Gender-based and domestic violence is a reality for thousands of women and children in Ukraine. Currently, there are few effective ways for victims to protect themselves and seek justice.

Amnesty International welcomes Ukraine's passing of laws aimed at providing better protection for victims and imposing penalties on the perpetrators. However, this is just a first step and the laws require effective implementation. The organization welcomes Ukraine's acceptance of recommendations to ensure the early ratification and implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.¹

Since the beginning of the conflict in eastern Ukraine in April 2014, Amnesty International has documented numerous human rights violations and abuses by both sides, including torture and ill-treatment, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions. The organization welcomes Ukraine's commitment to cooperate with the International Criminal Court² and its acceptance of recommendations to ensure the speedy ratification of the Rome Statute.³ It also call on Ukraine to commit to the prevention of conflict-related human rights abuses by both sides and welcome its accept of recommendations to thoroughly and independently investigate all allegations of human rights violations by members of the Ukrainian law-enforcement agencies, in particular illegal detentions by the Security Service of Ukraine.⁴

Amnesty International also welcomes the establishment of the State Bureau of Investigations⁵ and calls on Ukraine to provide the necessary resources to enable effective investigation of crimes committed by other law-enforcement agencies, public officials and judges, and to combat impunity.

In addition, Amnesty International notes with great concern the increase since 2016 in physical violence, including beatings and murder, against independent journalists and civil society organizations. The organization urges the Ukrainian government to urgently investigate

¹ A/HRC/37/16, recommendations 116.19 (Bosnia and Hercegovina, Chile, Estonia, Montenegro, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey), 116.20 (Denmark), 116.21 (Andorra), 116.23 (Sierra Leone), 116.24 (Lithuania).

² See: Ukraine accepts ICC jurisdiction over alleged crimes committed since 20 February 2014, 8 September 2015 at: <https://www.icc-cpi.int/Pages/item.aspx?name=pr1146>

³ A/HRC/37/16, recommendations 116.8-116.12 (Estonia, Latvia, Austria, Lithuania, Guatemala).

⁴ A/HRC/37/16, recommendations 116.105-107 (Russian Federation, Switzerland, Brazil), 116.109 (UK).

⁵ This was also recommended during the review of Ukraine, A/HRC/37/16, recommendation 116.101 (Namibia).

the killings of journalists Oles Buzina and Pavlo Sheremet, and other attacks, as committed to during the review.⁶

Background

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Ukraine on 19 March 2018 during its 37th session. Prior to the adoption of the report of the review Amnesty International delivered this oral statement.

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⁶ A/HRC/37/16, recommendations 116.88 (Czechia).