



OPEN DIALOG

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Brussels, 14 December, 2017

**Appeal for the urgent release of Crimean Tatar political prisoner
Bekir Degermendzhi whose life is at risk**



Dear colleagues,

We seek your urgent support to save the life of victim of the latest political persecution of Crimean Tatars in occupied Crimea. He is 57-years old **Bekir Degermendzhi** who was detained on 23 of November this year on a fabricated criminal charge.

His son Mustafa Degermendzhi was arrested three years ago in the so-called case of February 26. Together with Deputy Chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People Ahtem Chyigoz, who was recently amnestied, he was being judged for taking part in the meeting on 26 of February, 2014 outside the Supreme Council of Crimea in support of the territorial integrity of Ukraine as well as resisting Russia's occupation army.

Bekir Degermendzhi suffers from bronchial asthma. So, his defense asked occupation authorities to transfer him from detention to a hospital in order to receive appropriate medical treatment. But the court decided that he has to stay in detention for the next two months. Yesterday Bekir was hospitalized and at present he is immobile.

We kindly ask you to join the urgent action for saving his life. Please, publish in your social accounts an appeal to Russian authorities demanding appropriate medical treatment for Bekir Degermendzhi. And at the next court hearing to change his present detention to house arrest. Use hashtag #LifeForBekir.

The Crimean Tatar People need your support. Even a symbolic action can have influence.

[#LetMyPeopleGo](#) is an international campaign aiming at the release of the political prisoners that are kept in Russia or on the territories of the illegally occupied Crimea. The #LetMyPeopleGo campaign has been launched by the Centre for Civil Liberties Euromaisan SOS and is supported by numerous Ukrainian and international



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organisations, such as People in Need, Euromaidan Press, Euromaidan Warszawa, Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Ukrainian Ombudsman Office and the Open Dialog Foundation.

Human rights should be firmly defended by Europe and by institutions such as the Council of Europe, which should abide by its decision to maintain sanctions on Russia, as stated in the 2016 resolution, and not restore dialogue until “significant and measurable progress towards the implementation (of previous resolutions)” are met, instead of [considering to bring Russia back to the table](#). As rightly stated by the New Europe Centre, such a step back would undermine the Council of Europe’s credibility and “surrender of the mission it has pledged to uphold over almost 70 years of its existence”.

With respect,

Lyudmyla Kozlovska - President of the Open Dialog Foundation
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