



26 May, 2016

Appeal to the Ukrainian Government in the context of the Security Services' denial of access to the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture

With great concern I have learned that the United Nation's Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) was refused to visit places subordinated to the Ukrainian Security Services in Mariupul and Kramatorsk. The mission which was planned to take from May 19 until today was cancelled May 25th and has thus hindered the SPT's mandate from being fulfilled.

Ukraine has ratified the Optional Protocol on the Prevention of Torture in 2006, and has, by refusing the Subcommittee to visit detention places, breached its obligation under Article 12 of this Protocol.

I welcome the joint declaration by Mr Nemyria, Chairman for Human Rights of the Verkhovna Rada and Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights Ms Lutkovska, expressing the illegality of the Security Service's actions vis-a-vis the SPT and calling for the SPT to carry out a subsequent visit. '

In contrast, the justification of the Security Service of Ukraine for prohibiting access of the SPT to detention sites because one mission member was allegedly a Russian citizen is incomprehensible to me and discredit the Subcommittee, according to whose official documents none of the mission's members was Russian.

It is of utmost importance that the Ukrainian state abides by the international law it has committed to. I have reached out to Ukrainian ministers and officials and hope to discuss how this breach of law can be solved so that the SPTs mandate can be continued.

Rebecca Harms,
Co-President of the Greens/EFA Group