

WORLDWIDE APPEALS — December 2020

An appeal from you to the authorities can help the victims of human rights violations. You can help free a prisoner of conscience or stop torture. Your message can bring liberty to a victim of disappearance. You may prevent an execution. The victims are many, the violators wide ranging. Every appeal counts.



PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE APPEALS PAROLE DENIAL

On 22 October, the Dmitrovgrad town court, in Russia's Ulyanovsk region, rejected the parole application of 21-year-old human rights defender Yan Sidorov. Yan Sidorov and his friend Vladislav Mordasov are prisoners of conscience, serving sentences of four years for trying to organise a peaceful protest in November 2017 in support of dozens of Rostov-on-Don residents who had lost their houses in mass fires. Yan Sidorov is appealing the decision.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Col. Andrei Vladimirovich Ryabkov
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Dear Colonel Ryabkov,

I am writing to you concerning human rights defender **Yan Sidorov** who is serving his sentence at IK-10. On 22 October, the Dmitrovgrad Town Court rejected his parole application. His defence team has appealed this decision.

Yan Sidorov and his friend Vladislav Mordasov were arrested on 5 November 2017 for trying to organise a peaceful protest in support of dozens of Rostov-on-Don residents who had lost their houses in mass fires. They were 18 and 21 years old respectively at the time. They were falsely charged with "organizing mass disturbances" and following an unfair trial, on 4 October 2019 they were sentenced, Yan Sidorov to six years and six months and Vladislav Mordasov to six years and seven months in strict regime penal colony. On 10 December, the Third Court of Appeal in Rostov-on-Don upheld their convictions. In July 2020 each of their sentences were reduced to four years.

Yan Sidorov and Vladislav Mordasov committed no crime and are prisoners of conscience imprisoned solely for exercising their right to freedom of expression and intending to exercise their right to freedom of peaceful assembly. They should be released immediately and unconditionally, and their convictions should be quashed.

As the head of the Federal Penitentiary Service for the Ulyanovsk Region, I urge you to use your authority to support Yan Sidorov's appeal for parole.

Yours sincerely,

Amnesty International–Nobel Peace Prize 1977 UN Human Rights Prize 1978

For more information about the Salisbury branch
please call Tony Miller 01722 322791 - www.salisburyai.com