

Director of the Federal Penitentiary Service of the Altai krai
Gerasimov Sergei Yermagenovich
Lenina prospekt
147-B, Barnaul
Altai krai, 656011
RUSSLAND

Maria Ponomarenko

July 2024

Dear Director,

Maria Ponomarenko is a journalist and activist from Barnaul in Western Siberia. On 23 April 2022, she was detained for sharing a Telegram post about the bombing of the Drama Theatre in Mariupol, Ukraine. It contained a video from the theatre made before the attack and a short comment condemning civilian deaths. On 15 February 2023, Maria was sentenced to six years' imprisonment and a five-year ban on engaging in journalism on her release.

In detention, she was treated brutally and her health deteriorated. Therefore, I urge you to ensure that Maria Ponomarenko is released immediately and unconditionally; to ensure that the ill-treatment of Maria Ponomarenko is immediately stopped and that her treatment in any prison institution, as well as while in transit between them, complies with international law and standards; and to ensure that all those suspected of responsibility for Maria Ponomarenko's ill-treatment are brought to justice in fair proceedings in accordance with international law.

Sincerely,