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RUSSISCHE FÖDERATION

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Dear Procurator General,

Emir-Usein Kuku is a human rights defender and a member of the Crimean Tatar indigenous minority. The peninsula of Crimea, in the south of Ukraine, was annexed by the Russian Federation in March 2014. As a member of the Crimean Human Rights Contact Group since October 2014, Emir-Usein has been peacefully opposing the new regime and has been actively involved in the monitoring and documentation of human rights violations that swept the peninsula since the beginning of the occupation. In February 2016 he was arrested and charged with "membership of a terrorist organization". The charges relate to an unfounded accusation of him being a member of Hizb ut-Tahrir, an Islamist movement that is banned as "extremist" in Russia but is not illegal in Ukraine. He is a prisoner of conscience, held in pretrial detention since February 2016, being persecuted solely for his legitimate human rights activities.

Court hearings in the case of Emir-Usein Kuku and his co-defendants resumed on 4 April 2019 and a sentence is expected in August/September. His co-defendants are also considered prisoners of conscience.

I respectfully urge you to ensure that Emir-Usein Kuku and his co-defendants are immediately and unconditionally released, and all criminal charges against them dropped.

Yours sincerely,

Copy:

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