**From: place, date:**

 **To:**
Tatiana Nikolaevna Moskalkova Ombudswoman for Human Rights in the Russian Federation   ul. Miasnitskaia, 47 107084 Moscow Russian Federation

**About: Imprisonment of Emir-Usein Kuku**

Dear Ombudswoman,

on 11 february 2016 Emir-Usein Kuku, member of the Crimean Human Rights Contact Group and of the indigenous Crimean Tatar community, has been arrested by Russian authorities. He has been accused of being involved with the islamistic movement Hizb ut-Tahrir, which has been banned in Russia in 2003 but is legal in Ukraine. Since then Emir-Usein Kuku spent two years in pre-trial detention in Crimea before being transferred to Rostov-on-Don, where he is waiting to stand trial to the North Caucasus District Military Court.

The Russian authorities have failed to present any evidence suggesting Emir-Usein Kuku has planned any violent acts or participated in any recognisable criminal activities nor has he been known to have had any links to Hizb ut-Tahrir.

I therefore call on you to ensure the immediate and unconditional release of Emir-Usein Kuku. Please drop all charges against him and protect his family from threats and harassment by Russian authorities. I furthermore ask you to stop the persecution of members of the Crimean Tatar community and to respect their right to freedom of expression. Until his release I urge you to make sure that the conditions in jail as well as all judicial procedures against alleged members of Hizb ut-Tahrir conform with international standards.

Yours sincerely,