

# URGENT ACTION

## ENSURE URGENT MEDICAL CARE FOR A DETAINEE

Dual Russian and Belgian national Mikhail ("Mike") Lochtchinin was arbitrarily detained in Russia on 1 July 2025 when he tried to enter the country to visit his father, who is in poor health. He is standing trial on fabricated charges of "high treason" stemming from conversations with his Ukrainian ex-girlfriend who asked him for personal financial support. He is being held in inhuman and degrading conditions. His health has deteriorated and he lost vision in one eye. Mikhail Lochtchinin must be immediately released and allowed access to adequate healthcare, and the charges against him must be dropped.

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

**Prosecutor General**  
**Aleksandr Vladimirovich Gutsan**  
Prosecutor General's Office  
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Moscow, GSP-3, 125993  
Russian Federation  
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Dear Prosecutor General,

*I am writing to express my deep concern over the situation of Mikhail Lochtchinin, dual Russian and Belgian national, who has been living in the EU since the early 2000s and was arbitrarily detained on the Russian border on 1 July 2025, when he was travelling to visit his father. According to media publications, he was initially held at a pre-trial detention facility SIZO-2 in Staryi Oskol where he was allegedly tortured and otherwise ill-treated. He was then transferred to a pre-trial detention facility SIZO-1 in Pskov. He is currently standing trial in Pskov on "high treason" charges brought against him on the grounds of his conversation with his Ukrainian ex-girlfriend who asked him for modest personal financial support.*

*While in detention, his health has deteriorated and he has lost vision in one eye. According to media publications, in February 2026, following a court order, Mikhail Lochtchinin was examined in a local state hospital and in March a court ordered that he must be allowed to have a CT scan in a private hospital. However, according to media reports, the medical examination was not comprehensive, and the CT scan not been conducted yet.*

***I urge you to ensure that Mikhail Lochtchinin is immediately released and has urgent access to adequate healthcare. I further urge you to ensure that the criminal charges against him are dropped.***

Yours sincerely,

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mikhail Lochtchinin (also known as "Mike") has been living in the EU for over 25 years. He has Belgian nationality and has also lived in Germany and worked in Luxembourg at an IT company. Apart from his work, he has been actively involved in various charitable and professional organizations, participated in theatre, musical and other cultural projects and is a passionate motorbike rider.

According to various media publications, on 1 July 2025, when he travelled to Russia on his motorbike to visit his father, he was arbitrarily detained by the Russian border guards at the Latvian-Russian border. On 4 July, he called his mother to inform her that he was being detained at a hotel in Pytalovo, Pskov region. The family hired a lawyer who visited him on 1 August. The next day, Mikhail Lochtchinin was reportedly driven by unidentified men, believed to be plain clothes law enforcement officers, to an unknown location. His lawyer started searching for him and eventually received a letter from the military department of the Investigation Committee dated 7 August, with information that his client was being held in SIZO-2 in Staryi Oskol, Belgorod region, over 1,000 km south of the place of his initial detention. When his lawyer went to see him, he was told that his client was not there. On 21 August, Mikhail Lochtchinin called his family again to inform that he was now being held in SIZO-1 in Pskov and that he had been charged with high treason. According to the available information, the charges stem from a conversation Mikhail Lochtchinin had with his Ukrainian ex-girlfriend in 2022, in which she asked for some small personal financial support. Mikhail Lochtchinin is currently standing trial, which is closed to the public, in Pskov city court. If found guilty, he may face from 12 years to life imprisonment. There are serious concerns that fair trial standards are not being observed.

According to Mikhail Lochtchinin's account of events, which he shared with a journalist, while he was in SIZO-2 in Staryi Oskol, he was subjected to torture and other ill-treatment. Knowing that Mikhail Lochtchinin suffers with severe short-sightedness (myopia) the penal authorities took his glasses away, meaning that he could not see. Later, possibly due to ill-treatment, one of his retinas started to deteriorate, and he lost vision in one eye. His lawyer applied for a medical examination and in February 2026, the court ordered such an examination to be carried out in a local hospital. However, it was not adequate. In March 2026, the court allowed a CT scan for Mikhail Lochtchinin in a private hospital. However, it has not been conducted yet. As Mikhail Lochtchinin's trial is coming to an end, he could be transferred to another region and will have to apply for a CT scan and other procedures anew. It is important that the scan is undertaken urgently and that he is provided with adequate medical care as soon as possible.

After the start of the war of aggression against Ukraine, Russian human rights NGOs have noted a significant rise of criminal prosecutions under the "high treason" (Article 275 of the Criminal Code), "espionage" (Article 276), "confidential cooperation with foreigners" (Article 275.1) and "providing assistance to an enemy" (Article 276.1). According to the Russian NGO First Department, over 1,000 people have been sentenced under these charges since the start of the war with at least 468 of them – in 2025. As of the end of 2025, at least 420 people were under investigation, and 179 people are awaiting trial. There have been no acquittals under any of these charges.

### **PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Russian**

Please machine translate your letters into Russian as letters sent in other languages might not be considered by the authorities at all or it will take more time for them to be addressed.

### **PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 14 July 2026**

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

**NAME AND PRONOUN: Mikhail ("Mike") Lochtchinin (He, his)**