

Statement

I was detained on April 12, 2013 and charged with fraud which I had not committed. Since June 13, 2013, every week, several times (with a break from July 15 to August 15), I was brought for secret interrogations to the offices of the Federal Security Service (FSB) in Krasnodar region. The interrogations were lead by the Head of the Investigation Unit of the FSB in Krasnodar region Colonel I. G. Bessonov. During this questioning, I was accused of allegedly agreeing to cooperate with the US Central Intelligence Agency and allegedly being a coordinator of the North Caucasus network of non-government organizations (NGOs) that were hostile toward Russia. These statements are insane. Nevertheless, they demanded that I confess and falsely incriminate other people. I asked, "Based on what am I accused (although unofficially) of this?" I received the following answer: "You have been seeing foreigners far too often. This cannot be a coincidence." I was threatened with the following:

- 23 years' imprisonment: 3 years after the fabricated criminal case that is currently prosecuted in court is finished, 5 years later (for some other criminal offence) and 15 years for treason;
- sending me to one of the most terrible prison camps in Russia, for example to Mordovia;
- death in the camp or during the transfer.

On November 5 2013 at the first court hearing I made a statement that my case had been fabricated, that I was harassed by the FSB and threatened to be charged with treason. Later that day, I was brought to the office of Colonel Bessonov. The very same people offered me to publicly repudiate my earlier statement. They threatened with the following:

- heavy sentence for the fabricated case;
- criminal prosecution of other people, including members of NGOs in Krasnodar region (they did not specify their names or the names of the organizations);
- publishing some discrediting materials about me in media.

I refused.

I was given time to think it over until the morning of November 6 when I was brought to the office of Colonel Bessonov again. I refused one more time.

It is obvious that the FSB in Krasnodar region controls regional judges, including through the security clearance procedure. It is also obvious that the sentence in the fabricated fraud case against me is predetermined. I have not been officially charged with treason yet. During the secret questioning, I was repeatedly called an enemy. I am not the enemy of Russia, but I am indeed the enemy of totalitarianism and political repression.

Mikhail Savva

December 2, 2013
Pretrial prison SIZO-5, Krasnodar