

LETTER TO FREE OLEG SENTSOV

In the light of the proceedings in the case of the Ukrainian filmmaker Oleg Sentsov and the fact that he has been sentenced to 20 years in jail, we wish to support the initiative of the European Film Academy:

To

Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin - President of Russia

Sergey Evgenyevich Naryshkin – Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation

Aleksandr Vasilievich Bortnikov - Director of the FSB

Vladimir Aleksandrovich Kolokoltsev - Russian Minister of Internal Affairs

Yuriy Yakovlevich Chaika - Prosecutor General

From the moment when we learned that the Ukrainian filmmaker Oleg Sentsov was arrested by the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation (FSB) in his house in Simferopol on 11 May 2014, we have been deeply worried. We have followed the proceedings from a trial repeatedly being postponed until over one year later when it finally opened in Rostov-on-Don. Having observed the trial and especially the fact that the key witness for the prosecution has retracted his testimony as “given under pressure and duress”, we are shocked that the accusation of Oleg Sentsov having committed “crimes of a terrorist nature” was upheld and that he was sentenced to 20 years in jail.

In the light of these circumstances, we respectfully call upon you

- to ensure the safety of Oleg Sentsov;
- to have the charges dropped due to insufficient evidence;
- to have the detained released immediately and unconditionally;
- to ensure complete rehabilitation of the detained;
- to instigate a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the apparently arbitrary detention by the FSB and Oleg Sentsov’s statements about torture in order to bring all those responsible to justice.

Yours faithfully,

Stephen Daldry, director, UK

Mike Downey, producer, UK

Agnieszka Holland, director, Poland

Dariusz Jablonski, producer, Poland

Aki Kaurismäki, director, Finland

Mike Leigh, director, UK

Ken Loach, director, UK

Wojciech Marczewski, director, Poland

Daniel Olbrychski, actor, Poland

Volker Schlöndorff, director, Germany

Béla Tarr, director, Hungary

Bertrand Tavernier, director, France

Andrzej Wajda, director, Poland

Wim Wenders, director, Germany

Krzysztof Zanussi, director, Poland