



16 March 2018  
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**UN Human Rights Council  
Thirty-seventh session, 26 February – 23 March 2018**

**Item 6:  
Consideration of UPR reports**

**Ukraine**

Mr. President,

Gender-based and domestic violence is a reality for thousands of women and children in Ukraine. Currently, there are few effective ways for victims to protect themselves and seek justice. Amnesty International welcomes Ukraine's passing of laws aimed at providing better protection for victims and imposing penalties on the perpetrators. However, this is just a first step and the laws require effective implementation. We welcome Ukraine's acceptance of recommendations to ensure the early ratification and implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.<sup>1</sup>

Since the beginning of the conflict in eastern Ukraine in April 2014, we have documented numerous human rights violations and abuses by both sides, including torture and ill-treatment, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions. We welcome Ukraine's commitment to cooperate with the International Criminal Court<sup>2</sup> and its acceptance of recommendations to ensure the speedy ratification of the Rome Statute.<sup>3</sup> We also call on Ukraine to commit to the prevention of conflict-related human rights abuses by both sides and welcome its accept of recommendations to thoroughly and independently investigate all allegations of human rights violations by members of

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<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/37/16, recommendations 116.19 (Bosnia and Hercegovina, Chile, Estonia, Montenegro, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey), 116.20 (Denmark), 116.21 (Andorra), 116.23 (Sierra Leone), 116.24 (Lithuania).

<sup>2</sup> See: Ukraine accepts ICC jurisdiction over alleged crimes committed since 20 February 2014, 8 September 2015 at: <https://www.icc-cpi.int/Pages/item.aspx?name=pr1146>

<sup>3</sup> A/HRC/37/16, recommendations 116.8-116.12 (Estonia, Latvia, Austria, Lithuania, Guatemala).

the Ukrainian law-enforcement agencies, in particular illegal detentions by the Security Service of Ukraine.<sup>4</sup>

We also welcome the establishment of the State Bureau of Investigations<sup>5</sup> and call on Ukraine to provide the necessary resources to enable effective investigations of crimes committed by other law-enforcement agencies, public officials and judges and to combat impunity.

Finally, Amnesty International notes with great concern the increase since 2016 in physical violence, including beatings and murder, against independent journalists and civil society organizations. We urge the Ukrainian government to urgently investigate the killings of journalists Oles Buzina and Pavlo Sheremet, and other attacks, as committed to during the review.<sup>6</sup>

Thank you, Mr. President,

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<sup>4</sup> A/HRC/37/16, recommendations 116.105-107 (Russian Federation, Switzerland, Brazil), 116.109 (UK).

<sup>5</sup> This was also recommended during the review of Ukraine, A/HRC/37/16, recommendation 116.101 (Namibia).

<sup>6</sup> A/HRC/37/16, recommendations 116.88 (Czechia).