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Cases of political prisoners opposed to President Putin, in the Russian Federation and in other countries

Reply to Written question[1]: Written question No. 792 (Doc. 15979)

1. The Committee of Ministers recalls that the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to which all 46 member States are parties, respectively provide human rights protection and enable monitoring of the situation of persons detained in Council of Europe member States. It recalls that any person under the jurisdiction of a member State who considers that his or her rights protected by the Convention have been violated, including the right to a fair trial, can lodge an application to the European Court of Human Rights under the conditions set forth in the Convention.

2. In the context of supervising the cases pending against the Russian Federation, the Committee has recently insisted on the urgent need for the authorities to ensure the release of all prisoners currently detained in the Russian Federation in abuse of power and for the purpose of silencing them and deterring other critics of the regime from protesting or speaking out, bearing in mind the risks to their health and security as well as the grave consequences for freedom of expression and political plurality in the Russian Federation. It also urged them to allow independent international bodies to monitor the reported political prisoners' state of health and conditions of detention, pending their release or re-examination of their cases.[2] At the Council of Europe Summit in Reykjavík on 15 May 2023, the President of the Committee of Ministers called for Mr Kara-Murza's immediate release as well as the release of all other peaceful civic and political activists arbitrarily deprived of liberty in Russia.[3]

1. Adopted at the 1504th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies (10 July 2024).
2. See CM/Del/Dec(2024)1492/H46-40.
3. DC 107(2023).