Director of the Federal Penitentiary Service   
of the Altai krai

Gerasimov Sergei Yermagenovich

Lenina prospekt

147-B, Barnaul

Altai krai, 656011

RUSSLAND

Datum

**Maria Ponomarenko**

Dear Director,

*Maria Ponomarenko* is a journalist and activist from Barnaul in Western Siberia. On 23 April 2022, she was detained for sharing a Telegram post about the bombing of the Drama Theatre in Mariupol, Ukraine. It contained a video from the theatre made before the attack and a short comment condemning civilian deaths. On 15 February 2023, *Maria* was sentenced to six years’ imprisonment and a five-year ban on engaging in journalism on her release.

In detention, she was treated brutally, and her health deteriorated. Therefore, I urge you to ensure that *Maria Ponomarenko* is released immediately and unconditionally; to ensure that the ill-treatment of *Maria Ponomarenko* is immediately stopped and that her treatment in any prison institution, as well as while in transit between them, complies with international law and standards; and to ensure that all those suspected of responsibility for *Maria Ponomarenko*’s ill-treatment are brought to justice in fair proceedings in accordance with international law.

Sincerely,