

*(Translated from Russian)*

Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation  
to the United Nations Office and Other International  
Organizations in Geneva  
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No. 2533

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honour of forwarding the Russian Federation's reply to the enquiry from the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, with regard to the situation of A.V. Tronin.

(Reference: AL RUS 6/2018)

The Permanent Mission takes this opportunity to convey to the Office the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 11 July 2018

Office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights  
Geneva.

HRC/NONE/2018/92  
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**Information from the Russian Federation in response to the enquiry of the special procedures mandate-holders of the United Nations Human Rights Council with regard to the situation of A.V. Tronin.**

**Reference: AL RUS 6/2018**

The Russian Federation has studied the enquiry of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, regarding the situation of A.V. Tronin and submits the following information.

Artem Vladimirovich Tronin, born on 27 March 1987, was sentenced on 23 November 2012 by the Gayny District Court in Perm Krai under articles 111 (4) (intentional infliction of serious damage to health, causing the victim's death through negligence), 116 (1) (battery), 127 (2) (a) and (g) (conspiracy by a group of persons unlawfully to deprive two or more persons of their liberty), 139 (1) (unlawful invasion of the home) and 119 (1) (threat of murder or infliction of serious harm to health) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, to 12 years imprisonment to be served in a strict regime correctional colony.

As on 1 January 2018, correctional colony No. 37 of the Perm Krai Central Department of the Federal Penal Correction Service of Russia found the corpse of the convict A.V. Tronin, who had committed suicide, the Perm Krai Investigative Department of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation launched a criminal inquiry into an offence covered by article 110 (1) of the Criminal Code (incitement of a person to commit suicide by threats, cruel treatment or systematic demeaning of the victim).

In the course of the investigation it was ascertained that on 1 January 2018, the corpse of convict A.V. Tronin, who had committed suicide, was found in cell No. 9b of the disciplinary unit of correctional colony No. 37. The corpse was hanging from a rope made of bed sheets, the end of which was fastened to the metal grating of the ventilation vent above the cell door. A.V. Tronin was held alone in that cell.

A.V. Tronin arrived in correctional colony No. 37 from correctional colony No. 22, correctional colony complex 19, of the Perm Krai Central Department of the Federal Penal Correction Service of Russia on 28 September 2016. He underwent a medical examination in accordance with the established procedure. He was diagnosed as having composite athlete's foot, non-acute chronic gastritis and an organic personality disorder. For this reason, he was given a regular medical check-up for his medical condition and received the prescribed treatment.

Health workers examined him before placements in the disciplinary unit, transfer to solitary confinement and on their daily rounds. No contraindications to being kept in the above-mentioned premises came to light.

As a preventive measure, as he was prone to suicide, on 1 December 2017, based on the warden's report, A.V. Tronin was placed in the psychological observation unit of correctional colony No. 37, as he had tried to commit suicide and had inflicted bodily injury on himself while serving his sentence in correctional colony 22.

The rules governing the conditions in which convict A.V. Tronin served his sentence and his food were respected.

While being held in correctional colony No. 37, the prisoner took part in eight psychological procedures, including in-depth psychological examination, individual counselling and diagnosis before placed in the disciplinary unit and transferred to solitary confinement.

The procuratorial bodies of Perm Krai did not discover any violations of the law with regard to A.V. Tronin's medical and health care in correctional colony No. 37. The procurator of the Krai did not receive any submissions from him on these specific issues.

The forensic examination of A.V. Tronin's corpse established that death resulted from mechanical asphyxiation owing to compression of the neck organs from hanging in a

noose. Under these circumstances, constriction was probably caused by pressure from the bed sheet presented for expert examination.

All the convicts held in the disciplinary unit between 31 December 2017 and 1 January 2018 and the officers of the correctional institution were questioned about the case. The testimony of those questioned and other evidence ruled out any threat, cruel treatment or systematic demeaning of A.V. Tronin.

In the course of the investigation, a videotape of the cell recorded by the surveillance camera located in the corridor of the unit was inspected. It was established that in the night of 31 December 2017 to 1 January 2018 none of the staff of the correctional institution or other convicts approached or checked on the convict in the cell.

A series of forensic inquiries were instituted and carried out in regard to this criminal case.

██████████, A.V. Tronin's mother was recognized as the injured party and given access to all the decisions to commission expert evidence and the findings of the investigative body.

The post-mortem combined psychological and psychiatric expert report established that A.V. Tronin did not suffer from a chronic mental disorder. He had a complex, predominantly emotionally unstable personality disorder.

The psychological analysis of the evidence led the experts to conclude that A.V. Tronin's suicidal behaviour was of a demonstratively blackmailing character.

The results of the molecular and genetic analyses of the traces of blood on the sheet and undergarments detected A.V. Tronin's DNA with more than 99.99 per cent certainty. The presence of another person's DNA is out of the question.

The criminal investigation is currently continuing. The statutory time limit for a preliminary criminal investigation has been extended for six months, in other words until 11 July 2018.

**No objective evidence confirming that A.V. Tronin's death was possibly caused by torture or cruel treatment by staff of correctional colony No. 37 was received during the investigation which was carried out.**

In view of the violations of the law on the enforcement of penalties, including of the requirement that convicts be kept under constant supervision, which had made A.V. Tronin's suicide possible, the Perm Krai Office of the Procurator applied for two orders to desist from unlawful action against the management of correctional colony No. 37. Based on the findings of the examination thereof, four staff members of the penal correction system, including the warden of correctional colony No. 37, were subjected to disciplinary action.

In these circumstances, when considering this incident, the special rapporteurs must bear in mind the fact that, in accordance with the requirements of Order No. 6 of the Procurator General of the Russian Federation of 16 January 2014 on the organization of oversight of the implementation of laws by the administrators of institutions and bodies enforcing criminal sentences and of remand centres holding persons arrested on suspicion of or convicted of the commission of crimes, procurators systematically check on compliance with laws in remand centres and correctional institutions. Whenever breaches of the law are found to have occurred, they take measures in response thereto which are designed to remedy them. Action, including criminal action, is taken against staff members of the penal correction system who are guilty of violating the rights of persons who have been arrested or convicted. (In 2017, 227 staff members of the penal correction system were convicted of service offences.)

In order to prevent the perpetration of unlawful acts against convicts by staff of correctional institutions and remand centres, the central office of the Federal Penal Correction Service of Russia exercises oversight of the measures taken by the local bodies of the penal enforcement system to improve technical supervision equipment. The number of video monitoring systems is increasing: currently the premises of more than 40,000

correctional institutions and remand centres are equipped with them (more than 4,700 correctional institutions and some 36,000 remand centres). The staff of the central office of the Federal Penal Correction Service systematically check on the workings of local bodies of the penal correction system to see that they ensure law and order, prevent crime and strengthen staff discipline. On the basis of the findings, measures are taken to remedy any shortcomings that have come to light. Local bodies of the penal correction system likewise conduct checks in correctional institutions and remand centres. In accordance with the laws and regulations and the requirements of, the above-mentioned Federal Penal Correction Service of Russia the staff of the penal correction system undergo individual training designed to give them moral education and inculcate a respectful attitude to the rights of citizens held in penal correction institutions. Telephone hotlines have been set up in the Federal Penal Correction Service of Russia and local bodies of the penal correction system to which relatives of suspects, defendants and convicts can turn with complaints, petitions and suggestions. The resources of community organizations, including supervisory committees is used in work to prevent the perpetration of unlawful acts by the staff of correctional institutions against convicts.

In view of the foregoing, the attempt of the special rapporteurs in their enquiry to proceed on the unfounded assertion that the competent Russian organs took no action in connection with these events basically appears to be interference in a criminal investigation. Such [conduct] is unacceptable and is not consonant with the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council, including the principles of objectivity, impartiality, and even-handedness.

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