

FREE ALEXANDER KUSHNAREV!

DON'T LET UKRAINIAN GOV'T COVER UP ODESSA MASSACRE

On May 2, 2014, at least 48 anti-fascist protesters were murdered by right-wing Ukrainian nationalists at the House of Trade Unions in Odessa, southeastern Ukraine. Those killed had opposed the right-wing coup that had recently taken place in the country's capital, Kiev, with active support from the U.S. government. Borotba, the group which issued this statement, was outlawed by the new regime and now operates underground.

Appeal to left and anti-fascist organizations in Europe and worldwide on the arrest of Alexander Kushnarev

On Feb. 23 a flagrant event happened in Odessa – agents of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) arrested Alexander Kushnarev, the father of anti-fascist Gennady Kushnarev, who was slain on May 2, 2014.

He is accused of organizing the kidnapping of Verkhovna Rada Deputy Alexei Goncharenko, who was photographed posing with Gennady's body on May 2.

Alexander Kushnarev, like the other relatives of the dead, is a major obstacle to the Ukrainian government, which is trying to cover up the massacre that occurred on May 2, 2014, in Odessa.

They refuse to be silent about this tragedy. They hold memorial rallies, produce literature about the events of May 2, and knock on the doors of all international human rights organizations.

Such activity by relatives of the dead is a "sore spot" for the authorities, as it prevents them from presenting Ukraine to the international community as a democratic country.

In order to silence these people, the regime took a vile step: using the grief from the loss of his son, they set up the father of the deceased anti-fascist to seek revenge. For greater resonance, the chosen target was a deputy of the Ukrainian parliament who took part in the suppression of the opposition on May 2, 2014 -- Alexei Goncharenko.

To be fair, it must be said that Alexei Goncharenko didn't kill anyone, and was not the organizer of the massacre, but it was he who reported the victory of pro-government forces during the live broadcast on the country's main TV networks. And he did it against the background of the dead Gennady Kushnarev. As a result, the hatred of Odessites for this character is extremely great.

But the problem goes deeper. This situation was made possible because of the sabotage of the investigation of the mass



GENNADY AND ALEXANDER KUSHNAREV

murder at the House of Trade Unions by law enforcement agencies. For nearly three years, Odessa anti-fascists have languished in Ukrainian prisons, while the murderers who finished off those who leapt from windows to escape the burning building, those who shot peaceful citizens of Odessa, are still at large. It is this absence of justice which makes people seek justice on their own.

The authorities provoked this act intentionally, to have an excuse to arrest other activists of the anti-fascist movement. And so, immediately after the arrest of Alexander Kushnarev, searches began of homes of activists of Kulikovo Field.

We appeal to all concerned people for solidarity! We ask you to organize pickets and rallies outside Ukrainian embassies and consulates, as well as in the streets of your cities!

We ask for the maximum circulation of the information that the Ukrainian government, after assassinating the anti-fascists, wants to imprison their parents!

We will seek the release of Alexander in all international legal bodies, and in case of failure -- through prisoner exchange.

We will not allow them to silence the May 2 massacre in Odessa!

Borotba is always on the side of those who think and fight!

Union Borotba (Struggle), February 24, 2017

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