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**Lettre au chef du Service pénitencier de Crimée**

Major General Vadim V. Bulgakov

Head of the Federal Penitentiary Service

Ul Gagarina 18-a

Simferopol

Crimée

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Major General,

As a member/supporter of ACAT-Belgium, the Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture, I am writing to you on behalf of **Edem Bekirov,** currently held in the Simferopol SIZO after being arrested on 12 December 2018 while visiting his mother in Crimea. Edem Bekirov, who is a wheelchair user, is held in a detention center not suitable for a person with a disability, which prevents him from getting fresh air or accessing basic sanitation. Moreover, Mr Bekirov has a number of medical conditions, including diabetes, an open wound on his amputated leg as well as heart problems (due to a previous heart attack), that require both a specialized and constant medical care, unavailable in the detention center.

After his most recent visit on 24 May, Edem Bekirov’s lawyer reported a visible deterioration of his health, raising concerns not only for his wellbeing, but also for his life. Edem Bekirov’s family is extremely concerned about the inhumane conditions in which Edem Bekirov is being kept. These conditions violate his human rights, put his life at risk and definitely amount to inhuman and degrading treatment. Yet fundamental rights are enshrined in the International Covenant on civil and political rights (ICCPR) and in the UN Convention against torture (CAT), which the Russian Federation is Party to and is bound to respect, including in occupied territories.

I therefore call on you to urgently ensure:

* that **Edem Bekirov** is provided with the medical care he requires, in a hospital outside of the penitentiary system if necessary;
* that **Edem Bekirov** will not be subject to any reprisals because of his request to see his basic human rights respected.

I thank you for the attention you will give to this concern.

Yours respectfully,

Signature

Name

Address

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