

To:
Fiona Marshal,
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

From:
Irina Sukhiy,
Public Association "Ecohome"
Belarus

Re: ACCC/C/2014/102, replies to Committee's questions of May 8, 2017

May 10, 2017

Dear Ms. Marshall,

Thank you for sending us the questions by the Compliance Committee related to our communication C/102 (Belarus). Please, find below our brief replies.

Best regards,

Irina Sukhiy

Tatyana Novikova

Members of the board of Public Association "Ecohome"

Question 1. Please clarify the following with regard to the identity check of Ms. Sukhiy on 26 April 2013:

(a) What time on 26 April 2013 was Ms. Sukhiy stopped for the identity check and how long before the start of the Chernobyl Way 2013 street action was she stopped?

Ms. Sukhiy (along with the other environmental activists: Olga Kaskevich, Vasiliy Sinukhin, Konstantin Kirilenko) was stopped at about **17:54** (<http://atomby.net/index.php/component/content/article/18-2013-01-12-22-24-25/339--qq-q-q-q-q>), which was about **35 minutes** before the start of the Chernobyl Way 2013. In 2013 beginning of the rally was scheduled by the city powers at **18.30** (<http://nn.by/?c=ar&i=108482&lang=ru>).

(b) What reasons, if any, did the public authorities give to Ms. Sukhiy as a justification for why her identity needed to be checked?

Police men, all in civil dresses, showed their IDs and explained that identification procedure was needed due to recently increased cases of robberies in apartments in the district.

(c) Was Ms. Sukhiy carrying her correct identification documents? How long after she was stopped did she give her identification documents to the authorities?

She was stopped immediately after she left her apartment (at the entrance of the multi-apartment building). Upon request, she returned home to pick up her passport, and immediately handed her passport to the police men, who were waiting in the street. After that, she was told to move into minibus (see attached photo of the bus taken by Ms. Novikova who remained in the apartment). Ms. Sukhiy (along with

the other environmental activists: Olga Kaskevich, Vasiliy Sinukhin, Konstantin Kirilenko) was immediately taken to local police station nearby in that minibus for further identity check.

(d) What time did the Chernobyl Way 2013 street action finish?

The end of the rally Chernobyl Shliah-2013 officially scheduled by the city powers was at **21.00**. The action finished about this time, at **20.58** http://naviny.by/rubrics/society/2013/04/26/ic_articles_116_181603

(e) What time was Ms. Sukhiy released after the identity check was completed? How long in total did the identity check of Ms. Sukhiy take? Did the authorities provide Ms. Sukhiy with a reason for the length of time the identity check took, and if so, what was the reason given?

She was released at about **21.00** (along with the other environmental activists: Olga Kaskevich, Vasiliy Sinukhin, Konstantin Kirilenko and within three hours after detention, http://naviny.by/rubrics/society/2013/04/26/ic_articles_116_181603). It took about 3 hours for police to do identity check procedure. During this procedure Ms. Sukhiy was sitting in a class room of the local police station. No explanation was given as to the length or any other peculiarities of the identity check process. Upon release, police men apologized to her.

2. Please clarify in what way Ms. Novikova was allegedly “blocked in her apartment” on 26 April 2013 until the Chernobyl Way 2013 event was over. Between which times on 26 April 2013 do you allege that she could not leave her apartment? Please provide any further supporting evidence you have to substantiate how Ms. Novikova was allegedly blocked in her apartment. What were the indications that caused Ms Novikova to understand that she was the reason for the police presence at her apartment building on 26 April?

Ms. Novikova was in Irina Sukhiy’s apartment (please, note the communication states “was blocked in the apartment”, some mass-media wrongly reported that she was “blocked in her (meaning Novikova’s) apartment”. Novikova visited apartment of Irina Sukhiy before the rally because there was a place of the gathering for environmental activists; there also were stored the banners and signs for the rally, made by activists).

She saw police men through the window detaining Ms. Sukhiy and taking her by mini-bus away. Also about detainment she was informed by the daughter of Irina, who was teenager at that time. When Irina was detained and taken by policemen, the other policemen were staying at the entrance to the house. Irina’s apartment is on the first floor of the building. Ms. Novikova find out that the policeman and the men in civil clothes were also staying under each window of Iryna’s apartment. Irina’s daughter confirmed it, after she was going out several times. The minibus returned immediately back to the same place after it took Ms. Irina Sukhiy to police department (which is nearby). The photo below was made by Novikova from the apartment of Ms. Sukhiy when she “was blocked in”. When Ms. Sukhiy daughter, a teenager, went outside to pick up the posters from the car parked on the street, the police men prevented her from taking the posters back home. Daughter of Irina confirmed also to Ms. Novikova that the men in civil clothes, which were staying at the entrance to the house and under the windows of the apartment, are the same people, who detained her mother. This was sufficient evidence for Ms. Novikova to assume that she is effectively blocked inside the apartment since her assumption was that coming out would mean an “identity check” for her or another arrest (like a year ago). This blocking took place between the time of detention of Ms. Sukhiy (around 18.00) till 21.00.

