

Head of the Investigative Directorate
Airat Saetovich Akhmedshin
Investigative Committee, Nizhnii Novgorod region
Ul. Marshala Voronkova, 22a
Nizhnii Novgorod 603950
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Groningen,2021

Dear Head of the Investigative Directorate,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the ongoing criminal prosecution of civil society activist Mikhail Iosilevich. On 8 October 2020, Iosilevich was charged under Article 284.1 of the Russian Criminal Code for alleged cooperation with an 'undesirable organization'. The investigators accused him of having provided the premises for a training conducted by an 'undesirable' organisation, Open Russia.

While this is a 'crime' only under Russian legislation, which itself contravenes Russia's international human rights obligations and must be repealed, the prosecution of Mikhail Iosilevich is also based on false grounds. He insists that the training had been conducted by another organization, Golos, a Russian movement of election monitors, and that there is no evidence of his involvement with Open Russia.

I urge you to ensure an end to Mikhail Iosilevich' unfounded criminal prosecution.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,