

Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation
Yuriy Yakovlevich Chaika
Prosecutor General's Office
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RUSSIA

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Dear Prosecutor General,

I am writing concerning the conviction on 4 October 2019 of **Yan Sidorov and Vladislav Mordasov** under fabricated "mass disturbances" charges, and of **Viacheslav Shashmin**, who received a three-year suspended sentence. **Sidorov and Mordasov** were arrested on 5 November 2017 while preparing to hold a picket in front of the Rostov regional government building in support of Rostov citizens who had lost their houses in mass fires in July-August 2017. **Viacheslav Shashmin** was arrested some distance away and maintains he did not take part in the picket.

I urge you to quash the conviction of **Yan Sidorov, Vladislav Mordasov and Viacheslav Shashmin**, as they were prosecuted solely for their attempt to exercise their right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. In addition, I urge you to ensure that Sidorov's and Mordasov's allegations of torture are promptly, effectively and impartially investigated, and anyone found responsible is brought to justice in fair trial proceedings.

Thank you for your attention. I am kindly awaiting your reply.

Yours sincerely,