

URGENT ACTION

INDIGENOUS LEADER DETAINED IN RUSSIA

Daria Egereva is a representative of the Selkup people - one of the small Indigenous groups of Western Siberia in Russia. She also serves as Co-Chair of the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) and is widely recognized for her leadership in advancing Indigenous rights globally. Daria was detained in December 2025. At the same time, searches were conducted at the homes of at least 17 other Indigenous activists and human rights defenders, suggesting a broader crackdown on Indigenous civil society.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

*Head of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation
Bastrykin Aleksander Ivanovich*

*2 Tehnicheskiy Pereulok
Moscow
105005
Russian Federation*

Dear Mr. Bastrykin

I am writing to express my deep concern over the prosecution of Indigenous rights defender Daria Egereva. On 17 December 2025 she was detained and charged under Article 205.5, Part 2 of the Russian Criminal Code ("participation in the activities of a terrorist organisation").

Daria Egereva is a prominent human rights defender and climate activist who has long engaged in international advocacy for Indigenous peoples. Her work has focused exclusively on climate issues, Indigenous culture, languages, and women's rights. Daria's prosecution appears to be a direct retaliation for her human rights work.

Counterterrorism legislation must not be misused to target Indigenous civil society and silence those who promote and protect the rights of minority communities.

I urge you to do everything in your power to ensure Daria Egereva's immediate and unconditional release, that all charges against her are dropped, and ensure a safe and enabling environment for her to continue her human rights activism.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Daria Egereva was detained in Moscow on 17 December 2025 after returning from the COP30 United Nations Climate Conference in Belém, Brazil. The Russian authorities have charged her under Article 205.5, Part 2 of the Criminal Code (“participation in the activities of a terrorist organisation”), an offence that carries a possible sentence of 10 to 20 years in prison.

The charges are linked to her alleged involvement in the Aborigen Forum, an informal network of experts, leaders, and activists that analyse legislation and advocate for the rights, interests, and cultures of Indigenous communities. In 2024, the Supreme Court of Russia designated 172 organisations linked to ethnic minorities or Indigenous peoples as “terrorist”, including the Aborigen Forum. Daria represented the Centre for Support of Indigenous Small-Numbered Peoples of the North, a member organisation of the Forum.

At the time of Daria’s arrest, searches were conducted at the homes of at least 17 other Indigenous activists and human rights defenders, suggesting a broader crackdown on Indigenous civil society. On 12 March, the Basmany District Court of Moscow held a hearing on the extension of her pre-trial detention. At the request of the investigation, the court extended her detention for an additional three months. The hearing was open to the public and

attended by diplomats from several embassies, as well as Daria’s husband and children.

Daria Egereva is an Indigenous rights defender from Russia and a representative of the Selkup people, one of the small Indigenous groups of Western Siberia. The Selkup are a northern Indigenous people numbering approximately 3,500 individuals, primarily living in the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug and Tyumen Region, as well as in Tomsk Region and Krasnoyarsk Krai.

Daria Egereva is also a prominent human rights defender and climate activist who has long engaged in international advocacy for Indigenous peoples. She serves as Co-Chair of the International Indigenous Peoples’ Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) and is widely recognised for her leadership in advancing Indigenous rights globally. Her work has focused on climate issues, Indigenous cultures and languages, and the rights of Indigenous women. She is also a long-time member of the Centre for Support of Indigenous Peoples of the North (CSIPN).

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Russian or English

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 1 July

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PRONOUN: Daria Egereva (she/her)