

Parliamentary Question

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PQ71058/26	Paul Murphy	Written
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Parliamentary Question

To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if she will contact her Ukrainian counterpart to communicate opposition to the imprisonment of a person (details supplied); given that the evidence against the person was purely their communications with an international socialist group, including their condemnation of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and of Putin; and whether she considers the persons conviction as illustrative of a crackdown on civil liberties in Ukraine.

Details Supplied

Bogdan Syrotiuk, a 27 year old Ukrainian citizen sentenced to 15 years in prison for "high treason", considering that the prosecution did not produce evidence that Bogdan engaged in any collaboration with the Russian military



Reply

Minister Answering

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Helen McEntee

I note the concerns raised by the deputy regarding the case of the named individual.

The principles of judicial independence and due process along with fundamental rights including freedom of expression and political opinion are central to Ireland's values, and to democracy, and these principles must be upheld in judicial proceedings.

Ireland recognises progress made by Ukraine in strengthening its institutions and the rule of law, which are necessary as Ukraine seeks to join the European Union. The EU Commission has also recognised progress in this regard, including reforms in the Ukrainian justice system.

In the case raised by the deputy, it is understood that an appeal has been lodged and the case remains before the courts. Therefore, it would not be appropriate for me to seek to interfere in ongoing judicial proceedings in Ukraine.

My department will continue to monitor developments in the case, while respecting the independence of the Ukrainian justice system.

