

To the President of Ukraine
Mr. Victor Yanukovich
c/o Botschaft der Ukraine
Albrechtstr. 27
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Berlin, 21.10.2013

Vorstand

**Re.: Petition to stop the destruction of AIDS department within the State Institution
"Gromashevskiy Institute of Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases under the NAMS of
Ukraine"**

Dear Mr. President,

we, the Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe, would like to express our appreciation for your attention to the problems of HIV-positive people in Ukraine.

On behalf of organizations working with HIV-positive people and engaged in the fight against HIV/AIDS epidemic, we would like to express our concern about information on destruction of the AIDS department of the SI "Gromashevskiy Institute of Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases under NAMS of Ukraine" (clinic "Lavra"), which until recently was located at the address: 11,Lavrskaja Str.,Kiev.

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that the AIDS department of the Institute is the only medical facility in Eastern Europe that has the level of expertise sufficient for diagnostics and treatment of the most difficult cases. Thousands of patients from all regions of Ukraine as well as CIS countries come to this department in the last hope to save their lives. The AIDS department is the facility that implements the best medical practices that has been acknowledged both in Ukraine and abroad. It is a powerful base for education and training of doctors specializing in infectious diseases in Ukraine and neighboring countries.

The Clinic received significant financial help from international donors, domestic charitable organizations and individuals; their multi-million dollar donations allowed carrying out major renovations, purchasing equipment and furniture. At the same time, the state has not made any financial investments in the development of the clinic.

Today, due to the fact that the Clinic has been deprived from its premises and the planned relocation to the new building has not been carried out yet, 9,000 patients who require the highly skilled medical assistance and in-patient treatment have been left without treatment, and comprehensive medical care has been ceased since the integrity of the Clinic was destroyed. It is planned to send two third of Clinic's personnel on two months' unpaid leave. After the eviction of the Clinic and termination of hospitalization, five patients died waiting for their treatment.

The appeals of the HIV-positive community of Ukraine to the management of the Institute, the President of the National Academy of Medical Sciences, Dr. Andriy Serdyuk and the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Mr. Mykola Azarov have not yielded any result – the Clinic still is not provided with any premises, patients do not receive appropriate treatment and continue to die.

Apparently, this situation could be regarded as a violation of the right to health for people living with HIV, guaranteed by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, European Social Charter, Constitution of Ukraine and the Law of Ukraine "On combating the spread of diseases caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and legal and social protection of people living with HIV."

Taking into account the dramatically high rates of spread of HIV infection in Ukraine name of the organization appeals to stop the destruction of the AIDS Department of SI "Gromashevsky Institute of Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases under the NAMS of Ukraine", to ensure allocation of new premises for this facility and to bring to justice those who endanger the lives of thousands of people and destroy the unique clinic of such level.

Faithfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CS', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Carsten Schatz
Board of Directors