Prosecutor General Yuriy Chaika

Prosecutor General’s Office

ul. B. Dmitrovka, d.15a

125993 Moscow GSP- 3

Russian Federation

Dear Prosecutor General:

I write to you out of great concern for the case of Mikhail Tsakunov, who was arrested in May on charges of participating in an “unauthorized” protest rally and “violence against a police officer endangering their life or health.” This second charge is punishable with up to 10 years of imprisonment. Mr. Tsakunov was physically and verbally abused during the arrest.

Amateur video of his arrest clearly shows that Mr. Tsakunov was simply peacefully exercising his rights to freedom of expression and assembly. As such, the charges against him are without merit as they are refuted by this publicly available video footage.

I respectfully request that you release Mikhail Tsakunov immediately and unconditionally as he has been arrested solely for peacefully exercising his rights to freedom of expression and assembly. I ask you to investigate the circumstances of his arrest and the use of force by police. Finally, I request that you ensure that the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly are fully respected in Russia.

Yours sincerely,