Open Letter to Jeremy Corbyn on the campaign for Bogdan Syrotiuk’s freedom

Socialist Equality Party (UK)
27 November 2026

On August 27, Tom Scripps, the assistant national secretary of the Socialist Equality Party (UK), wrote to you as the parliamentary leader of Your Party, appealing for support in the international campaign to free Bogdan Syrotiuk, a 27-year-old socialist and anti-war activist imprisoned by the Zelensky regime for his opposition to the NATO-provoked war.

As Scripps explained, Bogdan’s 15-year sentence for “high treason under martial law” handed down by Pervomaisk City District Court on August 10 was based solely on six articles he wrote for the *World Socialist Web Site* between October 17, 2022, and October 10, 2023, and his communications with its editors.

Scripps warned that Bogdan’s health was poor, that he had been denied urgently needed medical treatment and that “every day behind bars is a threat to his life.” His letter outlined the appalling conditions in Ukraine’s penitentiary system as documented by the UN Committee Against Torture, producing a rising toll of deaths in custody.

Noting your stated opposition to NATO’s escalatory actions in Ukraine, Scripps’ letter stated unequivocally, “Bogdan is in prison because he fought to bring the war you have opposed to an end. He advocated a socialist policy opposed to the Putin and Zelensky regimes and Ukraine’s imperialist backers, seeking to mobilise the working class against them all. As part of that fight, he exposed the revival of fascism in Ukraine which you criticised five years ago.”

Our appeal was simple: “issue a public statement defending Bogdan and calling for his immediate release and publicise it widely through your media and social media channels.”

No reply was forthcoming, either from you or Your Party.

On September 24, Tony Robson, the UK industrial editor of the *World Socialist Web Site*, approached you at a public meeting in Sheffield on “The Gaza Tribunal: Britain’s Complicity in Genocide”. During your book signing session, you committed to make a public statement against Bogdan’s imprisonment. You told Robson you were “confident” that, after a discussion with Your Party’s officers that weekend, you could produce a video statement.

You made clear what was at stake, remarking that Ukraine’s government was “basically rehabilitating the Nazis of 1942”. Robson replied that Bogdan had been thrown in prison for exposing the official rehabilitation of the fascist Ukrainian nationalist movement led by Stephan Bandera, direct accomplices to the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union and the Holocaust.

However, you failed to honour your commitment. The SEP wrote again on October 24, urging you to redress the situation, but again, no reply was forthcoming.

Your continued silence cannot be explained by a lack of familiarity with the facts surrounding Bogdan’s imprisonment, or ignorance about the repressive nature of the Zelensky regime. Moreover, this is a high-profile campaign with international backing, including from the Stop the War Coalition in Britain (of which you are deputy president), Jean-Luc Mélenchon’s La France Insoumise, and the Peoples’ Equality and Democracy Party, which raised the issue in the Turkish parliament.

Your Party’s ongoing silence on Bogdan is a conscious political stance. It takes place under conditions where the Burnham Labour government and other European powers are pursuing a reckless escalation of war against Russia. Your refusal to call for Bogdan’s freedom and to publicise the campaign exposes Your Party’s support for the ferocious war

© World Socialist Web Site

propaganda by British imperialism to conceal its predatory interests, namely that Britain is intervening against Russia to defend Ukrainian democracy.

On August 27, Scripps cited Your Party's founding commitments to "stand against militarism" and "in defence of democratic rights and liberties", noting that "Bogdan's persecution is a test case for these principles". Workers and youth are entitled to draw the necessary conclusions, namely that Your Party's professed anti-militarism and defence of democratic rights are simply a cover for your defence of imperialism.

Yours fraternally,

Chris Marsden (National Secretary, Socialist Equality Party)

To contact the WSWS and the Socialist Equality Party visit:

wsws.org/contact

© World Socialist Web Site