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On trial Ukraine ex-PM Tymoshenko requests doctor



Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko told the court trying her for abuse of office Thursday that she was unwell and wanted to be examined by a doctor independent of the prison authorities holding her.

Tymoshenko, 50, appeared tired in court, seven weeks after her trial began and two weeks after she was ordered detained. However, it was unclear what health complaint she was suffering.

"This is more than just a cold," her lawyer Mykola Siry told the court. "In her present condition, she cannot properly take part in the trial."

After the judge noted that she had refused an examination in prison, Tymoshenko said: "I refuse to be treated by anyone sent by the government ... I demand to be seen by a doctor I trust."

She displayed no obvious symptoms beyond apparent fatigue.

Tymoshenko, a prominent opponent of President Viktor Yanukovich, denies illegally forcing Ukraine's state energy firm into an unfavorable gas supply deal with Russia when she was prime minister in 2009.

She was ordered detained on August 5 after she had repeatedly dismissed the case as a political vendetta by Yanukovich. The United States and European Union criticized her detention.

A leader of the 2004 "Orange Revolution" protests that doomed Yanukovich's first bid for the presidency, Tymoshenko retains a substantial popular following, though narrowly lost a presidential election to Yanukovich in early 2010.

(Reporting by Pavel Polityuk; Writing by Olzhas Auyezov; Editing by Alastair Macdonald)