



Russian Federation:

What justice for Chechnya's disappeared?

July 2007

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Cover image: A Chechen man with a photo of his daughter, who was taken from her home by masked men and never seen again ' Dima Beliakov



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Russian Federation

What justice for Chechnya's disappeared?

Thousands of men, women and children have disappeared from state custody or been abducted by armed groups during the conflict in the Chechen Republic since 1999. In the majority of cases, Russian Federation soldiers and other Russian and Chechen state agents were allegedly responsible.

Although investigations have been opened in many cases, Amnesty International is aware of only a tiny handful of cases in which a state official has actually been prosecuted and convicted for offences related to an enforced disappearance – and in no case has a state official been prosecuted for the enforced disappearance itself.

Amnesty International is calling on the Russian federal and Chechen authorities to put a stop to the continuing enforced disappearances and to address impunity for these violations. In particular the authorities should ensure that all allegations of enforced disappearances are promptly, thoroughly and independently investigated. All mass grave sites should be examined by forensic experts. Relatives of the disappeared and witnesses should be protected from intimidation and reprisals. Above all, the fate and whereabouts of all the disappeared or abducted individuals should be established and all those responsible for enforced disappearances and abductions should be brought to justice.

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