

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 46/008/2009

28 April 2009

Further Information on 342/08 (EUR 46/031/2008, 12 December 2008) and follow-up (EUR 46/005/2009, 10 February 2009; EUR 46/006/2009, 03 March 2009) - Torture/ill-treatment/health concern/non-provision of medical care

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Zubair Isaevich ZubairaeV (m), 30 years old

Zubair ZubairaeV was again severely beaten on 10 and 12 April, according to a report from his lawyer. When Zubair ZubairaeV's lawyer visited him in the prison hospital in Volgograd on 23 April, he noticed signs of beatings on his client's body. The lawyer has stated that Zubair ZubairaeV had severe bruising on his shoulders and across his chest. There were also signs of beatings on his lower back. The lawyer asked the prison hospital official to call for a doctor so that the injuries could be documented; however, the official reportedly refused to do so.

In August 2007 Zubair ZubairaeV was sentenced to five years in a high security prison and sent to prison colony IAR-154/25 in Frolovo, Volgograd region. According to sources close to Zubair ZubairaeV, he was tortured and otherwise ill-treated by prison colony officers throughout the period he was held there. This included the use of electric shocks. The sources reported that he was also repeatedly beaten with plastic bottles filled with water, as well as with truncheons and rifle butts, until he fainted, after which guards revived him in order to continue the beatings. No medical help was provided and the injuries he received were not recorded.

After making several complaints to the prosecutor's office about being tortured and ill-treated, Zubair ZubairaeV was transferred to prison colony No 9 in Volgograd. In February 2008 he was admitted to prison hospital LIU-15 in Volgograd; however, the beatings and other ill-treatment from the prison officers reportedly continued. Zubair ZubairaeV complained again about his treatment to the authorities. This resulted in an inspection of the prison hospital in October 2008, by the Volgograd regional prosecutor who found no evidence of misconduct by the prison authorities.

Officials at the prison hospital, as well as an official from the Volgograd Public Prosecutor's office, are said to have verbally threatened Zubair ZubairaeV that if he does not stop complaining about his treatment in detention, his prison sentence will be extended or he might "accidentally" die in prison. They also reportedly made threats against his family, saying "something might happen" to his sisters. In February 2009, Zubair ZubairaeV was reportedly severely beaten and placed in an isolation cell as punishment for allegedly possessing a painkilling tablet.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International regularly receives reports of torture or other ill-treatment in places of detention across the Russian Federation, including in prison colonies, and of the frequent failure of the authorities to investigate effectively such allegations and to bring those suspected of violations to justice. In February 2007, the UN Committee against Torture expressed its concern regarding the inadequate health care provided to people in pre-trial detention centres and prison colonies.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Russian, English or your own language:

- calling on the authorities to ensure that Zubair ZubairaeV is not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that Zubair ZubairaeV is treated in accordance with provisions set out in the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners;
- calling for an immediate, thorough, independent and impartial investigation into the allegations of torture and other ill-treatment and threats against Zubair ZubairaeV and his family, with the results made public and those found responsible brought to justice;
- urging that Zubair ZubairaeV is examined by independent doctors and receives all necessary medical care, in accordance with provisions set out in the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

APPEALS TO:

Yurii Yakovlevich Chaika
Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation
Office of the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation
Ul. Bolshaia Dmitrovka 15a
125 993 Moscow
Russian Federation

Fax: +7 495 692 1725 (fax may be switched off outside of office hours (four hours ahead of GMT))

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

Yurii Ivanovich Kalinin
Director of the Federal Service for Execution of Sentences
Federal Service for Execution of Sentences
Ul. Zhitnaia, 14
119991 GSP-1, Moscow
Russian Federation

Fax: +7 495 982 1930

Salutation: Dear Director

Vladimir Petrovich Lukin
Ombudsperson for Human Rights of the Russian Federation
Miasnitskaia ul. 47
107084 Moscow
Russian Federation

Fax: +7 495 60739 77

Salutation: Dear Ombudsperson

COPIES TO:

Leonid Leontievich Beliak
Prosecutor of Volgograd region
Pr. Lenina, 8
400066 Volgograd
Russian Federation

Email: pochtaproc@vlpost.ru

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor

and to diplomatic representatives of Russian Federation accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 9 June.