

5 April 2002

Further information on UA 16/02 (EUR 46/002/2002, 16 January 2002) -
Torture/ill-treatment/ "disappearance"/arbitrary detention

RUSSIAN FEDERATION/Shaiikh-Akhmed Magomadov (m), aged 25

CHECHEN REPUBLIC

Akhmed Ezerpashaevich Baisultanov (m), aged 39
Khanpash Ezerpashaevich Baisultanov (m), aged 33
Suleyman Ezerpashaevich Baisultanov (m), aged 28
Salamu Maziev (m), aged 41
Khamzat Israilov (m), aged 32
Malika Ustrakhanova (f)
Abbas Magomadov (m), aged 19
Khamzat Israilov (m)
Shamil Mandyzhadziev (m), aged 46

New names: Shamsuli Khozhaev (m) aged 20

Elbek Khariev (m)
Dzhabrail Tashukhadziev (m)
Elbek Madaev (m)
Borz-Ali Khadzhimuradov (m)]
Borz-Featikh Khadzhimuradov (m)] brothers
Islambek Khadzhimuradov (m)]

Usman Akhmadov (m)]

Said Akhmadov (m)] brothers
Said-Amin Akhmadov (m)]
Said-Akhmed Khasmikov (m)

Amnesty International has received further reports of raids on the village of Tsotsin-Yurt in the Chechen Republic. The civilian population were reportedly subjected to torture and ill-treatment. The eleven additional people listed above "disappeared" between 26 and 30 March.

On 24 March, two members of Russian security forces were reportedly killed by Chechen fighters in Tsotsin-Yurt. The following day, Russian forces surrounded and raided the village, preventing anyone from entering or leaving. During the blockade, which lasted until 1 April, Russian forces detained approximately 300 men and subjected them to torture and ill-treatment. Most of the men were later released, with some reportedly paying bribes to secure their freedom. However, at least 11 men were reportedly taken away by Russian forces and have since "disappeared".

Brothers, Umar, Lom-Ali and Ali-Khadzhi Musaev are amongst those who "disappeared", following their reported detention on 29 March. They are reportedly being held by Russian forces who are demanding \$1,000 per person to secure their release.

Russian forces reportedly left the village on 1 April, but according to reports dated 4 April, Russian military helicopters have again been seen flying over the village, raising fears that a further raid is imminent. Villagers attempting to flee the area also allege having to pay bribes to Russian forces in order to be able to leave or are forced to return home.

The fate and whereabouts of the 11 people named in the original urgent action, who were detained by Russian security forces during the December 2001-January 2002 raid on Tsotsin-Yurt, is unknown.

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

- expressing concern at reports that Russian soldiers have repeatedly raided the village of Tsotsin-Yurt, Kurchaloi district, Chechnya, subjecting civilians to torture and "disappearance";
- urging the Russian authorities urgently to guarantee the safety and security of civilians during raids and to facilitate the evacuation of civilians fearful of their safety;
- expressing concern for the safety of persons named above and urging the authorities urgently to determine their fate and whereabouts;
- asking for a prompt and thorough investigation into all allegations of extra-judicial execution, "disappearance", torture and arbitrary detention during raids in Tsotsin-Yurt and other towns and villages in Chechnya, and to prosecute those found responsible.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Russian Federation
Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin
Kreml
Moskva
Russian Federation

Telegrams: President Putin, Kreml, Moskva, Russia
Fax: + 7 095 206 8510 or + 7 095 230 2408
e-mail: president@gov.ru
Salutation: Dear President Putin

Procurator General of the Russian Federation,
Vladimir USTINOV
Ul. B. Dimitrovka, d.15a
103793 g. Moskva K-31
Russian Federation

Telegrams: Procurator General, Kreml, Moskva, Russia
Fax: + 7 095 292 88 48
Salutation: Dear Procurator General

COPIES TO:

Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation on Human Rights and Freedoms in the Chechen Republic
Vladimir Kalamonov
Administratsiya Prezidenta Rossiyskoy Federatsii
Staraya ploshad pod. 6,
103132 g. Moskva
Russian Federation
Fax: + 7 095 206 73 44

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

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 17 May 2002.