

RUSSIA Said-Magomed Imakaev (m) aged 45
FEDERATION/Said-Khusein Imakaev (m) his son
CHECHNYA Ruslan Utsaev (m)
Movsar Taisumov (m)
Idris Abdulazimov (m)
Aslambek *second name not known*(m)

Five of the men named above were taken from their homes by members of the Russian security forces on 2 June. It is not known where they are being held or why they were detained. A sixth man, Said-Khusein Imakaev "disappeared" on 14 December 2000. There are concerns for the men's safety, as Chechen civilians are frequently tortured, ill-treated or killed in detention.

According to reports at 6:20 a.m. on 2 June, approximately 20 members of the Russian security forces travelling in an armoured personnel carrier, arrived at the home of Said-Magomed Imakaev on Ordzhonikidze street, in the village of Novye Atagi, Chechnya. The soldiers, who did not identify themselves or state the reason their presence, searched the house and detained Said-Magomed Imakaev. They then proceeded to a neighbouring street and detained four other men, including a young man named Aslambek.

The men's families have been unable to find out where they are being held. On 3 June, the military commander in Shali, a town 20 kilometres south-west of Grozny, indicated to Said-Magomed Imakaev's wife, Marzet Imakaeva that her husband was being held in that town. However, on 4 June, an official from the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation (FSB) in Shali said that her husband was not being held in the town, but might have been taken to the village of Mesker-Yurt in the Shali district.

For the past eighteen months, Marzet Imakaeva and her husband have been searching for their son Said-Khusein Imakaev, who was detained by federal troops on 14 December 2000, and has since "disappeared".

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Many Chechen civilians have disappeared after being detained by Russian security forces. The bodies of some of the "disappeared" have later been found in unmarked dumping sites or mass graves. Many appear to have suffered torture, including rape, or violent death. For example forty-year-old Nura Lulueva and her cousins Markha and Raisa Gakaeva and Aset Elbuzdukueva were arrested during a raid on a market in Grozny on 3 June 2000. Their blindfolded bodies were found on a dumping site in Dachny village, near the Russian military base at Khankala, on 4 March 2001.

Amnesty International has gathered numerous reports of male and female detainees, being subjected to torture, including rape, being beaten with hammers and clubs, given electric shocks or being sprayed with tear gas while in the custody of the Russian security forces. During military raids, ostensibly to root out Chechen fighters, Russian security forces continue to subject the civilian population to serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. Amnesty International and other human rights organizations have gathered corroborating witness testimony on violations against civilians during these raids that include detention without charge, torture, including rape, and ill-treatment while in detention, forced "disappearance" and

extrajudicial execution. Detention facility personnel routinely extort money and/or weapons from detainees' relatives in order to secure their release.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Said-Magomed Imakaev, Ruslan Utsaev, Movsar Taisumov, Idris Abdulazimov, Aslambek and Said-Khusein Imakaev;
- urging the authorities to establish the fate and whereabouts of those named above and to inform their relatives;
- calling on the authorities to release them immediately, unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- urging the Russian government to immediately make public the names and whereabouts of everyone detained in the various detention facilities, including so-called "filtration camps" in Chechnya, and the charges against them;
- asking for a prompt investigation into all allegations of detention without charge, "disappearances", torture, ill-treatment and extrajudicial execution by Russian security forces in the Chechen Republic and to bring those responsible to justice in a court of law.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Russian Federation

Vladimir Vladimirovich PUTIN

Kreml

Moskva

Russian Federation

Telegrams: PUTINU V.V., Kreml, Moskva, Russia

Faxes: + 7 095 206 8510

Email: president@gov.ru

Salutation: Dear President

Director General of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation

Nikolai PATRUSHEV

Federalnaya Sluzhba bezopasnosti Rossiyskoy Federatsii

Bolshaya Lubyanka 1/3

Moskva

Russian Federation

Telegrams: Generalnomu direktoru FSB, PATRUSHEVU N., Moskva, Russia

Faxes: + 7 095 975 2470

Salutation: Dear Director General

Procurator General of the Russian Federation

Vladimir USTINOV

Generalnaya Prokuratura Rossiyskoy Federatsii

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103793 Moskva K-31

Russian Federation

Telegrams: Generalnomu prokuroru, USTINOVU V., Moskva, Russia

Faxes: + 7 095 292 8848 (if someone answers say "fax please")

Salutation: Dear Procurator General

COPIES TO:

Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation

Igor IVANOV

Ministerstvo inostrannykh del Rossiyskoy Federatsii

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Special Representative of the President on Human Rights and Freedoms in the Chechen Republic

Administratsiya Prezidenta Rossiyskoy Federatsii

Staraya ploshad pod. 6

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Faxes: + 7 095 206 8510

Procurator of the Chechen Republic

Nikolai Petrovich KOSTIUCHENKO

Prokuratura Chechenskoy Respublikoy

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Russian Federation

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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 July 2002.