

URGENT ACTION

TWO MEN ABDUCTED IN INGUSHETIA

Two men, Akroman Ugurchiev, and Umalat Bersanov, were abducted in the village of Ordzhonikidzevskaja in Ingushetia, Russian Federation, on 23 August at around 6 p.m. Their abductors are believed to be members of law enforcement agencies.

In the afternoon of 23 August, **Akroman Ugurchiev** met with **Umalat Bersanov** to discuss buying his car. According to eyewitnesses, shortly after this, two Gazel vehicles, the type of vehicle usually associated with security agencies, and a silver Lada-Priora car with tinted windows arrived at Umalat Bersanov's house. The eyewitnesses remembered the registration number of one of the Gazel cars: '491' and that the registration number of Lada-Priora car started with number '2'. Armed men in plain clothes, all but one of whom were wearing masks, jumped out of the cars shouting "Stay where you are!" to the two men. The eyewitnesses say that the unmasked man had a Slavic appearance. The abductors hit Akroman Ugurchiev with a heavy object on his head, after which he lost consciousness, and threw him into one of the Gazel cars. Umalat Bersanov was severely beaten, and also pushed into one of the cars. The abductors then drove away.

The relatives of the abducted men went to the police and appealed to the republican Prosecutor, the Head of the Republic of Ingushetia and to other republican officials but were not given any information about the men. The fate and whereabouts of Akroman Ugurchiev and Umalat Bersanov remain unknown, and it is not clear whether a criminal case into their abduction has been opened yet.

Please write immediately in Russian or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to conduct an immediate, effective and impartial investigation into the abduction of Akroman Ugurchiev and Umalat Bersanov and inform their families of its outcome;
- Urging the authorities to promptly establish Akroman Ugurchiev's and Umalat Bersanov's whereabouts and ensure their safety;
- Pointing out that if they are held by one of the law enforcement agencies they must either be charged with a recognizable offence and granted access to a lawyer, or immediately released.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 6 OCTOBER 2011 TO:

Head of the Republic of Ingushetia

Yunus-Bek B. Yevkurov
Administration of the Head of the Republic
of Ingushetia
Pr. Zyazikova, 12
Magas 386000
Republic of Ingushetia
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 (8734) 55 11 29

**Salutation: Dear Head of the Republic of
Ingushetia**

Minister of Internal Affairs

Aleksandr E. Trofimov
Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of
Ingushetia
ul. Kulieva, 14
Magas 386000
Republic of Ingushetia
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 (8734) 55 01 28
Email: oios-mvd-ri@yandex.ru

Salutation: Dear Minister

Prosecutor General

Yurii Ya. Chaika
ul. B. Dimitrovka, d. 15a
Moscow, GSP-3
107048
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 (495) 692 17 25
Email: prgenproc@gov.ru

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ingushetia and the wider North Caucasus are affected by armed violence, and the security situation there is volatile. Armed groups have been launching sporadic attacks against law enforcement officials, but have also targeted civilians. The authorities' response is heavily reliant on the use of law enforcement agencies (police, secret services, and the military) whose members operate without transparency and public accountability, and often incognito, particularly during so-called counter-terrorist operations. There are widespread and persistent allegations that law enforcement officials use unlawful methods to combat armed violence with impunity, and human rights violations are systematic in Ingushetia and across the North Caucasus. Cases of forcible disappearances, unlawful detention, torture and ill-treatment, and extrajudicial execution, are regularly reported from the region.

Amnesty International has received numerous reports from Ingushetia of people being detained, in their homes or in the street, by masked members of law enforcement agencies who wear no insignia and give no explanation of their actions. While in some such cases the authorities later acknowledge that these people were detained by members of law enforcement officials, in many cases these people are "disappeared" and never heard of again, with the authorities failing to investigate effectively and establish their whereabouts. Sometimes the disappeared are later found dead. There have been cases when the authorities reported them as having put up armed resistance and killed in a shootout with law enforcement officials, although in some cases there is evidence suggesting that they may have been subjected to torture and then extrajudicially executed.

Name: Akroman Ugurchiev and Umalat Bersanov

Gender m/f: Both male

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