

URGENT ACTION

DETAINEE ATTEMPTS SUICIDE DEMANDING JUSTICE

Chechen detainee Timur Tangiyev attempted suicide on 15 July to demand justice and complain at ill-treatment. The European Court of Human Rights has ruled that he was wrongfully convicted, and the Chechen Supreme Court is now reviewing his case.

Timur Tangiyev, an ethnic Chechen currently held in the isolation cell of the temporary detention facility no.1 in Grozny, capital of the Chechen Republic, Russia, cut his wrists on 15 July. This is his third suicide attempt since he was transferred to this detention facility in March 2014. He cut his wrists for the first time in April, but was resuscitated, and then placed in an isolation cell for 15 days, which is used to punish detainees. On 19 June, he again tried to commit suicide. All three times he complained that he was being threatened and intimidated by detention facility staff, some of whom claimed they had tortured him in 2003, when they were police officers in a detention facility, then known as "ORB-2".

Timur Tangiyev was first arrested in April 2003. He and his relatives, who saw him shortly after his arrest, claim that he had been severely tortured. In October 2003 Timur Tangiyev tried to retract an earlier written statement made at the time of his arrest, in which he admitted to have fought in an armed group, and alleged that it had been extracted under torture. The judge ignored his allegation without adequately examining it. In October 2004 the Supreme Court of the Chechen Republic sentenced Timur Tangiyev to 24 years in prison for murder, participation in an illegal armed group, illegal possession of weapons and car theft. The European Court of Human Rights found in December 2012 that Timur Tangiyev had been tortured to extract his confession, that the Russian authorities had failed to investigate his allegations of torture, and that his trial had not been fair and the Russian court had used evidence obtained through torture against him. In April 2014 Timur Tangiyev's case was reopened by the Supreme Court of the Chechen Republic, and his retrial is currently underway.

Please write immediately in Russian, English or your own language calling on the Russian authorities to ensure that:

- Timur Tangiyev's safety and security while he is held at the detention facility no.1 in Grozny;
- Impartial and effective investigations into his allegations of torture and other ill-treatment, at present and back in 2003, take place without any further delay;
- Evidence extracted under torture is not admitted in court, and the hearing on his case is fully compliant with international standards of fair trial.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 29 AUGUST 2014 TO:

Director of the Federal Penitentiary Service (FSIN)

Genadiy A. Korniyenko
ГСП-1, 14 Zhitnaya street
119991 Moscow
Russian Federation
Fax +7 495 982-19-50
Electronic appeals via website:

<http://фсин.рф/obrat/index.php>

Salutation: Dear Director of the Federal Penitentiary Service

Chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation

Aleksandr Ivanovich Bastrykin
Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation, Tekhnicheskii pereulok, d.2
105005 Moscow, Russian Federation
Fax: +7 499 265 9077

Salutation: Dear Chairman

And copies to:

Prosecutor General

Yurii Ya. Chaika
15 A, Bolshaia Dmitrovka street
125993 Moscow
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 495 692 17 25
Email: prgenproc@gov.ru

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

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

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADditional Information

Timur Tangiyev has been in detention since April 2003. Back then, he was detained and accused of participation in an illegal armed group, fighting against the Russian authorities. Amnesty International as well as several other Russian and international human rights groups have documented numerous incidents of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture and other ill-treatment, and extrajudicial killing in Chechnya during that period, and in the whole of the North Caucasus since. Amnesty International documented numerous cases of torture and ill-treatment in the detention facility known as "ORB-2" in Grozny, where Timur Tangiyev was also held at the time. The European Court of Human Rights has delivered over 200 judgments finding Russian authorities responsible for violations of human rights committed in Chechnya and neighbouring republics of the North Caucasus since the outbreak of the so-called "Second Chechen war" in 1999.

According to Timur Tangiyev's wife, who witnessed his arrest in April 2003, several armed men wearing masks stormed into their house, punched and kicked Timur Tangiyev, and beat him with butt-stocks of their machine guns. When his mother visited him in detention she saw bruises on his chest, abdomen and back and cigarette burn marks on his body. A scar on his forehead was festering and his fingernails were visibly bruised; he had lost a lot of weight.

In October 2003 Timur Tangiyev complained of use of torture against him and tried to withdraw his forced "confession". He said that after this he was tortured with electric shocks. No adequate and effective investigation was conducted into his allegations of torture and other ill-treatment, neither by law enforcement bodies nor by court. His complaints were dismissed as "unsubstantiated". On 5 October 2004 he was sentenced to 24 years in prison. In 2005 his case was submitted to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR).

In December 2012 ECHR delivered a judgment in the case of Timur Tangiyev, finding that the Russian authorities had violated his right to fair trial and prohibition of torture. The Court observed that he had "sustained injuries to his head and the wounds became infected... [h]is body was burnt with cigarettes and matches" and concluded that this ill-treatment, which amounted to torture, "was aimed at debasing the applicant, driving him into submission and making him confess to criminal offences". Furthermore, the Court ruled that the authorities had failed to carry out an effective investigation into the allegations of ill-treatment and that the use of such evidence rendered the criminal proceedings unfair. On 16 February 2014, the Russian Supreme Court ordered a review of the verdict against Timur Tangiyev.

According to Tangiyev's mother, on 15 July, right after court hearings, he was taken to medical unit of the detention facility. This is the same place where he had been threatened by one of the heads of the facility, who reportedly had subjected Tangiyev to degrading treatment, and threatened to punish him with further detention in a solitary cell.

No measures have been taken to ensure his safety and security and he remains at risk of further attacks and ill-treatment.

Name: Timur Tangiyev

Gender m/f: m

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