

PUBLIC

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Abduction/"possible disappearance"/fear of torture  
Possible extrajudicial execution

30 May 2003

RUSSIAN  
FEDERATION/  
CHECHNYA

Musa Khozhaevich Zaurbekov (m), aged approximately 42

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In the early hours of the morning of 6 May, Musa Khozhaevich Zaurbekov was reportedly abducted by unidentified armed men from his home in Kataiama in the Staropromyslovskii region of Grozny. His current whereabouts are unknown and there are fears that he is at risk of torture and ill-treatment. There are also concerns that he may have been abducted by federal forces or even been extrajudicially executed.

At around 3am, several khaki coloured jeeps arrived at Musa Zaurbekov's house. Unidentified armed men wearing masks and dressed in camouflage clothing broke into the house without introducing themselves or explaining the reason for their forced entry. They tied Musa Zaurbekov's wife and children up, covered their mouths with scotch tape and locked them up in a separate room. Musa Zaurbekov was then taken away without his family being told where he was going or why.

Musa Zaurbekov's relatives have been searching for him and have made enquiries with the local administration and the military command post in the Staropromyslovskii region. Their requests for information, however, have all been ignored or gone unanswered.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Since the summer of 2002, the number of large-scale sweep operations conducted by Russian federal forces in the Chechen Republic are reported to have declined, and instead, so-called 'targeted' or 'addressed' operations have become much more frequent. During such operations, the Russian federal forces or Chechen police target individual houses rather than whole villages and detain one or two persons. The targeted operations often take place in the middle of the night. In the course of such operations people have been "disappeared" or killed. Order 80 and Decree 46, which regulate the conduct of such raids, are also regularly breached.

Order No.80 issued in March 2002 by General Moltenskoi prohibits security forces from wearing masks or concealing the identity of their units during raids. It also requires forces of the Ministry of the Interior and the police to announce their name, rank and purpose when entering civilian homes. These requirements, however, do not apply to other security forces, such as officers of the Federal Security Service (FSB) or federal soldiers. Security and law enforcement frequently also fail to comply with Decree 46 issued by the General Procurator in July 2001, which requires the presence of procurators and local authorities during military raids.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Musa Khozhaevich Zaurbekov;
- asking the authorities to investigate the circumstances under which Musa Khozhaevich was abducted from his home and take all appropriate measures to establish his fate and whereabouts and inform his relatives;
- if he is in the custody of federal forces, calling for him to be released immediately, unless he is to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- calling on the authorities to promptly investigate all allegations of "disappearances", of torture, ill-treatment and extrajudicial execution by Russian security forces and Chechen police in the Chechen Republic and to bring those responsible to justice in a court of law;
- urging the authorities to ensure that Order N° 80 and Decree N° 46 are respected and that members of the law enforcement agencies, whether federal or Chechen, who fail to respect these regulations are sanctioned.

**APPEALS TO:**

Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation

Sergey IVANOV  
Ministry of Defence  
Ul. Miasnitskaia 37  
103175 Moscow  
Russian Federation

**Telegram:** **Minster of Defence of the Russian Federation, Moscow, Russian Federation**  
**Fax:** **+7 095 293 83 98**  
**Salutation:** **Dear Minister**

Russian Federation Minister of Internal Affairs

Boris GRYZLOV  
Ministry of Internal Affairs  
Ul. Zhitnaia 16  
117049 Moscow  
Russian Federation

**Telegram:** **Minister of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, Moscow, Russian Federation**  
**Fax:** **+7 095 237 49 25**  
**Salutation:** **Dear Minister**

Procurator General of the Russian Federation

Vladimir USTINOV  
General Procuracy of the Russian Federation  
Ul. B. Dimitrovka 15a  
103793 Moskva K-31  
Russian Federation

**Telegram:** **Procurator General of the Russian Federation, Moscow, Russian Federation**  
**Fax:** **+ 7 095 292 8848 (if someone answers say "fax please")**  
**Salutation:** **Dear Procurator General**

**COPIES TO:**

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

Abdul-Khakim SULTYGOV  
Administration of the President of the Russian Federation  
Staraya ploshad d. 2, pod. 6  
103132 Moscow  
Russian Federation

**Fax:** **+ 7 095 206 7344**

Procurator of the Chechen Republic

Vladimir KRAVCHENKO  
Procuracy of the Chechen Republic  
ul. Garazhnaia 9b  
g. Grozny 364000  
Russian Federation

**Fax:** **+ 7 095 777 9226/9206 (if someone answers say "fax please")**  
**OR** **+7 8793 60700**

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

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 11 July 2003.