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News Flash

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UK/Russian Federation: Chechen presidential envoy arrested on arrival to the UK after having been released in Denmark

Amnesty International is urging the UK authorities not to extradite Akhmed Zakayev to the Russian Federation as he may be tortured or ill-treated upon return to Russia.

"Given the widespread use of torture and ill-treatment by the Russian authorities, there are good reasons to fear for Akhmed Zakayev's physical safety if he is sent back there," the organization said.

Moreover, in light of the inadequacies of the Russian criminal justice system, Amnesty International is concerned that Akhmed Zakayev may not be given a fair trial in the Russian Federation.

Akhmed Zakayev, an envoy of the Chechen President, was arrested on his arrival to the UK from Copenhagen on 5 December 2002 and was later released on bail. He is due to appear before Bow Street Magistrates' Court, London on 11 December 2002.

Earlier this week Amnesty International welcomed the decision of Denmark's Justice Ministry to release Akhmed Zakayev, after his extradition was requested by the Russian authorities.

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