

RUSSIAN FEDERATION: CHECHEN REPUBLIC**Visita Vakhidovich Arsanukayev, 29****Vakha Alievich Titayev, 39****Maerbek Didayev, 42****Valid Alievich Arsamerzoyev, 40**

The four Chechen civilians named above are thought to be detained incommunicado in "filtration camps", where they are at great risk of torture or ill-treatment.

According to information available to Amnesty International, the four men were arrested by Russian forces on 13 January, at the Russian checkpoint in the Chechen village of Duba-Yurt. According to Ruslan Titayev, the brother of Vakha Alievich Titayev, they were taken to the "filtration camp" in the Chechen village of Chernokozovo. Ruslan Titayev, who lives in Moscow, went to Chernokozovo on 28 February after the Russian forces promised him that he could bail the four out for US\$10,000. Ruslan Titayev reportedly paid the money, but the Chernokozovo prison authorities later told him that the four had already been moved to somewhere else. Their whereabouts and state of health are now unknown.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Russian forces are reported to be constantly detaining people in Chechnya at checkpoints and in the territories under their control, either during so-called "cleansing operations" in newly-occupied towns or during identity checks on civilian convoys travelling from Chechnya to neighbouring Ingushetia. People are most often detained for not having proper registration and a residence permit, or on suspicion of belonging to armed Chechen groups. Women are also detained on suspicion of being related to Chechen fighters. Although the Russian forces claimed to have rescinded the order announced on 11 January 2000 which allowed them to detain any Chechen male aged between 10 and 65 on suspicion of being a fighter, witnesses claim that children as young as 10 continue to be detained during "filtration".

People detained by Russian forces are then sent to various secret "filtration camps". These camps are now reported to include the pre-trial detention centre (SIZO) known as the "White Swan", (*Beliy Lebed*) in the city of Pyatigorsk, in Russia's Stavropol Territory; the SIZO in the city of Stavropol; a makeshift detention facility in a school in the Chechen town of Urus-Martan; and other makeshift camps in various locations, including a fruit warehouse in the Chechen village of Tolstoy-Yurt, three train carriages parked in the Chechen village of Kadyr-Yurt, a poultry processing plant and the basement of the "Chekhkar" café in the Chechen village of Chiri-Yurt. Other "filtration camps" are reported to be in Chernokozovo, in the towns of Mozdok and Grigorievsk in Stavropol Territory, and in the Chechen capital, Grozny.

Amnesty International has the names of 31 people known to be currently detained in the train carriages at Kadyr-Yurt, who were transferred from the Chernokozovo "filtration camp", and the names of a further 30 men and women allegedly transferred from Chernokozovo to the train carriages and from there to the prison hospital at the SIZO in Pyatigorsk. One of this second group, Movladi Idrisov, reportedly died after he was moved to the Pyatigorsk prison hospital.

Amnesty International is concerned that people arbitrarily detained in such camps, without access to their relatives, lawyers, or the outside world, are especially at risk of torture and ill-treatment. Former detainees at the Chernokozovo camp gave testimonies that have recently come to light, alleging that they were tortured and ill-treated in the camp. Amnesty International has documented reports of the following methods of torture being used in "filtration camps" during the current conflict: rape of men and women detainees, electric shocks, beatings with hammers and sticks, tear gas, sawing off the detainee's teeth, and beating detainees so that their ear-drums burst.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Russian if at all possible, otherwise in your own language:

- urging the Russian government to immediately make public the whereabouts and state of health of Visita Vakhidovich Arsanukayev, Vakha Alievich Titayev, Maerbek Didayev and Valid Alievich Arsamerzoyev, and to explain the legal basis for their arrest and detention;
- urging the authorities to grant them immediate access to their families, lawyers of their own choice and appropriate medical care;
- asking the authorities to release them, unless they are officially charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- asking the authorities to initiate an investigation into their reported incommunicado detention and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- urging the Russian government immediately to make public the names, whereabouts, current state of health and the charges brought against everyone detained in the various "filtration camps" - please list the locations of the "filtration camps" named above in your appeals.

APPEALS TO:

Acting President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir PUTIN
 Rossiyskaya Federatsiya, g. Moskva, Kreml
 I.o. Prezidenta Rossiyskoy Federatsii, Russian Federation
Telegrams: PUTINU V., Kreml, Moskva, Russia
Faxes: + 7 095 206 6277
Salutation: Dear Acting President

Director General of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation
 Nikolay PATRUSHEV, Rossiyskaya Federatsiya, 101000 g. Moskva
 Bolshaya Lubyanka 1/3
 Federalnaya Sluzhba bezopasnosti Rossiyskoy Federatsii, Russian Federation
Telegrams: Generalnomu direktoru FSB, PATRUSHEVU N., Moskva, Russia
Faxes: + 7 095 975 2470
Salutation: Dear Director General

Acting Procurator General of the Russian Federation, Vladimir USTINOV
 Rossiyskaya Federatsiya, 103793 g. Moskva K-31
 Ul. B. Dimitrovka, d15a, Generalnaya Prokuratura Rossiyskoy Federatsii
 Russian Federation
Telegrams: I.o. Generalnogo prokurora, USTINOVU V., Moskva, Russia
Faxes: + 7 095 292 88 48
Salutation: Dear Acting Procurator General

COPIES TO:

Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, Igor Ivanov
 Rossiyskaya Federatsiya, g. Moskva 121200, Smolenskaya-Sennaya pl., 32/34
 Ministerstvo inostrannykh del RF, Ministru IVANOVU I., Russian Federation
Faxes: + 7095 230 21 30

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 4 May 2000.