

# URGENT ACTION

## ACTIVIST ATTACKED AND THREATENED

**Russian human rights defender Igor Kalyapin was labelled a “supporter of terrorists” by Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov after he publicly opposed Kadyrov’s promise to punish families of suspected insurgents. Since then, Igor Kalyapin has been receiving anonymous death threats and has been attacked.**

Russian human rights defender **Igor Kalyapin** called on the Russian authorities on 9 December to investigate whether the Head of Chechnya Ramzan Kadyrov had committed a criminal offence when he promised to expel from Chechnya the families of alleged insurgents and to destroy their houses, shortly after a group of armed insurgents attacked the Chechen capital, Grozny, on 4 December. Igor Kalyapin referred to Article 286 of the Russian Criminal Code (“Abuse of authority”). The following day, through his Instagram account, Ramzan Kadyrov claimed that “a certain Kalyapin decided to defend bandits and their families.” He further claimed that “security services have information that somebody called Kalyapin passed on money from foreign secret services... to bandits” and that they need to check “whether this is the same Kalyapin” and if so “he should be held responsible.”

Igor Kalyapin, who leads the Joint Mobile Group of human rights defenders working in Chechnya (JMG), spoke at a press conference in Moscow on 11 December where he highlighted the unlawful practice of collective punishment in Chechnya. Two men attacked him while he was speaking, accusing him of supporting terrorism, and pelted him with eggs. A third man, also apparently a Chechen, challenged Igor Kalyapin and his colleagues, saying that human rights defenders only say what is convenient for them and not the truth. Full video footage of the incident is available on YouTube, and the assailants are easily identifiable. Since the press conference, Igor Kalyapin has been receiving threatening phone calls and text messages, some of which contain direct death threats.

### **Please write immediately in Russian, English or your own language:**

- Urging the authorities to to investigate promptly, effectively and impartially the attack on Igor Kalyapin at the press conference, and the threats made against him, including statements by high ranking officials;
- Urging them to take all necessary steps to ensure safety of Igor Kalyapin and of all members of the Joint Mobile Group, and to ensure that they are able to perform their legitimate work without intimidation, hindrance or harassment, in accordance with Russia’s international obligations;
- Calling on the authorities to investigate promptly, effectively and impartially all instances of destruction of houses of families of alleged armed group members in Chechnya.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 28 JANUARY 2015 TO:**

#### Investigative Committee Chairman

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**

#### Prosecutor General

Yurii Chaika

Bolshaia Dmitrovka 15 A,  
125993 Moscow  
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 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

On 4 December, 11 members of an armed group launched an attack on law-enforcement officials in central Grozny. All were killed, along with 14 law-enforcement officers and at least one civilian. The following day the head of Chechnya, Ramzan Kadyrov, said the families of the armed group members would be expelled from Chechnya and their houses demolished. Within days, at least nine houses in five different towns were set on fire and burnt down, or bulldozed and completely destroyed. They were homes to dozens of people, among them many small children. There has been no attempt to investigate these incidents.

At a government-sponsored demonstration in Grozny against terrorism on 13 December, banners that said "Kalyapin Go Home \$" and labeling human rights defenders "supporters of terrorism" were held by some participants in the front of the crowd. Later that day the Joint Mobile Group's office in Grozny was destroyed in a fire, an apparent arson attack, while its two staff were followed by armed masked men in a car believed to belong to Chechen law-enforcement agencies. Police came to the destroyed JMG office the next day, while JMG members Sergei Babinets and Dmitry Dimitriev were there, and, without any explanation or search warrant, subjected them to personal search, confiscated their mobile phones, cameras, laptop computers and other electronic equipment. They also searched the JMG's car. They held the two JMG members for several hours before releasing them without charge and without returning their equipment.

Name: Igor Kalyapin

Gender: m

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