

# URGENT ACTION

## MAN 'DISAPPEARED' IN NORTH CAUCASUS

**A man from Ingushetia, the North Caucasus, Russia, has been forcibly disappeared. Amir Chaniev was last seen on 4 September when 30-40 unidentified officers of law-enforcement agencies searched his family's flat and drove him away. His sister Karina Chanieva was unlawfully detained the next day.**

In the early morning of 4 September around 30-40 unidentified armed and masked law enforcement officers burst into the Chanievs' flat in Ordzhonikidzevskaja village, Ingushetia. They forced the family out into the yard and carried out an unauthorised search on the flat. Amir Chaniev was ordered to go with them 'for a chat'. It was the last time his family saw him. His whereabouts continue to be unknown.

Later the same day, Amir Chaniev's mother and his 19-year-old sister Karina Chanieva were taken to the local police station. They were shown a picture of a man whom they identified as someone that Amir Chaniev had brought to their flat on 3 September and who was in their flat at the time of the raid. They were told that this man was on a 'wanted' list. The family, however, does not understand why this man was not detained during the search.

The police said that Amir Chaniev's mother could go but detained his sister Karina Chanieva for further questioning. The family said she was questioned without a lawyer present and made to sign a statement without reading it. The family state that Karina Chanieva was told that if she did not sign the document – which their fear incriminated her and her brother - she would never see him again and that the rest of the family would be shot. Fearing for her family, Karina Chanieva reportedly signed some papers. A state appointed lawyer was present when she signed the papers but reportedly did not give her any advice and left immediately after she signed the documents the police presented her with. Karina continues to be in detention and has allegedly been ill-treated.

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

- Urge the authorities to conduct an immediate, effective and impartial investigation into the enforced disappearance of Amir Chaniev and promptly establish his whereabouts and ensure his safety;
- Highlight that if he is held by one of the law enforcement agencies he must either be charged with a recognizable offence and granted access to a lawyer, or immediately released;
- Urge the authorities to ensure that Karina Chanieva's rights are observed including her right to challenge lawfulness of her arrest.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 28 OCTOBER 2011 TO:**

#### Head of the Republic of Ingushetia

Yunus-Bek B. Yevkurov  
Administration of the Head of the  
Republic of Ingushetia  
Pr. Zyazikova, 12  
Magas 386000  
Republic of Ingushetia  
Russian Federation  
Fax: +7 (8734) 55 11 29  
**Salutation: Dear Head of the Republic  
of Ingushetia**

#### Minister of Internal Affairs

Aleksandr E. Trofimov  
Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic  
of Ingushetia  
ul. Kulieva, 14  
Magas 386000  
Republic of Ingushetia  
Russian Federation  
Fax: +7 (8734) 55 01 28  
Email: [oiios-mvd-ri@yandex.ru](mailto:oiios-mvd-ri@yandex.ru)  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

#### Prosecutor General

Yurii Ya. Chaika  
ul. B. Dimitrovka, d. 15a  
Moscow, GSP-3  
107048  
Russian Federation  
Fax: +7 (495) 692 17 25  
Email: [prgenproc@gov.ru](mailto:prgenproc@gov.ru)  
**Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General**

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

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ingushetia and the wider North Caucasus are affected by armed violence, and the security situation there is volatile. Armed groups have been launching sporadic attacks against law enforcement officials, but have also targeted civilians. The authorities' response is heavily reliant on the use of law enforcement agencies (police, secret services, and the military) whose members operate without transparency and public accountability, and often incognito, particularly during so-called counter-terrorist operations. There are widespread and persistent allegations that law enforcement officials use unlawful methods to combat armed violence with impunity, and human rights violations are systematic in Ingushetia and across the North Caucasus. Cases of forcible disappearances, unlawful detention, torture and ill-treatment, and extrajudicial execution, are regularly reported from the region.

Amnesty International has received numerous reports from Ingushetia of people being detained, in their homes or in the street, by masked members of law enforcement agencies who wear no insignia and give no explanation of their actions. While in some such cases the authorities later acknowledge that these people were detained by members of law enforcement officials, in many cases these people are "disappeared" and never heard of again, with the authorities failing to investigate effectively and establish their whereabouts. Sometimes the disappeared are later found dead. There have been cases when the authorities reported them as having put up armed resistance and killed in a shootout with law enforcement officials, although in some cases there is evidence suggesting that they may have been subjected to torture and then extrajudicially executed.

Amnesty International and other human rights organizations continue to receive information about torture and other ill-treatment in places of detention and during police investigation in Ingushetia. In many cases which have come to the attention of Amnesty International the complainant has been tortured or ill-treated in order for them to sign a "confession" or to incriminate another suspect.

Name: Amir Chaniev and Karina Chanieva  
Gender m/f: Amir Chaniev, male  
Karina Chanieva, female

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