

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 46/028/2008

20 October 2008

**Further Information on UA 218/08 (EUR 46/025/2008, 06 August 2008) Fear for safety/ torture/ incommunicado detention/enforced disappearance**

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION:**

**CHECHNYA**

**Makhmadsalors Delilovich Masaev (also known as Mukhamadsalakh Masaev) (m)**

---

Amnesty International is concerned that Makhmadsalors Delilovich Masaev has been subjected to enforced disappearance and is at risk of torture or other ill-treatment. He was abducted on 3 August in Grozny, Chechnya's capital, by men in camouflage uniform. There are grounds to believe that the abductors were Chechen law enforcement officials.

It is not clear whether a criminal case into his disappearance has been opened. A non-governmental organization working on the case has received contradicting responses from the authorities in Chechnya. The Chechen Ministry of the Interior denied that police authorities refused to take statements from Masaev's relatives on his abduction, while the district prosecutor's office in Grozny admitted this fact.

Makhmadsalors Masaev was previously unlawfully detained in for four months between 2006 and 2007. He is thought to have been held at a base in Tsenteroi (also known as Khosi-Yurt), run by the then-Prime Minister of Chechnya, Ramzan Kadyrov. Unlike most victims of unlawful detention in Chechnya, Makhmadsalors Masaev sought a criminal investigation into the abuses he had experienced and he also recounted his experiences to the press. A criminal investigation has confirmed that he was a victim of abduction and illegal detention. The investigation has yet to formally establish who the perpetrators were.

Amnesty International is concerned that Makhmadsalors Masaev has been detained again in order to punish him for seeking redress and for speaking out. Amnesty International also fears that those who have detained him will attempt to pressure him into withdrawing the complaints he made to the authorities.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In March 2007, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment stated publicly that they had received reports of the existence of illegal detention facilities at Tsenteroi. Amnesty International is unaware of any steps taken by the authorities in Chechnya to investigate such allegations and to bring anyone responsible for running illegal places of detention to justice. Amnesty International remains seriously concerned about reprisals made against those seeking justice for violations in the North Caucasus, either through the Russian courts or at the European Court of Human Rights.

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

- expressing concern at reports that Makhmadsalors Delilovich Masaev was abducted and could be held by law enforcement officials in Chechnya, and is vulnerable to torture and other ill-treatment as reprisal for his efforts to seek justice;
- urging that he be released immediately and unconditionally if he is not to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence, in line with internationally recognized standards of fair trial;
- reminding the Russian federal and Chechen authorities that Makhmadsalors Delilovich Masaev should be accorded full protection of Russian and international law, including immediate access to a lawyer of his choice and for his relatives to be informed of his whereabouts;

- urging the authorities to open a criminal case and conduct an immediate, thorough, independent and impartial investigation into the enforced disappearance of Makhmadsalors Delilovich Masaev, with a view to bringing those responsible to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation

Yuri CHAIKA

Office of the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation

Ul. B. Dimitrovka 15a

125993 Moscow, Russian Federation

**Fax: + 7 495 692 17 25**

**Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General**

President of the Chechen Republic

Ramzan KADYROV

Chechen Government and Presidential Administration

Grozny

364051 Chechen Republic Russian Federation

**Fax: +7 8712 22 30 85 and 22 45 53**

**Salutation Dear President**

**COPIES TO:**

Abdulkakhir Israiilov

Vice Chair of the Chechen Government and Chief of the President's and Chechen Government's Administration

Chechen Government and Presidential Administration

Grozny

364051 Chechen Republic Russian Federation

**Fax: +7 8712 22 30 85 and 22 45 53**

Victor Kuznetsov

Procurator of the Chechen Republic

Office of the Public Procurator of the Chechen Republic

Ul. Garazhnaia 9b, Grozny, 364000, Chechen Republic, Russian Federation

**Fax: +7 8712 22 35 29**

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 1 December 2008.