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News Flash

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Russia: Former Guantánamo detainees released by Russian authorities

Two former Guantánamo detainees who were believed "disappeared" by the Russian authorities were released this morning. Airat Vakhitov and Rustam Akhmiarov were released without charge at 10am (Moscow time) and are now at liberty in the town of Naberezhnie Chelni in the Republic of Tatarstan.

On their release, Airat Vakhitov expressed his thanks to Amnesty International's members. "We're simply in shock, thank you for your understanding of our situation". Rustam Akhmiarov added, "A very big thank you, thank you for caring and not being indifferent." The two men say that they are convinced their release is due to the attention of media and human rights organizations.

Airat Vakhitov told Amnesty International by telephone that he and Rustam Akhmiarov were detained in Moscow by officers from the Tatarstan Organized Crime Squad, together with Moscow law enforcement officers, last Saturday (27 August). The two men were taken by airplane to Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan, where they were held in a temporary detention facility, before being transferred to another facility in Naberezhnie Chelni.

According to Farid Zagidullin, they were being held on suspicion of terrorism-related offences. However, no charges were brought against either of the two men.

Public Document

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