

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 46/015/2006

18 April 2006

UA 93/06

"Disappearance"/Fear of torture and ill-treatment

RUSSIAN FEDERATION    Bulat Sultanovich Chilaev (m)  
(Chechen Republic)    Aslan Israilov (m)

---

The two men named above are feared to have been "disappeared" after they were arbitrarily detained on 9 April by Chechen or Russian federal security forces. The security forces have denied all knowledge of the men's detention, and both are in danger of torture and ill-treatment.

On 8 April, three men driving through the Chechen village of Sernovodsk were killed when their car came under fire. One of them had been working for the Chechen security forces in the Chechen capital, Grozny.

Early the following day Chechen and Russian federal security forces reportedly raided the village, checking the identity documents of everyone there. They detained Aslan Israilov, who is registered in Grozny but was visiting relatives in the village, for a few hours in order to check his identity. He was released without charge. After he was released he asked Bulat Chilaev, who is a neighbour of the relatives he had been staying with, if he could give him a lift to Grozny. Bulat Chilaev is a driver for the Russian non-governmental human rights and humanitarian organization *Grazhdanskoe Sodeistvie* (Citizens' Assistance). The two men set off for Grozny in Bulat Chilaev's car, and had to pass two roadblocks that had been set up after the raid on the village. Eyewitnesses later reported that at a main crossroads, between the villages of Sernovodsk and Assinovskaia, they saw men in uniform putting on masks when they saw the car approaching. The masked men apparently blocked the road, dragged the two men out of the car, handcuffed them and bundled them into another car, putting one man in the boot of the car and the other in the back seat between two members of the security forces. Then the security forces drove both cars away in the direction of Grozny.

Later that day, relatives of the men approached different units of the Chechen and federal security forces in the Chechen Republic but were told that these branches of the security forces had nothing to do with the detention of Bulat Chilaev and Aslan Israilov.

The head of *Grazhdanskoe Sodeistvie*, Svetlana Alekseevna Gannushkina, has written to Chechen Prime Minister Ramzan Kadyrov and to other governmental and intergovernmental organizations, including the UN, asking for help to trace Bulat Chilaev and Aslan Israilov. So far she has received no information about the two from Russian federal or Chechen authorities.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International receives regular reports of "disappearances" in the North Caucasus region of the Russian Federation. In addition, more and more people are reportedly being arbitrarily detained and held incommunicado, and tortured and ill-treated to force them to "confess" to crimes, including "terrorist" crimes, which they have reportedly not committed. Once they have signed a "confession" they are transferred to a detention facility where they have access to lawyers of their choice and their families; the "confession" is used as evidence in court in order to secure a conviction. Amnesty International has learned of such cases in Chechnya, as well as in the neighbouring Russian republics of Ingushetia, North Ossetia and Kabardino-Balkaria.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Bulat Chilaev and Aslan Israilov, who were allegedly detained by masked members of the Chechen or Russian federal security forces on 9 April and have not been seen or heard from since;
- calling for a full, thorough and independent inquiry into these allegations;
- urging the authorities to establish what has happened to the men and where they are held, and to ensure that they are released immediately and unconditionally if they are 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 the men should be accorded full protection of Russian and international law, if they are found in detention, including immediate access to lawyers of their choice and to their families.

**APPEALS TO:**

Vladimir Ustinov  
Procurator General  
General Procuracy of the Russian Federation  
Bolshaia Dmitrovka 15d., Moscow, 125993, Russian Federation

**Fax: +7 495 921 4186**

**Salutation: Dear Procurator General**

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 31 43**

**+7 8712 22 31 48**

**Salutation: Dear Procurator**

**COPIES TO:**

Vladimir Lukin  
Ombudsperson for the Russian Federation  
Ul. Miasnitskaia 45, Moscow, 107084, Russian Federation

**Fax: +7 495 207 5337**

**Email: press-sl@ropnet.ru**

Ella Pamfilova  
Chairperson of the Presidential Council for the Development of Civil Society Institutions and Human Rights  
Staraia Ploshchad 4  
Moscow, 103132, Russian Federation

**Fax: +7 495 206 49 14**

**Email: sovetpamfilova@yandex.ru**

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 30 May 2006.