

URGENT ACTION

BROTHERS AT GRAVE RISK IN CUSTODY IN RUSSIA

Brothers Beslan and Adam Tsechoev, held incommunicado by police in Ingushetia, Russia, appear to have been beaten in custody. According to relatives, an ambulance team called by police on 8 June diagnosed Beslan Tsechoev with severe head and back injuries, and the ambulance team has returned to the police station at least two more times. The brothers are in grave danger of further torture and other ill-treatment.

According to the Russian human rights organization "Memorial", the Tsechoevs' family home was raided on 8 June by several dozen masked uniformed men. Without identifying themselves or showing a search warrant, they searched the house and claimed to have found a hand grenade. Without any further explanation they took away Beslan Tsechoev (born in 1984) and Adam Tsechoev (born in 1986). The family later learned that they had been taken to the ROVD (district police station) in the town of Malgobek. The family claims that the hand grenade was planted by the search team in their house. The lawyer for the brothers told Amnesty International that according to the Head of Malgobek ROVD, they had been detained for resisting law enforcement officers.

At 8.35pm on 8 June, an ambulance was called to the police station. The resulting medical report indicates that Beslan Tsechoev had severe head and back injuries. According to relatives, police called an ambulance on 11 June, and on at least one other occasion, to see Beslan Tsechoev. However, they believe that the police put pressure on medical personnel to prevent them from communicating any more information about the detainees' condition.

The brothers' relatives and lawyers have not been able to contact them. Members of a public body which monitors places of detention, and official representatives of the Human Rights Commissioner of the Republic of Ingushetia who attempted to visit the detainees on 10 June, were also denied access. The practice of incommunicado detention has been proven to contribute to the risk of torture and ill-treatment, as detainees are in the hands of those holding them and unable to seek the protection of the law.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Russian or your own language:

- Urging the authorities of the Republic of Ingushetia to ensure that Beslan and Adam Tsechoev are granted immediate access to their lawyers, their relatives and all necessary medical treatment;
- Calling on the authorities to ensure that Beslan and Adam Tsechoev will be protected against further torture and ill-treatment while they remain in custody;
- Urging them to investigate effectively and independently the allegations of torture and ill-treatment, with the results made public, and those responsible brought to justice

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 26 JULY 2010 TO:

Prosecutor of the Republic of
Ingushetia
Yuri Turygin
Ul. Fabrichnaya, 9
Nazran, 386102
Republic of Ingushetia
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 8732 22 41 72
Salutation: Dear Prosecutor

Minister of Interior of the Republic of
Ingushetia
Viktor Pogolov
Ul. Itazova 33
Nazran 386100
Republic of Ingushetia
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 873 222 1049 (ask for the fax)
Email: oios-mvd-ri@yandex.ru
Salutation: Dear Minister

And copies to:
President of the Republic of Ingushetia
Yunus-Bek Bamatgievich Yevkurov
Pr. Zyazikova 14
Magas 386001
Republic of Ingushetia
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 873 455 11 29
Salutation: Dear President

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives of Russia accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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 Russia's North Caucasus region of Ingushetia. Allegations that law enforcement officials use unlawful methods have been received from across the Russian Federation, and in the North Caucasus concerned ethnic Chechen and Ingush men in particular. 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.

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