

URGENT ACTION

ONE BROTHER REMAINING IN CUSTODY IN RUSSIA

Adam Tsechoev, one of two brothers held incommunicado and allegedly tortured by police in Ingushetia, Russia, was released on 17 June. His older brother, Beslan Tsechoev, is still in police detention. According to his lawyer, he has not received adequate treatment for the injuries he sustained in custody. He is at risk of further torture or other ill-treatment.

Beslan and Adam Tsechoev were detained on 8 June and held at the district police station in the town of Malgobek. An ambulance called by police on 8 June diagnosed Beslan Tsechoev with severe head and back injuries. According to relatives, the ambulance team was repeatedly called to the police station.

On 14 June, the Human Rights Commissioner of the Republic of Ingushetia visited Beslan and Adam Tsechoev. According to a press release issued by the Commissioner, he interviewed them about their allegations that they had been tortured and otherwise ill-treated, including being beaten and having a plastic bag placed over their heads. The Commissioner took photographs of Beslan Tsechoev's injuries. Beslan Tsechoev is still receiving regular visits and medication from the ambulance team. However, his lawyer highlights the need for a full medical examination and treatment and has asked the authorities to transfer him to a hospital. So far, the authorities have not responded to this request.

According to the Russian human rights organization *Memorial*, on 8 June the Tsechoevs' family home was raided 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. They took away the two brothers. Their family learned later that a judge had authorized Beslan and Adam Tsechoev's 10-day period of detention on the grounds of "refusing to follow law enforcement agencies' legitimate demands". Adam Tsechoev was released on 17 June. Beslan Tsechoev remains in custody and has been charged with "illegal purchase, transfer, sale, storage, transportation or carrying of weapons, ammunition, explosives and explosive devices". He refutes this allegation.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Russian or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to ensure Beslan Tsechoev has immediate access to a adequate medical examination and treatment for his injuries;
- Urging the authorities to take prompt action to open an investigation into the allegations of torture and other ill-treatment of Beslan and Adam Tsechoev, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- Calling on them to ensure that Beslan Tsechoev is protected against further torture and ill-treatment in custody.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 04 AUGUST 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

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. This is the first update of UA 131/10 (EUR 46/018/2010). Further information:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR46/018/2010/en>

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

ONE BROTHER REMAINING IN CUSTODY IN RUSSIA

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A relative of the Tsechoevs told Amnesty International that the local Prosecutor refused to register any complaint regarding the brothers' torture and ill-treatment, and told the family to take this case to the police instead. Though the family complained to the police, which is the same police station where the two brothers had allegedly been tortured.

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.

Amnesty International has received numerous reports that allegations of ill-treatment by law enforcement agencies in Russia have not been investigated. When however such investigations are opened they are rarely prompt, effective and independent, and fail to produce conclusive results and bring perpetrators to justice.

Further information on UA: 131/10 Index: EUR 46/021/2010 Issue Date: 23 June 2010

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL

