

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 335/08 (EUR 46/030/2008, 9 December 2008) Enforced disappearance/Fear for safety/Torture and other ill-treatment

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Zurab Datkhuevich Ilaev (m)
Alvi Ilaev (m)
Azhdan Ilaev (m)

The body of Zurab Ilaev was found on 10 December and taken to the morgue in the Chechen capital, Grozny. He had been suffocated, and there were marks on his body that might have been caused by torture and other ill-treatment.

Zurab Ilaev had not been seen since he left for work on 1 December. At 10am, his sister called him on his mobile phone: he could not say much but managed to tell her that he was being held at the same place as his brothers Alzhi and Azhdan.

The previous day, more than 100 armed, masked men had surrounded the Ilaev family home in the Pervomaiskii district of Grozny, and taken Alvi and Azhdan Ilaev, their sister Zalina Ilaeva and Azhdan's wife, Khadizhat Ilaeva, who was nine months pregnant at the time, to the law enforcement agency base near the village of Dolinski. At around midnight, their 17-year-old brother Imam was also brought to the base. He and the women were released early in the morning of 1 December.

On 2 December, local television reported that two armed insurgents had been killed in a clash with the police. The bodies of Alvi and Azhdan Ilaev were shown dressed in camouflage, although according to local sources they had been wearing civilian clothes when they were detained. The next day, their mother was called to identify their bodies at the morgue, where according to local sources she was told by forensic experts that the bodies bore injuries caused by beatings.

Amnesty International will continue to campaign through other means for a full, independent and impartial inquiry into the enforced disappearance of Zurab Ilaev, and the death of him and his brothers Alvi and Azhdan.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Enforced disappearances in the Chechen Republic continue to be reported, although their number has reduced over the last two years. When extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment by members of the law enforcement forces in Chechnya are reported, the authorities are reluctant to investigate, and these crimes are often committed with impunity.

No further action is requested from the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.