

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 46/051/2004

9 September 2004

Further Information on UA 140/04 (EUR 46/013/2004, 7 April 2004) "Disappearance"/possible torture and ill-treatment/fear of extrajudicial execution

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Rashid Borisovich Ozdoev (m), born 1975

Two Federal Security Service (FSB) officers, both working in Ingushetia, have admitted abducting and torturing deputy procurator Rashid Ozdoev. The Ingush FSB has denied all knowledge, and Rashid Ozdoev's whereabouts remain unknown.

Rashid Ozdoev's father, Boris Ozdoev, has carried out his own investigation into the "disappearance" of his son. He identified one of the two men, who admitted in front of a traditional council of elders of his family and the Ozdoev family that he had been one of the FSB officers who abducted Rashid Ozdoev on 11 March. The Ozdoev family has an audiotape of this statement and has handed a copy to the Procurator General of the Russian Federation.

Another officer, Igor N. Onishchenko, from the Stavropol FSB branch, wrote a letter to the Procurator General of the Russian Federation claiming that he had been involved in the torture of 50 people and the killing of 35. The letter was published in the Russian newspaper *Novaya Gazeta* on 27 May. Igor Onishchenko did not disclose a name, but admitted that he had detained a local procurator who had made a complaint against the head of the Ingush FSB, and that he broke this man's hands and feet.

A member of the Russian parliament wrote to the Procurator General of the Russian Federation inquiring about the investigations into the "disappearance" of Rashid Ozdoev. The deputy Procurator General, Sergei Fridinskii, responsible for the Southern Federal District (which includes Ingushetia), wrote in reply that the FSB had denied that the two men who had admitted involvement were FSB officers. This was published in *Novaya Gazeta* on 2 August.

The office of the Procuracy of Ingushetia has written to Urgent Action appeal writers, saying that a criminal investigation into the "disappearance" had been opened and that various versions of events were under investigation, including one which linked the "disappearance" of Rashid Ozdoev to his work as deputy procurator.

Rashid Borisovich Ozdoev was detained on 11 March 2004 by men believed to be members of the Ingush Department of the FSB, and he is feared to be in secret FSB custody and subjected to torture. As deputy procurator of the Republic of Ingushetia, his duties included the supervision of the Ingush department of the FSB. He had allegedly raised concerns with the Ingush authorities about a number of alleged unlawful actions committed by members of the FSB. He had also written twice to the General Procuracy and to the head of the FSB of the Russian Federation to raise these concerns, most recently in March 2004. Amnesty International has a copy of his latest letter to the General Procuracy.

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

- urging the authorities to take immediate steps to establish Rashid Borisovich Ozdoev's whereabouts and inform his family of the results without delay;
- urging an immediate, impartial investigation into Rashid Borisovich Ozdoev's "disappearance" and alleged torture;

- pointing out that two serving FSB officers have reportedly admitted involvement in the abduction and torture of Rashid Borisovich Ozdoev, and urging the authorities to investigate this and bring those responsible to justice;
- urging the authorities to take immediate steps to end the “disappearances”, extrajudicial executions, torture and ill-treatment being carried out by Russian federal forces as well as regional forces in the Republic of Ingushetia and the Republic of Chechnya.

APPEALS TO:

Procurator General of the Russian Federation

Vladimir USTINOV
General Procuracy of the Russian Federation
Ul. B. Dimitrovka 15a
103793 Moscow K-31
Russian Federation
Fax: + 7 095 292 8848
Salutation: Dear Procurator General

COPIES TO:

Director General of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation

General Nikolai Patrushev
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Procurator of the Republic of Ingushetia

M.V. Belkhoroev
Procuracy of the Republic of Ingushetia
Ul. Fabrichnaia 3
Nazran, Russian Federation
Fax: + 7 873 222 1724

President of the Republic of Ingushetia

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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 20 October 2004.