

# URGENT ACTION

## DETAINEES BEATEN AND PUT IN PUNISHMENT CELLS

**Rasul Kudaev, a detainee in a remand centre in Nalchik, in the Russian republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, has been held in a punishment cell since 11 March. He has not been given medical treatment since then, even though he was allegedly beaten up by prison guards and is suffering from numerous health problems.**

Rasul Kudaev was reportedly put in a punishment cell for breaking the internal rules of the detention centre. He was beaten up by prison guards soon after being transferred. Amnesty International is concerned that he has not seen a doctor as he suffers from chronic hepatitis, severe back pain, low blood pressure and migraines. In December 2009, he was diagnosed with an acute gastric ulcer and gastric haemorrhage. Most recently there have been reports that he has difficulty breathing due to respiratory complications.

It appears that his punishment and beating could be part of a wider crackdown on detainees which has reportedly taken place in the Nalchik remand centre since 4 March 2011, in the course of detainees being resettled to a new building. According to reports from sources in Kabardino-Balkaria, several detainees have been beaten, some severely, and have been placed in a punishment block for breaking remand centre rules and disobeying orders of staff. Several of the detainees complained that they have been disciplined for violations they did not commit and that the force used against them was disproportionate. Reports state that at least two of the detainees have self-harmed in protest against the ill-treatment.

There are also reports that, as part of the same crackdown, searches are being conducted several times a day, including at night time. Reportedly, in the course of the searches, Rasul Kudaev and some of his co-defendants have had some materials relating to their legal case confiscated as well as copies of complaints they have made. The authorities of the remand centre have not provided any justification to the detainees or their lawyers for such measures. Reportedly, some of the detainees' lawyers, including Rasul Kudaev's, have been denied access to their defendants for several days under the pretext that there are no appropriate meeting rooms available.

### PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Russian or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to immediately, thoroughly and impartially investigate allegations that Rasul Kudaev and several other detainees have been ill-treated and unlawfully put in a punishment block, and bring those responsible to justice should allegations prove to be substantiated;
- Urging the authorities to provide the necessary medical treatment to Rasul Kudaev and other detainees who suffered injuries as a result of the alleged beatings;
- Calling on the authorities to respect Russian domestic law and international human rights standards with regard to the treatment of detainees.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 27 APRIL 2011 TO:

Director of the Federal Service for  
Execution of Punishments

Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Reimer  
ul. Zhitnaya 14,  
119991 Moscow, GSP-1  
Russian Federation  
Fax: +7 495 955 59 12

Salutation: **Dear Director**

Prosecutor General of the Russian  
Federation

Yuri Yakovlevich Chaika  
Prosecutor General's Office of the  
Russian Federation  
ul. B.Dmitrovka, d.15a  
125993 Moscow, GSP-3  
Russian Federation  
Fax: +7 495 987 58 41

Salutation: **Dear Prosecutor General**

### And copies to:

Head of FBU IZ-7/1 remand centre  
Vladimir Anatolievich Popov  
Krasnoarmeiskaisa str., 20  
360016 Nalchik  
Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria  
Russian Federation

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

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Rasul Kudaev was held at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, between 2002 and 2004, without charge or trial before being released and returned to Russia. On 23 October 2005, he was arrested on suspicion of involvement in an armed attack on government installations in the city of Nalchik in the Russian North Caucasus Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria and has been held in pre-trial detention ever since. He has allegedly been tortured and otherwise ill-treated in detention in Nalchik in order to extract 'confessions'. He is currently standing trial together with 57 other co-defendants.

His health reportedly deteriorated throughout 2008 and 2009 as a result of inadequate medical attention to his existing conditions, coupled with problems he developed following the alleged torture and ill treatment. He reportedly suffers from chronic hepatitis, severe back pain, low blood pressure and migraines. In December 2009, he was diagnosed with an acute gastric ulcer and gastric haemorrhage. Most recently there have been reports that he has difficulty breathing due to respiratory complications. Before being placed in the punishment cell, he was allowed occasional access to a doctor affiliated with the remand centre, but has never received an independent medical examination, despite his repeated requests.

The Russian Federation is bound by domestic law and international regulations prohibiting torture and other ill-treatment and those regarding treatment of detainees, including the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the UN Convention Against Torture (CAT), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, which set out detailed standards as to the discipline and punishment of the detainees and explicitly prohibit corporal punishments and all cruel, inhuman or degrading punishments.

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