

Russian Federation:

Said-Khusein Imakaev (23) and his father Said-Magomed Imakaev (45)

On 14 December 2000 Said-Khusein Imakaev from the Chechen village of Novye Atagi went to the neighboring village to buy a new winter coat. On his way back, his car was stopped by a group of masked men from the Russian federal troops and Said-Khusein was detained. One and a half years later, his father, who was still searching for his son, also “disappeared” from his home in Novye Atagi. Said-Magomed Imakaev was detained on 2 June 2002 along with four other village men by members of the Russian federal forces. Marzet Imakaeva, mother of Said-Khusein and wife of Said-Magomed, has not had any information about the whereabouts of her loved ones.

Investigations into the “disappearance” of Said-Khusein Imakaev have been opened and suspended several times and there are reasons to question the diligence of the investigators. Only two witnesses, one of them Marzet Imakaeva, were questioned by the procuracy and four letters were sent to inquire about the whereabouts of Said-Khusein. Marzet Imakaeva herself tried to bring more witnesses to the procuracy, but she was not listened to and one of the civil procurators told her that he cannot do anything as he has no access to the military. She has received from acquaintances a list of names of people, who had been detained in the military headquarters of Chechnya, in Khankala. Her son is on the list, with a question mark against his name, which means – as it is explained to her – that his further whereabouts are unknown.

The investigations into the “disappearance” of Said-Magomed Imakaev may likewise be considered superficial and incomplete. An investigator visited Marzet in late June/early July, but he did not conduct the investigatory steps she requested, such as asking her to create a composite sketch of the leader of the group that detained Said-Magomed, asking for physical evidence, asking her to identify suspects in a line-up, or questioning neighbours or other witnesses. In mid-August 2002 the investigations into Said-Magomed’s case were transferred to the military procuracy of the 70th Regiment.

At present Marzet Imakaeva continues searching for her son and husband. The case has been pending consideration by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg since February 2002.

TAKE ACTION NOW!

Please write appeals to the Russian Authorities

- Expressing concern for the safety of Said-Khusein and Said-Magomed Imakaev;
- Urging the authorities to establish the fate and whereabouts of those named above and to inform their relatives;
- Calling on the authorities to release them immediately, unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- Asking for a prompt investigation into all allegations of “disappearances”, of torture, ill-treatment and extrajudicial execution by Russian security forces in the Chechen Republic and to bring those responsible to justice in a court of law.

Send your letters to:

Director General of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation
Nikolai PATRUSHEV
Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation
Bolshaia Lubianka 1/3

101000 Moskva
Russian Federation
Faxes: + 7 095 975 2470

Salutation: Dear Director General

Procurator General of the Russian Federation
Vladimir USTINOV
Generalnaia Prokuratura Rossiiskoi Federatsii
Ul. B. Dimitrovka, d15a
103793 Moskva K-31
Russian Federation
Faxes: + 7 095 292 8848 (if someone answers say "fax please")

Salutation: Dear Procurator General

Chief Military Prosecutor of the Russian Federation
Lt. Gen. Aleksandr SAVENKOV
Glavnii voennii prokuror
Prokuratura Rossiiskoi Federatsii
pereulok Khulzunova, 14
103160 Moskva
Russian Federation
Fax: (+7 095) 247 50 19 - marking dlia glavnogo

Salutation: Dear Chief Military Prosecutor

COPIES TO:

Special Representative of the President on Human Rights and Freedoms in the Chechen Republic
Administratsiia Prezidenta Rossiiskoi Federatsii
Staraia ploshad pod. 6
103132 g. Moskva
Russian Federation
Faxes: + 7 095 206 8510

Procurator of the Chechen Republic
Nikolai Petrovich KOSTIUCHENKO
Prokuratura Chechenskoi Respubliki
ul. Garazhnaia 9b
g. Grozny 364000
Russian Federation
Faxes: + 7 095 777 9226/9206

Military Procuracy at Khankala, Chechnya
Voennaia prokuratura gruppirovok voisk na Severnom Kavkaze
Naselennyi punkt Khankala Chechenskoi Respubliki
Moskva 400
Russian Federation
No fax or phone number.