

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 46/013/2004

07 April 2004

UA 140/04

"Disappearance"/possible torture and ill-treatment/fear of extrajudicial execution

RUSSIAN FEDERATION (Republic of Ingushetia)

**Rashid Borisovich Ozdoev (m), born 1975,
deputy procurator of the Republic of Ingushetia**

According to information recently received by Amnesty International Rashid Borisovich Ozdoev was detained on 11 March 2004, by men believed to be members of the Ingush Department of the Federal Security Service (FSB), and he is feared to have "disappeared". Amnesty International fears that he may be tortured or extrajudicially executed.

Rashid Ozdoev is deputy procurator of the Republic of Ingushetia. His duties include the supervision of the Ingush department of the FSB. As part of this remit he had allegedly raised with the Ingush authorities his concerns about a number of unlawful actions committed by members of the FSB. He had also written twice with such concerns to the General Procuracy and to the head of the FSB of the Russian Federation most recently in late February or early March 2004.

On 11 March Rashid Ozdoev went with colleagues to Nalchik in the neighbouring Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria. The delegation returned in the evening to the Ingush capital, Magas, where Rashid Ozdoev left his colleagues to drive in his own car, a dark green Zhiguli VAZ 21099, to his home in the town of Malgobek. According to witnesses, he was reportedly later stopped near a petrol station in Verkhnye Achaluki by three cars. One of them, a white Niva reportedly identified as an FSB car, apparently hit Rashid Ozdoev's car. Other witnesses reportedly later saw Rashid Ozdoev's car in an FSB car park in Magas. Amnesty International has learned that Rashid Ozdoev may have been taken from Magas to Vladikavkaz in the Republic of North Ossetia, and from there to the main headquarter of the Russian Federal Forces in the North Caucasus, in Khankala, in the Chechen Republic. Amnesty International has received a number of reports of people held in Khankala being tortured and extrajudicially executed.

Rashid Ozdoev had apparently dismissed warnings that he would put his life in danger by writing about unlawful actions by the FSB, telling his father and other relatives that it was his duty to report them.

On 15 March a criminal case was opened under article 126 of the Russian Criminal Code (abduction of a person). Despite credible information about where he is now held, Rashid Ozdoev's family have received no information about his situation or whereabouts

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Despite official statements that the situation in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation is normalizing, Amnesty International is still receiving reports of "disappearances", torture and ill-treatment and extrajudicial executions by Russian federal forces and members of the regional forces. Such human rights violations are spreading increasingly to the territory of the neighbouring Republic of Ingushetia, where many Chechens have sought shelter since the start of the second armed conflict in the Chechen Republic in 1999. Amnesty International has corroborated reports of a number of "disappearances" in Ingushetia since the beginning of 2004, as well as extrajudicial executions and attacks on civilians which resulted in deaths and serious injuries.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Rashid Ozdoev;
- urging the authorities to take immediate steps to establish his whereabouts and inform his family of the results without delay;
- urging the authorities to investigate the "disappearance" of Rashid Borisovich Ozdoev and bring those found responsible to justice;
- calling for guarantees that he is not subjected to any form of torture or ill-treatment if he is in custody;
- 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: (if someone answers any of the fax numbers, say "fax please")

President of the Russian Federation

Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin

The Kremlin, 103132

Moscow, Russian Federation

Fax: +7 095 206 51 73

+7 095 206 62 77/206 85 10/230 24 08 (Press office)

E-mail: president@gov.ru

Salutation: Dear President

Procurator General of the Russian Federation

Vladimir USTINOV

General Procuracy of the Russian Federation

Ul. B. Dimitrovka 15a

103793 Moscow K-31

Russian Federation

Telegram: Procurator General of the Russian Federation, Moscow, Russian Federation

Fax: + 7 095 292 8848

Salutation: Dear Procurator General

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

Salutation: Dear Procurator

COPIES TO:

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General Nikolai Patrushev

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Bolshaia Liubianka 1/3

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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 19 May 2004.