

21 March 2000

Further information on UA 47/00 (EUR 46/10/00, 22 February 2000) - Fear of torture or ill-treatment / Arbitrary arrest / Incommunicado detention

RUSSIAN FEDERATION: CHECHEN REPUBLIC

**Members of Dr. Omar Khambiev's medical team: Abubakar Ismailov, Samrudy Djabrailov (note new spelling)
new names: Aslanbek Zelimkhanovich Djankhutov, Mussa Goitaev**

The four members of Dr. Omar Khambiev's medical team named above are reportedly still detained incommunicado in "filtration camps", where Amnesty International fears they may be tortured or ill-treated.

The four men were detained by Russian forces on 2 February, together with surgeon Dr. Omar Khambiev, Chechen Minister of Health, and 20 other members of his medical team. Some 81 sick and wounded civilians in their care were reportedly detained with them, and all were said to have been ill-treated by the Russian forces at the time. They were apparently taken first to the Chechen village of Tolstoy-Yurt, where they were held for two days in a fruit warehouse. They were reportedly taken from there to the Chernokozovo "filtration camp". Apart from the four men named above, the rest of the medical team have all reportedly since been released. There is no information about the current whereabouts of the 81 civilian patients.

Aslanbek Djankhutov is reportedly held in a camp in the city of Pyatigorsk, in Russia's Stavropol Territory. Mussa Goitaev is in another camp in Stavropolsky Kray, in the town of Georgievsk. Samrudy Djabrailov and Abubakar Ismailov are also believed to be in "filtration camps", but there is no detailed information about their whereabouts and state of health.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Women and men crossing between Chechnya and Ingushetia are subjected to "filtration" at the Russian military checkpoint: their identity documents are checked against computer records, which apparently include details of suspected members of Chechen armed groups and their relatives. They are usually kept for some time at a detention place at the checkpoint and then taken to one of at least six "filtration camps", reportedly at Pyatigorsk, Georgievsk, Mozdok, Chernokozovo (a village in the Chechen territory under the control of Russian forces) and in the Chechen capital, Grozny. Hundreds of men and teenage boys have reportedly been taken to such camps from the towns and villages of Naursky District, Grozny and other regions under the control of the Russian forces. (See News Service 216/99, EUR 46/39/99, 17 November 1999, and the report *For the Motherland*, EUR 46/46/99).

Amnesty International is concerned that people arbitrarily detained in such camps, without access to their relatives, lawyers, or the outside world, are especially at risk of torture and ill-treatment. Former detainees at the Chernokozovo camp gave testimonies that have recently come to light, alleging that they were tortured and ill-treated in the camp. Amnesty International documented many cases of torture and ill-treatment, including torture with electric shocks, in "filtration camps" during the 1994-1996 armed conflict in the Chechen Republic. Men between the ages of 16 and 55 were held in such camps throughout the conflict.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Russian or in your own language:

- urging the Russian government to immediately make public the whereabouts and state of health of Aslanbek Djankhutov, Mussa Goitaev, Samrudy Djabrailov and Abubakar Ismailov, and to explain the legal basis for their arrest and detention;
- urging the authorities to grant them immediate access to their families, lawyers of their own choice and appropriate medical care;
- asking the authorities to release them, unless they are officially charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- asking the authorities to initiate an investigation into their reported incommunicado detention and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- urging the Russian government immediately to make public the names, whereabouts, current state of health and the charges brought against everyone detained in the six or more "filtration camps", including the 81 civilian patients reportedly detained on 2 February along with Dr Omar Khambiev's medical team.

APPEALS TO:

Acting President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir PUTIN
 Rossiyskaya Federatsiya, g. Moskva, Kreml
 I.o. Prezidenta Rossiyskoy Federatsii, Russian Federation
Telegrams:PUTINU V., Kreml, Moskva, Russia
Faxes:+ 7 095 206 6277
Salutation:Dear Acting President

Director General of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation
 Nikolay PATRUSHEV, Rossiyskaya Federatsiya, 101000 g. Moskva
 Bolshaya Lubyanka 1/3
 Federalnaya Sluzhba bezopasnosti Rossiyskoy Federatsii, Russian Federation
Telegrams:Generalnomu direktoru FSB, PATRUSHEVU N., Moskva, Russia
Faxes:+ 7 095 975 2470
Salutation: Dear Director General

Acting Procurator General of the Russian Federation, Vladimir USTINOV
 Rossiyskaya Federatsiya, 103793 g. Moskva K-31
 Ul. B. Dimitrovka, d15a, Generalnaya Prokuratura Rossiyskoy Federatsii
 Russian Federation
Telegrams:I.o. Generalnogo prokurora, USTINOVU V., Moskva, Russia
Faxes:+ 7 095 292 88 48
Salutation: Dear Acting Procurator General

COPIES TO:

Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, Igor Ivanov
 Rossiyskaya Federatsiya, g. Moskva 121200, Smolenskaya-Sennaya pl., 32/34
 Ministerstvo inostrannykh del RF, Ministru IVANOVU I., Russian Federation
Faxes: + 7095 230 21 30

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 2 May 2000.