

RUSSIAN FEDERATION: CHECHNYA Adam Abubakarov, aged 16

Amnesty International is concerned that 16-year-old Chechen Adam Abubakarov is detained incommunicado by the Russian authorities, reportedly at a prison hospital in the Russian town of Pyatigorsk. He has reportedly been held in several secret "filtration camps", where torture and ill-treatment have been routine and systematic.

Adam's father, Khamzat Abubakarov, who was held in "filtration camps" during the previous Chechen conflict, told Amnesty International's field researcher that in October 1999 he and his family had fled to Ingushetia from their home in the Chechen capital, Grozny, to escape the Russian bombardment. He said that in February Adam travelled to his grandparents' village in the Shalinsky District of Chechnya to help them dig their vegetable garden and dig a shelter in their basement, to hide in during the artillery and air attacks on the village.

On his way back to Ingushetia Adam was detained by Russian forces at an army checkpoint in the Chechen town of Urus-Martan, on 22 or 23 February. The Russian officers apparently detained him as a suspected fighter when they found blisters on his hands. He was then reportedly taken to a secret detention facility, or "filtration camp", known as the "Internat", in a former school in the town.

When his parents learned this, his mother visited the "Internat" camp along with relatives of other detainees. Chechen guards at the camp gave her a list of 11 names of detainees for 100 Rubles; this list included Adam Abubakarov and another 16-year-old boy, "Akhmed". The prison authorities demanded US\$1,000 for the release of each detainee, and gave the relatives until 27 March to deliver the money.

Khava Abubakarova collected \$1,000, but when she went back to the camp Chechen guards told her that the 11 prisoners had already been transferred to another detention facility in the Chechen village of Znamenskoye. She returned to Ingushetia, and the Chechen-Ingush border was closed when she tried to travel to the Znamenskoye detention facility, so she missed the 27 March deadline.

The family have since received reports that Adam was transferred to a "filtration camp" in Mozdok, and possibly from there to the prison hospital in Pyatigorsk, in Russia's Stavropol Territory.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Russian forces are still reported to be constantly detaining people in Chechnya at checkpoints and in the territories under their control, either during so-called "cleansing operations" in newly-occupied towns or during identity checks on civilian convoys travelling from Chechnya to neighbouring Ingushetia. People are most often detained for not having proper registration and a residence permit, or on suspicion of belonging to armed Chechen groups. Women are also detained on suspicion of being related to Chechen fighters. Although the Russian forces claimed to have rescinded the order announced on 11 January 2000 which allowed them to detain any Chechen male aged between 10 and 65 on suspicion of being a fighter, witnesses claim that children as young as 10 continue to be detained during "filtration".

People detained by Russian forces are then sent to various secret "filtration camps" where they are held without access to their relatives, lawyers, or the

outside world. Amnesty International has collected testimonies from survivors of "filtration camps" which have confirmed that detainees - men, women and children - are routinely and systematically tortured: they are raped, beaten with hammers and clubs, tortured with electric shocks and tear gas, their teeth are sawn off and some are beaten around both ears simultaneously to burst the ear-drums.

Amnesty International has obtained testimonies from four former detainees at the "Internat" camp, who independently confirmed the allegations of torture and ill-treatment in the camp. The organization also has information, including the conclusions of a postmortem medical examination, about at least one person who died as a result of torture and ill-treatment at the camp.

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

- urging the Russian government to immediately make public the whereabouts and state of health of Adam Abubakarov, and to explain the legal basis for his arrest and detention;
- urging the authorities to grant him immediate access to his family, a lawyer of his own choice and appropriate medical care;
- asking the authorities to release him, unless he is officially charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- asking the authorities to initiate an investigation into his 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 various "filtration camps".

APPEALS TO:

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

Special Representative of the President on Human Rights and Freedoms in the Chechen Republic, Vladimir KALAMANOV

Rossiskaya Federatsiya, 103132 g. Moskva, Staraya ploshad pod. 6,
Administratsiya Prezidenta Rossiyskoy Federatsii,
KALAMANOVU, V.

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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 June 2000.