

URGENT ACTION

IMMINENT FORCIBLE EVICTION IN INGUSHETIA

On 3 March, fourteen families in Ingushetia, in the Russian Federation, were issued with a notice of eviction ordering them to move out within 10 days. No alternative accommodation has been offered. Some were threatened that they police would be called in if they did not leave of their own accord. Many more families may also be at risk of eviction.

On 3 March 2011, fourteen families (around 50 people) currently residing in the former military barracks *Gamurzievskaya kazarma*, in the Ingush city of Nazran, received official requests from the local administration to vacate the barracks within 10 days.

The families are among several hundred ethnic Ingush internally displaced persons living in Ingushetia who were forced to leave their homes in Prigorodny District, in the neighbouring republic of North Ossetia-Alania, following a violent conflict in late 1992 between ethnic Ossetians and Ingush. They are unable to return because their homes have been destroyed.

At a government of Ingushetia meeting on 28 February 2011, a senior official said that the authorities intend to clear people from a total of 29 such locations across Ingushetia. Russian human rights NGO Memorial has received a complaint from a resident in at least one other such location who was also served with a notice of eviction with no alternative accommodation offered.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Russian or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to withdraw the current notices of eviction to the residents of *Gamurzievskaya kazarma*;
- Urging them to abstain from eviction of any internally displaced persons from Prigorodny District without due process, adequate notice, consultation and ensuring that all of those affected have access to adequate alternative accommodation;
- Stressing UN Guiding Principles on Internally Displaced Persons that such persons have the right to an adequate standard of living, including basic shelter and housing.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 22 APRIL 2011 TO:

Head of the Republic of Ingushetia

Yunus-Bek Yevkurov
Administration of the Head of the
Republic of Ingushetia
386000 Magas
Republic of Ingushetia
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 (8734) 55 11 29
E-mail: orgotdel-ri@mail.ru

**Salutation: Dear Head of the
Republic of Ingushetia**

And copies to:

Acting Head of the Government of the Republic of Ingushetia

Musa Chiliev
prospect I.Zyazikov, 12
386000 Magas
Republic of Ingushetia
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 (8734) 55 17 05
E-mail: admin@pravitelstvori.ru;
pravori@yandex.ru; prav-vo@inbox.ru

**Address: Dear Head of the
Government**

Chairman of the People's Assembly of

the Republic of Ingushetia
Makhmud Sultanovich Sakalov
People's Assembly
prospect I. Zyazikov, 16
386000 Magas
Republic of Ingushetia
Russian Federation

Address: Dear Chairman

Please give your return address. Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The violent conflict between ethnic Ossetians and Ingush broke out in October-November 1992 and resulted in several hundred deaths and over a thousand people injured. According to estimates by the human rights NGO Memorial, over 60,000 people were forced to leave their homes in Prigorodny District and seek refuge in the neighbouring Ingushetia. According to the Federal Migration Service's estimates, quoted by Memorial, between 1994 and 2008, around 25,000 of these people returned to Prigorodny District while some 7,500 internally displaced people still remained in Ingushetia. However, estimates by non-governmental organizations for early 2010 suggest that there were still around 10,000 such persons within Ingushetia. Although the law guarantees the internally displaced persons the right to return and entitles them to compensation for lost property, there are many obstacles which have prevented them from being able to exercise these rights. While most currently reside in private accommodation, at least 1,719 live in 40 temporary accommodation locations similar to *Gamurzievskaya* barracks known as 'areas of compact residence of internally displaced persons.'

In the meantime, local authorities across the North Caucasus have been pursuing the policy of forcing internally displaced people to return to their original place of residence, irrespective of ongoing security, economic and other concerns, such as destroyed homes, and the lack of adequate or any compensation for many. Amnesty International has received reports about many ethnic Ingush families who have returned to Prigorodny District and rebuilt their homes or built new ones facing harassment by the local Ossetian administrations.

The fourteen families in *Gamurzievskaya kazarma* in Nazran comprise 50 people, of whom at least 11 are under the age of 18. Some of them complained to the human rights NGO Memorial that the local administration had threatened to call in police if they refuse to vacate the barrack voluntarily.

Amnesty International has seen a copy of an eviction notice dated 3 March 2011. It refers to a government of Ingushetia order of 21 February "to undertake exhaustive measures to close down compact settlements and squatting camps on the territory of the Republic of Ingushetia", and informs a resident of *Gamurzievskaya kazarma* that his "continued residence [at that address] is life-threatening."

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