

URGENT ACTION

CHECHEN MAN ABDUCTED BY POLICE

A Chechen man has been abducted from his workplace by men in uniform, alleged to have been police officers. Eyewitnesses have given a full account to the authorities, but the investigation into this enforced disappearance is making no progress.

A Chechen man, Tamerlan Dokuvich Suleimanov, was abducted on 9 May at around midday by armed men in black uniforms. The men took him from the car repair garage where he works, in the Chechen capital, Grozny. According to his colleagues, a group of seven to 10 men came to the garage, in Grozny's Oktiabrskii district, and forced Tamerlan Suleimanov at gunpoint into one of their two cars.

His family called the authorities immediately for help, but the prosecutor of the Oktiabrskii district did not take up the case immediately, as 9 May is a public holiday in the Russian Federation. On 10 May investigators questioned Tamerlan Suleimanov's colleagues who had seen the abduction. These witnesses provided substantial information about the abductors, including the models and registration numbers of their cars, and the kind of uniforms they were wearing.

The authorities opened a criminal case on 18 May and recognized Tamerlan's father, Doku Suleimanov, as a victim in the crime. Since then, Amnesty International has learned from unofficial sources that Chechen police may have been behind the abduction. The registration numbers displayed on the cars are apparently not officially registered anywhere.

The family are concerned that a full investigation will not be possible, and that if it is true that Chechen police were involved in the abduction, this will be a major obstacle.

Please write immediately in Russian, English or your own language:

- urging the authorities to investigate promptly and fully the enforced disappearance of Tamerlan Suleimanov;
- urging them to ensure that all possible suspects in the crime are questioned and that all locations where Tamerlan Suleimanov might be held are investigated;
- urging them to release Tamerlan Suleimanov, if he is in their custody or give him access to a lawyer if he is to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- expressing concern that investigating bodies in the Chechen Republic are known to face obstacles when investigating crimes in which police officers are implicated.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 14 JULY 2011 TO:

Minister of Interior Russian Federation
 Army Gen. Rashid Nurgaliev
 Ministry of Interior
 ul. Zhitnaia, 16
 119049 Moscow
 Russian Federation
Fax: + 7 499 237 49 25
Salutation: Dear Minister

Chairman, Investigation Committee of
 the Russian Federation
 Aleksandr Bastrykin
 Technicheskii per. 2
 105005 Moscow
 Russian Federation
Fax: +7 495 265 90 77
Salutation: Dear Chairman

And copies to:

Minister of Interior, Chechen Republic of the
 Russian Federation
 Colonel General Ruslan Alkhanov
 Ministry of Interior of the Chechen Republic
 Prospekt im. Kh. Isaeva d. 21
 364051 Grozny,
 Russian Federation
 Fax: +7 8712 62 40 29
 Email:
<http://www.mvdchr.ru/rus/obsh/1.html#8>

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

name address 1 address 2 address 3 address 4 fax: fax number email: email address salutation: salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International has been aware for some years of a complete lack of political will and practical ability to conduct full and thorough investigations into human rights violations in Chechnya in which members of the police and other law enforcement bodies have been implicated. Many victims of human rights violations in the Chechen Republic have told Amnesty International that during investigations into crimes such as enforced disappearance or extrajudicial executions, members of law enforcement bodies are not questioned and no proper investigation of their involvement is conducted.

At a 20 April 2011 press conference, a group of Russian human rights defenders published two letters issued by senior officials in the Chechen Republic, the Head of the Investigative Committee and Deputy Prosecutor. These letters, copies of which have been received by Amnesty International, are an admission that effective investigation of enforced disappearances and other serious human rights violations alleged to have been committed by police officers in Chechnya is virtually impossible.

A number of people have told Amnesty International about government officials and members of the law enforcement bodies using physical violence against investigators and prosecutors, rather than cooperating with them.

Name: Tamerlan Dokuvich Suleimanov

Gender m

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