

# URGENT ACTION

## DETAINEE DENIED ADEQUATE MEDICAL TREATMENT

**Sarabi Seyunov, who has been held in pre-trial detention in Nalchik, Russian Federation, since November 2005, has contracted tuberculosis (TB) allegedly due to his deliberate placement with a TB-positive inmate. His condition has rapidly deteriorated while he was being denied adequate treatment, and he can no longer attend his long-awaited trial.**

**Sarabi Seyunov**, 29 years old, is one of 58 co-defenders, all but three of them held in custody since 2005-2006. They have been charged in connection with an armed group's attack on the city of Nalchik in Kabardino-Balkaria, North Caucasus, on 13 October 2005. Court hearings only began in 2008, and were marred by the co-defendants' numerous complaints of the use of torture and other ill-treatment to extract forced confessions. Many have repeatedly complained of poor health and denial of medical help. Sarabi Seyunov is believed to have contracted TB two years ago but his suspected diagnosis was not confirmed until November 2011 when he was already too ill to attend court hearings. His family had made private arrangements for a TB specialist to examine him, but the administration denied Sarabi Seyunov permission to be seen by an external doctor. Meanwhile, he was not isolated from other inmates – reportedly a deliberate tactic used by the detention centre's administration whose members allegedly threatened the co-defendants that they would die in custody of TB.

On 10 November, Sarabi Seyunov was transferred to a prison hospital. Reportedly, he was not placed in the hospital's specialized TB ward, and concerns remain that he is still not receiving adequate medical care. Since he is unable to attend court hearings with other co-defenders, his case has now been removed into a separate criminal proceeding and suspended.

### **Please write immediately in Russian or your own language:**

- Expressing concern at reports that Sarabi Seyunov and his co-defenders continue to be denied access to adequate medical care, including that some may be being exposed to TB deliberately;
- Urging the authorities to ensure that Sarabi Seyunov be given all necessary and immediate medical care;
- Urging the authorities to respond to his requests for an independent medical examination, in accordance with the UN Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Imprisonment or Detention.
- Asking to consider replacing detention with a different form of pre-trial restriction in view of his health condition;
- Urging to investigate all allegations of torture and other ill-treatment of Sarabi Seyunov and all his co-defendants.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 24 JANUARY 2012 TO:**

Head of USFIN for KBR

Col. Vasily V. Fiodorov  
 Service for Execution of Punishments  
 (UFSIN) for Kabardino-Balkaria  
 Ulitsa Gen. Abidova, Nalchik, 360016  
 KBR, Russian Federation  
 Fax: +7 8662 75 27 54 (say "fax")  
 Email: ufsin07@ya.ru  
**Salutation: Dear Col. Federov**

Head of Federal Service for Execution of  
 Punishments

Gen.-Col. Aleksandr A. Reimer  
 Ul. Zhitnaya 14, 119991  
 Moscow, GSP-1, Russian Federation  
 Fax: +7 495 955 5912; +7 499 799 3271  
 Email: udmail@fsin.su  
**Salutation: Dear Gen.-Col. Reimer**

Prosecutor General

Yuri Ya. Chaika  
 Office of the Prosecutor General  
 Ul. B.Dmitrovka, d.15a  
 125993 Moscow, GSP-3  
 Russian Federation  
 Fax: +7 495 692 17 25  
**Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General**

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

**AMNESTY  
 INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Sarabi Seyunov was first suspected of having contracted TB two years ago, but the then examination by the detention centre's medics was inconclusive. He has since been complaining of deteriorating health, but until November 2011 was neither diagnosed with TB, nor received treatment for it. Those who were sharing the cell with him have also been long complaining, including in court, that Sarabi Seyunov was feeling poorly and coughing blood. Reportedly, prior to his hospitalization on 10 November, Sarabi Seyunov had spent at least three days suffering from high fever and severe chest pain but was only given medicines for high temperature and painkillers.

Following Sarabi Seyunov's hospitalization, the court ordered that his case be considered in a separate court proceeding from other co-defenders. This complicates the work of defence lawyers, and will necessitate a new hearing by new judges from the beginning in what is already an extremely complicated case with hearings protracted since January 2008.

Medics working in detention centres, prisons and prison hospitals in Russia are members of the Federal Service for Execution of Punishments which runs pre-trial detention centres and penitentiary institutions. Sarabi Seyunov and his co-defenders have many times alleged ill-treatment by the detention centre's administration, including deliberate joint detention with TB-positive inmates and denial of adequate medical care. Two co-defendants in the same case, Valeriy Bolov and Murat Kardanov, died in the past after a history of complaints and denied healthcare. Both were released from custody and issued with travel restrictions only when they reached a critical state and shortly before their deaths. Among the most recent complaints are the reports that on 9 December 2011 two other co-defenders, Islam Tukhuzhev and Eduard Mironov, both devout Muslims, were beaten and had their beards forcibly shaved off, allegedly following orders from the head of the pre-trial detention centre where they are held.

There are worryingly regular reports of death among detainees and inmates in Russian prisons due to inadequate medical care or its denial, as well as due to other ill-treatment. This issue has been long and repeatedly raised by Russian human rights defenders and various campaigners with the Russian authorities.

The UN Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment state that:

[a] proper medical examination shall be offered to a detained or imprisoned person as promptly as possible after his admission to the place of detention or imprisonment, and thereafter medical care and treatment shall be provided whenever necessary. ... A detained or imprisoned person or his counsel shall, subject only to reasonable conditions to ensure security and good order in the place of detention or imprisonment, have the right to request or petition a judicial or other authority for a second medical examination or opinion. (Principles 24, 25).

Name: Sarabi Seyunov  
Gender m/f: Male

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