

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 135/01 (EUR 46/013/2001, 1 June 2001) - Fear for safety / Fear of torture / prisoner of conscience

RUSSIAN FEDERATIONDik Altemirov, aged 67
(Chechen Republic)

Dik Altemirov, who was detained by Russian soldiers on 24 May, is now known to have been released a few days later. He said he had been treated well, and believed this was because of the inquiries and letters of support which were sent to the Russian authorities after he was detained.

The former Chechen vice-president was detained by Russian federal forces in the Chechen capital, Grozny. He was first taken to a military unit in Grozny and then moved to a place of detention run by Ministry of Interior troops.

Following inquiries by human rights and intergovernmental organizations, Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesperson claimed on 19 June that Dik Altemirov had never been detained and that he was at his home in Grozny.

Because access to the Chechen capital is so difficult, it was impossible until now to confirm that Dik Altemirov had been released. A member of the Russian non-governmental organization *Memorial* spoke to him last week and confirmed that he had been held for about two days.

No further action is requested from the Urgent Action network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.