

URGENT ACTION

DETAINED INGUSH ACTIVIST ILL-TREATED

Activist Magomed Khazbiev is being held in administrative detention in Ingushetia. He was repeatedly beaten by police and is being denied access to medication he relies on.

Magomed Khazbiev is a 31-year old civil society activist and prominent local politician. On 23 March, he attended a street protest in Nazran, in the North Caucasus Republic of Ingushetia, Russian Federation, with his brother Berd. The protest was organized by the relatives of Ilez Gorchkhanov, a young man who had been abducted on 21 March. Magomed Khazbiev was stopped and beaten by law enforcement officers as he was leaving the site of the protest. Shortly after his return home, his house was raided by police, and the men from his family were beaten in front of women and children. Magomed Khazbiev was handcuffed and put in the car boot, and he, Berd and another brother, Murad, were driven away. Reportedly, upon arrival at Nazran city police station, the three brothers were beaten again. On 24 March, Magomed Khazbiev was sentenced to 10 days of administrative detention for 'organizing street disturbances'. He denies organizing the protest that he attended. His brothers received shorter detention terms.

According to his sister, Magomed Khazbiev was hit in the stomach at the time of arrest at home and started coughing blood. Prior to the detention, he was taking medicines for a severe upper abdominal condition, which had required recent hospitalization. The family has repeatedly attempted to give these medicines to him but the police at the temporary detention facilities in Malgobek where Magomed Khazbiev is serving his sentence have refused to take them, referring to "an order." Murad, who has since completed the term of his detention and had shared a cell with his brothers, has said that Magomed was in pain all night and could not lie on his stomach. His abdominal pain could be related to the beatings or the denial of his medications. On 23 March, an ambulance was reportedly called to the police station to examine Magomed. The family understands that the medics wanted to take him to hospital but the police refused.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Russian or your own language:

- Expressing concern at reports that Magomed Khazbiev is being denied access to his own medications and the necessary healthcare;
- Reminding the authorities that they have a responsibility to safeguard the health of all prisoners in their care, in accordance with the European Prison Rules;
- Urging the authorities to ensure that Magomed Khazbiev is protected from further ill-treatment and receives full and immediate access to medical care in accordance with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 6 MAY 2011 TO:

Head of the Republic of Ingushetia

Yunus-Bek B. Yevkurov

Administration of the Head of the
Republic of Ingushetia

Pr. Zyazikova, 12

Magas 386000

Republic of Ingushetia

Russian Federation

Fax: +7 (8734) 55 11 29

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

Minister of Internal Affairs

Viktor V. Pogolov

Ministry of Internal Affairs of the
Republic of Ingushetia

ul. Kulieva, 14

Magas 386000

Republic of Ingushetia

Russian Federation

Fax: +7 (8734) 55 01 28

Email: gios-mvd-ri@yandex.ru

Salutation: Dear Minister

Prosecutor General

Yurii Ya. Chaika

ul. B.Dimitrovka, d. 15a

Moscow, GSP-3

107048

Russian Federation

Fax: +7 (495) 692 17 25

Email: prgenproc@gov.ru

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Magomed Khazbiev is a member of the Expert Council under the Human Rights Ombudsman of the Russian Federation and a well-known public critic of the Ingush authorities. He is also the main editor of the popular news website Ingushetiyaru.com, which has been exposing corruption and human rights violations committed by law enforcement agencies in Ingushetia. The site's two previous owners and editors, Magomed Yevloev and Maksharip Aushev, died in suspicious circumstances in 2008 and 2009 respectively. On 12 February 2011, Magomed Khazbiev was in Moscow preparing for a press-conference on 16 February on human rights violations in Ingushetia, when he suddenly felt unwell and was hospitalized with stomach haemorrhage. He believes that he may have been poisoned by secret services to prevent him from holding the press conference. He was discharged from the hospital on 1 March 2011.

During a telephone call with Amnesty International on 24 March, Magomed Khazbiev confirmed that he had he attended the street protest in Nazran on 23 March with his brother Berd, and witnessed excessive use of force by police, but had not been involved in organizing it. The protest was organized by the relatives of Ilez Gorchkhanov, a young man who had been abducted on 21 March by unidentified armed men believed to be law enforcement officers. Around 80 protesters blocked one of the main roads in the centre of Nazran and demanded that the authorities inform them of Ilez Gorchkhanov's whereabouts and put an end to forcible disappearances in Ingushetia.

Magomed Khazbiev's sister has told Amnesty International that the family is very concerned about Magomed's state of health. Amnesty International spoke with the head of the detention facility who stated that Magomed Khazbiev does not require any medicines. However, the organization has seen a copy of a medical report diagnosing Magomed Khazbiev with an acute intestinal ulcer causing internal bleeding and prescribing him with medicines which he is still required to take for adequate treatment of this condition and relief of associated pain.

Amnesty International has released a public statement expressing concern about the detention of the Khazbievs and calling for a prompt, impartial and effective investigation into the allegations of their ill-treatment (<http://amnesty.org/en/library/asset/EUR46/014/2011/en/077240c2-9761-49da-8123-b4d7aff24445/eur460142011en.html>). Amnesty International has also issued an Urgent Action calling on the Russian authorities to investigate Ilez Gorchkhanov's forcible disappearance (<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR46/015/2011/en>).

In accordance with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and the European Prison Rules, prison authorities must not ignore the recommendations of doctors and should allow Magomed Khazbiev to be transferred to hospital for further assessment and specialist treatment if so required by his condition.

UA: 89/11 Index: EUR 46/016/2011 Issue Date: 25 March 2011

