

URGENT ACTION

PRISONER NEEDS URGENT MEDICAL CARE

Chechen prisoner Shamkhan Aziev, held in the Krasnodar region of South Russia, is suffering from Pott's disease (an infection of the spine with tuberculosis). His condition is deteriorating and he is in acute pain and must be urgently treated to prevent serious consequences to his health.

In April 2011 Russian NGO Memorial received information that **Shamkhan Aziev**, at that time held in a prison in Chechnya, was suffering from a serious case of Pott's disease and needed urgent surgery which could not be provided at the place of his imprisonment. Following pressure from human rights NGOs, including Amnesty International, in July Aziev was transferred to a prison hospital (called MOTB UO68/7) in Krasnodar region. Doctors at the prison hospital confirmed his diagnosis and that he urgently needed surgery. However, they maintained that it was impossible to do such a surgery in their hospital and suggested that he should be transferred to yet another prison hospital in Voronezh. But they said that they could not provide a specialized transport and a medical professional to travel with him. Fearing that he would not be able to survive transportation by regular prisoner transport, Shamkhan Aziev refused to be transferred to Voronezh. He was then placed in Krasnodar remand centre.

On 14 August his lawyer applied for an early release on medical grounds. On 25 August the remand centre authorities informed him that Shamkhan Aziev should be sent back to the prison hospital for additional medical examination as it turned out that the hospital had failed to issue his medical papers correctly, such that they could not be used in court proceedings. Without these papers it is impossible to appeal for an early release. However, as of 23 September the Krasnodar prison hospital refuses to take him back. Shamkhan Aziev's health is rapidly deteriorating and he is suffering from acute pain.

Please write immediately in Russian or your own language:

- Express grave concern at reports that Shamkhan Aziev is not being provided with necessary and urgent medical treatment he requires;
- Call for Shamkhan Aziev's urgent surgery to be arranged and for him to be taken by special prisoner transport and accompanied by a medical professional during his transfer;
- If it is not possible to provide the treatment he requires in a prison hospital, arrange for his immediate medical examination and the provision of the necessary medical papers for an early release on medical grounds..

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 7 NOVEMBER 2011 TO:

Director of the Federal Penal Service

Colonel-General Aleksandr
Aleksandrovich Reimer
Federal Penal Service
Ul. Zhitnaya 14,
GSP-1
119991 Moscow
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 495 982 19 50 (Say 'Fax from
Amnesty International')
+7 495 955 59 12 (automatic)
Salutation: **Dear Director**

Head of UFSIN for Krasnodar territory

Major-General Yurii Pavlovich Kulik
Department of Federal Penal Service
(UFSIN) for Krasnodar krai
Ul. Gorkogo, 76
350000 Krasnodar
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 861 219 99 12 (say: "Fax dlia
Kulika", which means "Fax for Kulik")
Email: GUF SIN@rambler.ru;
pressa_ufsin93@mail.ru
Salutation: **Dear Head of UFSIN**

And copies to:

Head of MOTB UO 68/7

Ul.D Bednogo, 88
352330 Ust-Labinsk,
Ust-Labinsk raion,
Krasnodar krai
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 861 352 11 67 (Say "Fax")
Email: motb@yandex.ru

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

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

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In April 2011 Russian human rights NGO Memorial learned that, according to prison medical records, Shamkhan Aziev was suffering from a serious case of Pott's disease and needed urgent surgery. On 29 April 2011 the Public Monitoring Commission for Oversight of Places of Detention in Chechnya visited his place of detention (detention centre FBU IK-2), spoke with Shamkhan Aziev and saw his medical records. The documents confirmed that Shamkhan Aziev "suffers from Pott's disease [at] L5-S1 with compression of the dural sac, constant lumbodynia, [and] bilateral radicular syndrome." The members of the Commission learned that Shamkhan Aziev had been confined to bed for over three months, could hardly move his legs and suffers from severe back pain. Shamkhan Aziev has been living with this condition for more than a year while detained at FBU IK-2. During this time he has not been provided with effective medical treatment.

A possible consequence of the failure to effectively treat Pott's disease is a permanently deformed spine and paralysis. Untreated tuberculosis (TB) is also a serious, potentially fatal, health risk that requires sustained anti-microbial therapy.

Amnesty International worked on this case in coalition with Russian NGOs. We issued a Health Professionals Action (AI Index:EUR 46/027/2011 (Russia), 29 June 2011) urging the Russian authorities to respect their international obligations and protect Shamkhan Aziev's right to health including through the arrangement of urgent surgery. We called on the Head of the Russian Penal Service to immediately provide medical treatment including, if necessary, surgical treatment to Shamkhan Aziev and to implement measures to prevent further deterioration of his health.

Amnesty International regularly receives reports of torture or other ill-treatment in places of detention across the Russian Federation, including in penal colonies, and of the frequent failure of the authorities to investigate such allegations and to bring those found responsible to justice. In February 2007, the UN Committee against Torture expressed its concern regarding the inadequate health care provided to people in pre-trial detention centres and prison colonies.

The denial of medical care may be considered to be torture and other ill-treatment, and the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners require that "sick prisoners who require specialist treatment ... be transferred to specialized institutions or to civil hospitals" (para. 22 [2]).

Name: Shamkhan Aziev
Gender m/f: male

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