

URGENT ACTION



UANetwork Office AIUSA 600 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Washington DC 20003 T. 202.544.0200 F. 202.675.8566 E. uan@aiusa.org amnestyusa.org/urgent/

Note: Please write on behalf of these persons even though you may not have received the original UA when issued on January 6, 2009. Thanks!

08 September 2009

Further information on UA 01/09 (06 January 2009) – Fear of torture or other ill-treatment/unfair trial

RUSSIAN FEDERATION **Murad Akhmedovich Gasaev (m), aged 34**

Murad Gasaev was released on 28 August from a detention center in the southern Russian town of Piatigorsk. Investigators had found no evidence that he had been involved in the June 2004 attack on government buildings in the Russian republic of Ingushetia. However, according to Murad Gasaev's lawyer, law enforcement officers have repeatedly threatened his brother that Murad Gasaev would come to harm if he were released.

The charges against Murad Gasaev were dropped on 30 June. All the charges related to his alleged involvement in the June 2004 attack by around 200 members of armed groups on a Ministry of the Interior building in the capital of the Republic of Ingushetia, Nazran. Murad Gasaev's alibi was corroborated by five witnesses, and the only witness who implicated him in the attack retracted his statement during his own trial, saying he had been tortured to make him implicate Murad Gasaev.

The authorities kept Murad Gasaev in custody for almost two months; according to his lawyer, they did this in connection with an unrelated event in August 2003.

Murad Gasaev's lawyer has expressed deep concern over his client's safety in Russia, as law enforcement officers had threatened his brother since the beginning of this year that Murad Gasaev would come to harm if he were released, and also threatened his mother and other relatives.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ethnic Chechen Murad Gasaev, who is a Russian citizen, was extradited from Spain on 31 December 2008 after the Spanish authorities received diplomatic assurances from the Russian government that he would not be tortured or otherwise ill-treated. He was held at a detention facility in Moscow, and moved to the pre-trial detention center in Piatigorsk in January 2009.

According to prosecution, Murad Gasaev was a member of an armed group named *Khalifat* and "took part in several terrorist attacks against representatives of the state and law enforcement officers in the North Caucasus," including a June 2004 attack on a Ministry of the Interior building in the capital of the Republic of Ingushetia, Nazran.

Murad Gasaev claimed that in August 2004, when he was still in Ingushetia, he was detained for three days by Federal Security Service officers, who tortured and questioned him about the June 2004 attack. After three days of torture he was taken in a van and released in open country. He was not charged at the time, and he later left Russia.

Amnesty International's mission is to undertake research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of the rights to physical and mental integrity, freedom of conscience and expression, and freedom from discrimination, within the context of its work to promote all human rights.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible:

- Urging the authorities to provide protection for Murad Gasaev and his family.

APPEALS TO:

Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation

Yurii Ya. Chaika
Ul.Bolshaia Dmitrovka, 15a
Moscow GSP-3
125993 RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Fax: 011 7 495 692 17 25

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor General

Prosecutor of the Republic of Ingushetia

Yurii N. Turygin
Ul.Fabrichnaya, 9
Nazran
386102 Republic of Ingushetia
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Fax: 011 7 8732 22 15 76 OR

011 7 8732 22 17 24

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Ombudsman of the Russian Federation

Vladimir P.Lukin
Ul. Miasnitskaia, 47
107084 Moscow
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Fax: 011 7 495 207 39 69

Ambassador Sergey I. Kislyak
Embassy of the Russian Federation
2641 Tunlaw Road NW
Washington DC 20007

Fax: 1 202 298 5735

Email: russianembassy@mindspring.com

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.

Check with the AIUSA Urgent Action office if sending appeals after 16 October 2009.