

URGENT ACTION

CHECHEN WOMAN FACES DEPORTATION TO RUSSIA

Arubika Suleymanova, a Russian citizen of Chechen origin, is facing deportation to the Russian Federation or to an as yet unknown third country. If returned she is at risk of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Arubika Suleymanova first arrived in Turkey in June 2012 and was granted a temporary residence permit in 2013, renewable every year. On 16 February she went to the Foreigners Directorate to renew her residence permit and was detained, pending her removal from Turkey. She was taken to Kumkapı Foreigners' Guesthouse, an immigration removal center in Istanbul and moved to Kocaeli Foreigners Guesthouse, another removal center about 120km east of Istanbul on 4 March. Arubika Suleymanova, who is 55 years old, suffers from diabetes and has only one kidney, conditions that require a strict diet, was released on 5 March on health grounds but continues to face the threat of deportation.

In Russia she is facing charges of "financing terrorism". According to her lawyers, these charges relate to 10,000 rubles (approximately US\$300) she allegedly gave to one of her sons for his subsistence in 2010. His son who has since been killed had joined a Chechen armed group.

Her deportation order cites Article 45/1 of the Foreigners and International Protection law, which allows for the deportation of individuals who are in Turkey despite a ban on their entry to the country. Her deportation is also justified on the grounds that she represents a threat to national security and public order. Arubika Suleymanova's lawyers have applied to an administrative court to stop her deportation arguing that she would be at risk of torture if returned to the Russian Federation. While according to the law this appeal has a suspensive effect, meaning that people cannot be removed from the country pending the outcome of their appeals, in practice, people have previously been deported from Turkey while their appeals were pending.

Returning Arubika Suleymanova to the Russian Federation or a third country from which she is at risk of being returned to the Russian Federation would put her at risk of torture or other ill-treatment and of facing an unfair trial.

Please write immediately in Turkish or your own language:

■ Urging the Turkish authorities not to return Arubika Suleymanova to the Russian Federation or any third country from which she is at risk of being returned to the Russian Federation, as she would be at real risk of torture or other ill-treatment and of facing an unfair trial.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 27 APRIL 2015 TO:

Minister of Interior
Mr Sebahattin Öztürk
İçişleri Bakanlığı
Bakanlıklar
Ankara, Turkey
E-mail: ozelkalem@icisleri.gov.tr
Fax: 011 90 312 418 1795
Salutation: Dear Minister

Directorate General of Migration Management
Mr Atilla Toros
Director General
Lalegül Çamlıca Mahallesi 122. Sokak No:
2/3 06370
Yenimahalle, Ankara, Turkey
Fax: 011 90 312 397 12 03
Email: gocidaresi@goc.gov.tr
Salutation: Dear Mr Toros

Also send copies to:

Ambassador Serdar Kiliç, Embassy of the Republic of Turkey
2525 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington DC 20008
Phone: 1 202 612 6700/1 | Fax: 1 202 612 6744 | Email: embassy.washingtondc@mfa.gov.tr

Please let us know if you took action so that we can track our impact! EITHER send a short email to uan@aiusa.org with "UA 53/15" in the subject line, and include in the body of the email the number of letters and/or emails you sent, OR fill out this [short online form](#) (press Ctrl + click on link) to let us know how you took action. Thank you for taking action! Please check with the AIUSA Urgent Action Office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Arubika Suleymanova first arrived in Turkey in June 2012. According to her lawyers, she was asked to leave Turkey for three months at the end of 2012, which she did. She returned to Turkey after the three-month period and was granted a temporary residence permit, renewable every year. On 16 February 2015, when she went to renew her residence permit at the Foreigners Directorate, she was detained pending removal from Turkey and taken to Kumkapı Foreigners' Guesthouse, a removal center in Istanbul. She was moved to Kocaeli Foreigners Guesthouse, a removal center that forms part of the Foreigners' Police department, about 120km east of Istanbul, on 4 March. Arubika Suleymanova was not provided with an interpreter and therefore was not able to mention her health conditions before the transfer.

The Russian law enforcement agencies maintain that in 2010 Arubika Suleymanova passed 10,000 rubles to her "close relative" Ruslan Suleymanov who was a member of an armed group. Ruslan Suleymanov was killed in January 2013 during a security operation. One militant survived, however, and law enforcement officials claim to have received information about Arubika Suleymanova from him. Shortly after that Arubika Suleymanova was arrested and a criminal case was opened against her. However, later the investigator suspended the case and Arubika Suleymanova was released. She travelled to Turkey at the end of the three-month period during which she was not allowed to be in Turkey. In July 2014, a prosecutor ordered the case to be reopened.

Amnesty International receives regular reports of extrajudicial execution, enforced disappearance, torture and other ill-treatment and unlawful detention from across the North Caucasus. Such human rights violations are frequently reported in the context of so-called counterterrorist activities conducted by members of law enforcement agencies in Chechnya and across the North Caucasus. Amnesty International has repeatedly received credible allegations from across the North Caucasus that the targeting of certain individuals as suspected members of illegal armed groups has been arbitrary. While not in a position to confirm or disprove each specific allegation, Amnesty International is concerned that in the absence of the effective rule of law in the North Caucasus and the climate of near total impunity for members of law enforcement agencies such allegations warrant further scrutiny. The use of torture in particular is frequent, persistent and widespread in the North Caucasus and across the Russian Federation, and at the moment there are no effective remedies for its victims. In a significant number of reported cases when specific individuals were targeted as suspected members of illegal armed groups, there were credible allegations that evidence against them was based mostly or entirely on "confessions" or "testimonies" extracted under torture or duress.

The fundamental principle of non-refoulement is the prohibition on returning anyone in any manner whatsoever to a country where they are would be at risk of persecution or serious human rights abuses. This principle is contained in international refugee law in Article 33, Refugee Convention, as well as in international human rights law. A breach of this right can occur in a variety of ways, including directly through forcible returns to the country of origin, indirectly through return to an intermediary country, as well as denying access to the territory or a fair and satisfactory asylum procedure.

Name: Arubika Suleymanova (f)

Issues: Forced return, Risk of torture/ill-treatment, Health concern

UA: 53/15

Issue Date: 9 March 2015

Country: Turkey