

URGENT ACTION

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER'S SENTENCING IS IMMINENT

On 26 November, Oyub Titiev – prisoner of conscience and the head of Russian NGO Memorial's office in Grozny, who has been in pre-trial detention since 9 January 2018 – was denied release on bail. Chechnya's Shali City Court also rejected the request by his lawyers that Oyub not be kept in a cage during hearings. His next hearing is on 10 December. He must be released immediately and unconditionally and all charges against him dropped.

Prominent Chechen human rights defender **Oyub Titiev** was arrested by police on false drug possession accusations on 9 January 2018 and has remained in detention ever since. On 11 January 2018, Shali City Court in Chechnya ordered the human rights defender be held on remand for two months. The detention was subsequently extended on numerous occasions. The hearing of his case started in Chechnya's Shali City Court on 19 July 2018 and is expected to conclude in the coming weeks.

On 26 November, Oyub Titiev was denied release on bail under the personal guarantee of Grigory Yavlinsky (the Founder of the Russian Democratic Party 'Yabloko' and 2018 Presidential Candidate) and Svetlana Gannushkina (Chairman of the Civic Assistance Committee NGO). The judge also rejected the request by his lawyers that Oyub Titiev not be kept in a cage during hearings. The judge stated that the defence did not present sufficient evidence to mitigate the previous grounds for his arrest and dismissed defence arguments but accepted without questioning every one of the prosecution's objections to the bail request. Oyub Titiev faces up to 10 years in prison if found guilty of drug possession.

Amnesty International believes that the case against Oyub Titiev has been fabricated, and he has been put behind bars to silence him and obstruct his organisation's human rights work. As Oyub Titiev's trial nears its end Amnesty International continues to call on the authorities to drop all charges against him and immediately and unconditionally release him.

1) TAKE ACTION

Write a letter, send an email, call, fax or tweet:

- Release Oyub Titiev immediately and unconditionally, and drop all charges against him, as he is a prisoner of conscience detained solely in connection with his legitimate human rights work;
- Ensure that human rights organisations in Russia, and in Chechnya specifically, including Human Rights Centre Memorial, can work without fear of persecution and intimidation.

Contact these two officials by 15 January 2019:

President of the Russian Federation

Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin

Ul. Ilyinka, 23

103132 Moscow,

Russian Federation

Fax: +7 495 9102134

Twitter: [@KremlinRussia](#) [@KremlinRussia_E](#)

Salutation: Dear President

Ambassador Anatoly Antonov

Embassy of the Russian Federation

2650 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington DC 20007

Phone: 1 202 298 5700 | Fax: 1 202 298 5735

Email: rusembusa@mid.ru

Twitter: [@RusEmbUSA](#)

Salutation: Dear Ambassador

2) LET US KNOW YOU TOOK ACTION

[Click here](#) to let us know if you took action on this case! *This is Urgent Action 5.18.*

Here's why it is so important to report your actions: we record the actions taken on each case—letters, emails, calls and tweets—and use that information in our advocacy.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In recognition of his work, Oyub Titiev was awarded the Havel Vaclav Human Rights award by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) on 8 October 2018; for more information see [here](#). During the award ceremony, the PACE President stated that Oyub Titiev's "activity in the Republic of Chechnya is very important for the Assembly because we have looked into respect for human rights in this republic in the Federation of Russia and in the Northern Caucasus. We are fully aware of the difficulties that Mr Titiev and his collaborators have to face. This award is a message that we send to all those who work in this region to reassert the rule of law and human rights: carry on – you can rest assured of our support. We represent 800 million citizens here in Europe."

Name: Oyub Titiev
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 5/18 Index: EUR 46/9507/2018 Issue Date: 4 December 2018