

According to the Ingush Interior Ministry around 1,000 Chechen fighters are now thought to have taken part in coordinated night time attacks on police and government targets in Ingushetia on 21 and 22 June 2004. Ninety-two people were reportedly killed, including 67 law enforcement officials, and 125 people injured. The main Ministry of Interior building in Nazran, police stations in Nazran and Karabulak, an OMON unit (riot police) and various checkpoints in Karabulak and the village of Sleptsovskaja were reportedly amongst the targets. The acting Interior Minister of Ingushetia, Abukar Kostoev was killed, along with the Procurator of Nazran, Mukharbek Buzurtanov and several other senior procuracy and police officials.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Russian or English or your own language:

- urging the authorities to immediately make public the whereabouts of the men detained on 23 June 2004 from the Chechen IDP settlement on the former dairy farm in Altievo, Nazran district of Ingushetia and explain the legal basis for their arrest and detention;
- calling upon the authorities to release the men immediately unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence in a court of law, in line with Russia's obligations under international human rights law;
- urging the authorities to grant the detainees immediate access to their families, lawyers of their choice and any medical care that they may need;
- expressing concern about the conduct of the operation, allegations of ill-treatment and harassment of IDPs and NGO representatives and calling for those responsible to be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Russian Federation Minister of Internal Affairs
Rossiskaia Federatsia
117049 Moskva
Ul. Zhitnaia 16
Ministerstvo Vnutrennikh Del Rossiskoi Federatsii
Ministru Rashidu NURGALIEVU
Russian Federation
Fax: +7 095 237 49 25
Salutation: Dear Minister

Procurator General of the Russian Federation
Rossiskaia Federatsia
103793 Moskva K-31
Ul. B. Dimitrovka, d15a,
Generalnaia Prokuratura Rossiskoi Federatsii
Prokuroru Vladimiru USTINOVU
Russian Federation
Fax: + 7 095 292 88 48
Salutation: Dear Procurator General

Procurator of the Republic of Ingushetia
Rossiskaia Federatsia
Nazran
Ul. Fabrichnaia 3
Prokuratura Respubliki Ingushetii
Prokuroru M.V. Belkhoroevu
Russian Federation
Fax: + 7 873 222 1724 (if someone answers say "fax please")
Salutation: Dear Procurator

COPIES TO:

President of the Republic of Ingushetia
Rossiskaia Federatsia
366 720 Magas
Administratsia Prezidenta Respubliki Ingushetii
Prezidentu Muratu ZIAZIKOVU

Russian Federation

Fax: +7 8734 55 11 55/ +7 8732 22 55 11

Salutation: Dear President

and to diplomatic representatives of Russian Federation accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 August 2004.