

STATEMENT

We, the undersigned, strongly condemn the insolent cynical murder of a famous public figure, former owner of website Ingushetia.org, Maksharip Aushev. Aushev spoke publically against grave human rights violations in the North Caucasus, such as enforced disappearances, torture, extrajudicial executions, fabrications of criminal cases as well as against facts of widespread corruption in the Republic of Ingushetia. After his son and nephew were abducted by security structures, Aushev galvanized public support that led to a rally, which secured their release. Aushev managed to investigate and establish the location of a secret prison in the village of Goyty of the Chechen Republic, where his son and nephew were tortured and beaten. According to available evidence, other prisoners who subsequently disappeared had been incarcerated there.

Aushev became one of the leaders of a powerful protest movement in Ingushetia, which brought about the change of the corrupt and repressive regime of Murat Zyazikov. Maksharip was repeatedly threatened and a month prior to the murder, there was an attempt, by unidentified security servicemen on armored vehicles, to abduct him.

We express deep condolences to the relatives and friends of the deceased.

We strongly urge the Russian authorities to carry out an effective investigation into the murders of Maksharip Aushev, and to bring the perpetrators of the crime to justice.

We demand that the Russian Federation ends the climate of impunity, which enables killings and harassment of human rights defenders and activists critical of activities carried out by government officials and security servicemen.

Robert Hårdh, Civil Rights Defenders

Oksana Chelysheva, Russian-Chechen Friendship Society

Magomed Mutsolgov, Human Rights Organization "Mashr"

Oleg Orlov, Memorial Human Rights Center

Varvara Pakhomenko, human rights defender, Moscow

Lipkhan Bazaeva, "Women's Dignity", Chechnya

Neil Hicks, Human Rights First, USA

Madina Magomadova, "Association Mothers of Chechnya", Chechnya

Paulina Kluge, Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society

Anna Ek, Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society

Steven Assies, Press New

Vissarion Aseev, civic activist, Beslan

Ella Asoyan, Freedom House, USA

Akhmed Gisaev, Memorial Human Rights Center

Usam Baysaev, Memorial Human Rights Center

Ekaterina Sokirianskaia, Memorial Human Rights Center

Roemer Lemaitre, Russian Justice Initiative

Andrey Yurov, International Human Rights Movement

Maria Chitchenkova. Front Line

Tatyana Kasatkina, Memorial Human Rights Center

Svetlana Isaeva, Mothers of Dagestan for Human Rights

Martin Uggla, Östgruppen

Sofia Uggla, Östgruppen

Jane Barry, researcher

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Joanna Kurosz, Civil Rights Defenders

Erik Esbjörnson, Civil Rights Defenders

Peter Öholm, Civil Rights Defenders

Larisa Dorogova, Committee "Mothers of Kabardino-Balkaria"

Ella Kesaeva, Voice of Beslan