

Network of Concerned Historians					NCH
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2010		61	Russia	<i>Mukhmed Gazdiev</i>	

Announcement

Amnesty International reports today that **Mukhmed Gazdiev**, a retired history teacher from Karabulak, Ingushetia, who is disabled and in poor health, is harrassed and intimidated, because he enquires into the enforced disappearance of his son. We hope that you can send the recommended urgent appeal immediately. Please remember to write in your professional capacity.

Explanatory note. During the past few years, the suffering of relatives (such as the historian in the present case) enquiring, sometimes for decades, into the fate of their family members who became victims of human rights violations, has been increasingly recognized internationally as a violation of human rights itself. Not informing relatives and society at large about the fate of victims is a violation of the “right to the truth”, which for being so closely connected with past issues is a right of crucial interest to historians. All foundational texts about the right to the truth can be consulted in English, French, and Spanish in the resources section of <http://www.concernedhistorians.org>.

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MUKHMED GAZDIEV:

INVESTIGATE ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE IN NORTH CAUCASUS

“You must not stay silent when somebody next to you, your friend, your fellow earth-dweller suffers. They are being killed, and you say nothing. Tomorrow those who killed will come for you, and this time you will stay silent for ever. I appeal to everyone who can hear me: Do not stay silent! Act!”

Mukhmed Gazdiev is a retired history teacher from Karabulak, in the Russian North Caucasus republic of Ingushetia. He is disabled and in poor health. In the last three years, he has been trying to find out what happened to his son, Ibragim Gazdiev, who was seized by armed men in camouflage on 8 August 2007 at 12:54pm. He has not been seen since.

Ibragim Gazdiev, a university graduate who worked as a shop manager, was 29 years old at the time of his disappearance. The men who abducted him are believed to be law enforcement officials, members of the Russian Federal Security Service. Mukhmed Gazdiev believes that his son was, or still is, held

in state custody, but the authorities deny this. The criminal investigation into Ibragim Gazdiev's disappearance has been suspended.

Mukhmed Gazdiev continues to seek justice for his son and for his family. He has appealed to various officials in Ingushetia and in Moscow. Most recently, he complained to the court against the suspension of the investigation.

His attempts to find his son have resulted in intimidation and harassment against him. In May 2008, Federal Security Services searched his family home using a warrant issued for a neighbor's house. Since 2002, at least 179 people (of a population of 500,000) have forcibly disappeared in Ingushetia.

Call on Russian President, Dmitry Medvedev, to ensure that the investigation into the enforced disappearance of Ibragim Gazdiev is re-opened urgently and carried out in a thorough, impartial and effective manner.

Urge the President to ensure that Ibragim Gazdiev's relatives are not threatened or intimidated for seeking justice.

Call on him to ensure that all alleged cases of enforced disappearance are investigated effectively and independently and perpetrators are brought to justice.

Urge the Russian government to sign and ratify the *International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance* and enact effective implementation of the treaty.

Please write to:

**Dmitry Anatolievich Medvedev

**President of the Russian Federation

**ul. Ilyinka, 23

**103132 Moscow

**Russian Federation

**Fax: +7 495 9102134

You can also email the Russian Ministry of the Foreign Affairs: ministry@mid.ru

Source: *The Wire* (Amnesty International Newsletter; June/July 2010), 8.

Original location (including photograph of Mukhmed Gazdiev):

http://www.amnesty.org/sites/impact.amnesty.org/files/PUBLIC/documents/TheWire/3160_Wire_JuneJuly10_web.pdf

Arab version via: <http://www.amnesty.org/ar/stay-informed/eneWSletters/the-wire>

French version via: <http://www.amnesty.org/fr/stay-informed/eneWSletters/the-wire>

Spanish text via: <http://www.amnesty.org/es/stay-informed/publications/magazine>