

Prosecutor General
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Dear Prosecutor General,

I am gravely concerned about the enforced disappearance of Salekh Magamadov of 20 years of age and Ismail Isaev who is 17 years old. According to the Russian LGBT Network, they were apprehended by police at a flat in Nizhnii Novgorod, in an abduction-style operation, on 4 February 2020, and forcibly transferred to Gudermes, Chechnya. Their lawyer was denied access to his clients and any information on the relevant criminal proceedings. They were unlawfully questioned without their lawyer or family members' presence, despite one of them being a minor, then nominally released and immediately arrested and taken away, first to the village of Sernovodskoe and then to an unknown location. The reason for their arrest, their fate and whereabouts remain unknown to their lawyers and family members. They are at risk of torture and other ill-treatment and their lives may be at risk.

Salekh Magamadov and Ismail Isaev had already suffered unlawful deprivation of liberty and torture and other ill-treatment at the hands of the Chechen authorities. On 30 March 2020, they were arbitrarily detained by the Chechen police and unlawfully held prisoners until May, for exercising their right to freedom of expression.

In the light of the above, I urge you to:

- Take immediate steps to establish and disclose the whereabouts of Salekh Magamadov and Ismail Isaev, and ensure they are not tortured or otherwise ill-treated;
- Ensure that they are immediately released unless promptly charged with a recognisable criminal offence, in which case they should have an immediate and unimpeded access to a lawyer of their choice;
- Ensure their human rights are fully respected, in accordance with Russia's obligations under international law, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Yours sincerely,