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Russia: Chechen authorities hold human rights defender Magomed Alamov, promising to kill him in 5 days.

On 24 October 2023, human rights group Crew Against Torture reported that the Chechen Authorities had held Crew Against Torture member and Chechen human rights defender **Magomed Alamov**, and issued death threats. The authorities also threatened Magomed Alamov by threatening his family's safety.

Magomed Alamov returned to the Chechen Republic after accompanying a young woman, who was a survivor of domestic violence from Russia's North Caucasus on 5 October 2023. Since his return, his colleagues have not been able to reach him.

[Magomed Alamov](#) is a human rights defender and lawyer of Chechen origin. Up until very recently, he has collaborated with the human rights group Crew Against Torture; an informal union of Russian lawyers who, individually, continue the work they used to do as a Russian-based human rights organisation "Committee Against Torture" (CAT). Following the listing of CAT as a foreign agent by Russian authorities on 10 June 2022, the organisation was forced to close its doors. Established in 2000, CAT was a prominent human rights organisation in Russia, investigating allegations of torture by state agents and representing victims of torture in the court system, including at the European Court of Human Rights. Human rights defenders who used to work with CAT were regularly subjected to defamation campaigns, physical attacks, detentions, and judicial persecution because of their peaceful human rights work.

On 5 October 2023, at the request of the human rights organisation 'North Caucasus: SOS', Magomed Alamov accompanied a survivor of domestic violence from Ingushetia to a safehouse. On 11 October 2023, the human rights defender started to receive phonecalls from the General Administration for Combating Extremism (Centre E). The caller demanded that Magomed Alamov present himself for questioning in relation to his involvement in the alleged disappearance of the aforementioned survivor. In the absence of a subpoena, the human rights defender refused to present himself.

On 13 October, Chechen law enforcement officers unlawfully detained the human rights defender's brother, at the Special Police Regiment #2, where the authorities threatened him, and demanded him to get in touch with Magomed Alamov and to convince the human rights defender to return to the Chechen Republic. Fearing for his brother's life, Magomed Alamov travelled to the Chechen Republic; his colleagues from Crew against Torture are unsure about his current whereabouts.

On 23 October 2023, the survivor of domestic violence got in touch with her relatives in the Chechen Republic, and reported that Magomed Alamov was present at their house during the call. She reported that the human rights defender addressed her and said "I am at your house, surrounded by your relatives. My life and the life of my family is in danger. They gave me a week for you to return home. If you are not home in a week – they will kill me." On 23 October 2023 the Crew against Torture filed complaints to the Ministry of Interior and to the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation demanding protection for the human rights defender.

Front Line Defenders condemns the harassment and death threats against the human rights defender and lawyer Magomed Alamov. The organisation believes he is being targeted for his peaceful and legitimate human rights work. Front Line Defenders reminds the Russian authorities that the Chechen Republic is a part of the Russian Federation, and calls upon them to end systemic harassment against human rights defenders in the North Caucasus. Front Line Defenders urges the Russian authorities to confirm the whereabouts of Magomed Alamov, and ensure his safety in the Chechen Republic, as well as elsewhere in the country.

Front Line Defenders urges the authorities of the Russian Federation to:

1. Immediately confirm the whereabouts of human rights defender Magomed Alamov, and ensure his physical and psychological integrity;
2. Ensure the safety and security of Magomed Alamov's family members;
3. Carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the detention and alleged death threats against human rights defender Magomed Alamov, ensuring his protection, publishing the results and bringing those responsible to justice in accordance with international standards;
4. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in Russian Federation can carry out their human rights activities without fear of reprisal and free of all restrictions, in line with the Russian Federation's international human rights obligations and commitments.