

Human Rights Watch

Torture, Former Combatants, Political Prisoners, Terror Suspects, & Terrorists

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/09/29/statement-russian-and-international-human-rights-organizations-case-salman-0>

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September 26, 2020

On September 7, 2020, a video was circulated on social media depicting the torture of a 19-year-old man from Chechen, Salman Tepsurkaev. The young man was the moderator of the chat telegram-channel IADAT, which publishes critical information about developments in Chechnya. Later it became known that Tepsurkaev was abducted from a hotel in Gelendzhik (Russia's Krasnodar region) and taken to Chechnya, where he was then stripped naked and forced, on camera, to penetrate himself with a glass bottle. Subsequently, Chechen government officials, and even the mufti of Chechnya, publicly endorsed the violence committed against Tepsurkaev. Meanwhile, Tepsurkaev's whereabouts remain unknown.

We, the undersigned, express our outrage at these developments, and urge the authorities of the Russian Federation to immediately determine the whereabouts of Salman Tepsurkaev, and punish those guilty of the violence against him.

We request the Russian investigative authorities to respond to the following questions:

We express our solidarity with the people in Chechnya who are outraged by this monstrous crime and feel that their security and safety are in jeopardy.

Violations of human rights in Chechnya are becoming uglier and more brutal, and we call upon the Russian government to immediately put an end to the reigning impunity there, and to take all measures to hold the perpetrators to account.

Svetlana Gannushkina, Chair, Civic Assistance Committee

Igor Kalyapin, Chair, Committee Against Torture

Igor Kochetkov, Director of the Charitable Fund for Social and Legal Assistance Sphere

Denis Krivosheev, Deputy Director, Regional Office, Europe and Central Asia, Amnesty International

Tanya Lokshina, Europe and Central Asia Associate Director, Human Rights Watch

Anders Peterson, Executive Director, Civil Right Defenders

Ekaterina Sokiryanskaya, Director, Center for Conflict Analysis and Prevention

Alexander Cherkasov, Chair of the Board, Human Rights Center Memorial

Gunnar M. Ekelve-Slydal, Acting Secretary General of the Norwegian Helsinki Committee

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