

Head of the Investigation Directorate  
Vitaliy Georgievich Volkov  
Investigation Committee for the Chechen Republic  
Ul. Altaiskaya, d.3  
Grozny  
Chechen Republic 364000  
RUSSISCHE FÖDERATION

Sehr geehrter Herr Volkov,

Ich wende mich heute mit großer Sorge um Idris Arsamikow an sie. Am 15. Februar wurde der 28-jährige Tschetschene unter dem Vorwurf des Betrugs willkürlich auf dem Moskauer Flughafen Domodedowo festgenommen und nach Tschetschenien gebracht. Am 17. Februar weigerte sich die Polizei des tschetschenischen Bezirks Schelkowski, seinen Rechtsbeiständen seinen Aufenthaltsort mitzuteilen und ihnen Zugang zu ihrem Mandanten zu gewähren. Sein Aufenthaltsort ist bis heute nicht bekannt. Idris Arsamikow hatte zuvor berichtet, von der tschetschenischen Polizei wegen seiner vermeintlichen sexuellen Orientierung festgenommen und gefoltert worden zu sein. Ihm drohen weitere Folter und andere Misshandlungen und auch sein Leben ist in Gefahr.

Ich fordere Sie höflich auf, umgehend Idris Arsamikows Schicksal und Verbleib bekanntzugeben und seine sofortige Freilassung zu veranlassen.

Bitte stellen Sie zudem sicher, dass er unverzüglich Zugang zu seinen Rechtsbeiständen erhält und weder gefoltert noch anderweitig misshandelt wird.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

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Dear Head of the Investigation Directorate,

I am writing to you to express my deep concern regarding the arbitrary arrest on fabricated charges of fraud and enforced disappearance of Idris Arsamikov.

On 15 February, Idris Arsamikov was arbitrarily arrested in Moscow Domodedovo airport and transferred to Chechnya. According to his lawyers, the arrest sheet had been signed by the head of criminal investigation at the Shelkovsky District Police Department, several hours earlier, in relation to a criminal investigation initiated in 2021 when Idris Arsamikov was living in the Netherlands, where he had a refugee status.

On 17 February, the police at Chechnya's Shelkovsky District Police Department refused to disclose Idris Arsamikov's whereabouts to his lawyers and give them access to their client. On the same day, two videos were published on Idris Arsamikov's page on VKontakte, allegedly showing him at his home with his mother and uncle, stating that he was fine, denouncing human rights defenders' efforts to help him and making other statements that appear to be forcibly extracted. Since then, his account on the social media has been deleted and his whereabouts remain unknown.

According to Idris Arsamikov's own account, shared with human rights defenders, he had been previously arbitrarily arrested, tortured and otherwise ill-treated by the Chechen police due to his perceived sexual orientation. He is at risk of further torture and other ill-treatment and there is a grave risk to his life. The manner of his apprehension, the allegations of Idris Arsamikov's past ill-treatment by Chechen police and the well-documented campaign by the Chechen authorities' targeting men for their perceived sexual orientation give grounds to believe that Idris Arsamikov is being persecuted for his perceived sexual orientation.

I am calling on you to take a swift action to establish Idris Arsamikov's fate and whereabouts, and ensure his immediate release. I also ask that you ensure that he gets an immediate access to his lawyers, and that he is not tortured or otherwise ill-treated.

Yours sincerely,