

Prosecutor of the Chechen Republic  
Sharpuddi Muaidovich Abdul-Kadyrov  
Prosecutor's Office of the Chechen Republic  
Ul. Idrisova d. 42  
Grozny, 36400  
Chechen Republic Russian Federation

Dear Prosecutor,

I am writing to you on behalf of Oyub Titiev the human rights defender from Chechnya who was arrested on the 9 January. In my opinion the drug possession charge against Titiev is fabricated, the real aim of the authorities is to stop him from doing his legitimate human rights work. Titiev is leader of the Memorial organisation in Grozny and for the last few months he was working on the case of 27 Chechens allegedly forcibly disappeared, and shot dead by the police.

Contrary to the law, the police did not inform his relatives of his arrest nor did they grant him access to his lawyer, holding him incommunicado for several hours. There is also suspicion that the drug was planted in his car by the police.

I urge you to release Oyub Titiev immediately and unconditionally, and drop all charges against him. I would also like to ask you to conduct an immediate, impartial and effective investigation into the circumstances that led to Oyub Titiev's arbitrary arrest, including the allegations of planting evidence, and hold anyone found responsible to account.

Yours sincerely,