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**RUSSISCHE FÖDERATION**

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- Dear Prosecutor General,

I am concerned that the prominent Chechen human rights defender **Oyub Titiev**, the head of Russian NGO Memorial's office in Grozny, was arrested by police on fabricated drug possession charges on 9 January 2018 and has remained in detention ever since. Since then, over 30 hearings were held in Shali City Court on the merits of his case; Oyub has been repeatedly refused bail, and his detention has been renewed several times, most recently until 22 March 2019. As Oyub Titiev's trial nears an end, I am alarmed to learn that he risks being sentenced to up to 10 years in prison.

Amnesty International believes that the case against Oyub Titiev has been fabricated and that he was put behind bars to silence him and obstruct his organisation's human rights work. As such, he is a prisoner of conscience who must be immediately and unconditionally released.

After Natalia Estemirova from Memorial's Grozny office was killed in 2009, Oyub Titiev took the helm at the NGO. Ever since then, he has been receiving threats in connection with his human rights work. His family had to leave Chechnya because of harassment by the security forces, and Oyub Titiev's lawyer has reportedly been followed by plain-clothed agents.

As a member / sympathizing of amnesty international, I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Oyub Titiev, and to drop all charges against him, as he is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely in connection with his legitimate human rights work.

Yours sincerely

Cc:

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