

# HELP A CHECHEN FAMILY SEARCHING FOR DISAPPEARED LOVED ONES

On December 14, 2000, Said-Khusein Imakaev, age 23, left his village of Novye Atagi in Chechnya to buy a new winter coat. On his way back, his car was stopped by a group of masked Russian federal troops who detained him. When his parents, Marzet Imakaeva and Said-Magomed Imakaev, learned that he was arrested, they went to the authorities to find out what happened. They visited the military commander, the police and finally the Federal Security Bureau (the former KGB). All denied involvement in Said-Khusein's detention. Marzet Imakaeva told Human Rights Watch:



© 2002 Johanna Bjerkent/Human Rights Watch

MARZET IMAKAEVA  
HOLDING PHOTO  
OF MISSING SON,  
SAID-KHUSEIN

"They all say: 'Our people didn't take him, our people didn't take him.'  
'The FSB didn't take him,' 'the GRU didn't take him,' 'the MVD didn't take him.'  
You get the impression that extra-terrestrials seized my son."



MARZET IMAKAEVA WITH REMAINING  
FAMILY MEMBERS: SON MAGOMED, 19,  
HIS WIFE KHEDA, 18; DAUGHTER SEDA,  
26, HER HUSBAND ALIKHAN, 26, AND  
THEIR SON SHAMIL, 4



SAID-MAGOMED  
IMAKAEV, MARZET'S  
MISSING HUSBAND

The family never heard from Said-Khusein again, but continued to search for him. One and a half years later, on June 2, 2002, Said-Magomed Imakaev "disappeared." He was detained by Russian servicemen who visited him at home. Four months earlier, he and his wife filed an application with the European Court of Human Rights regarding the "disappearance" of their son.

Although Said-Magomed Imakaev was taken from his home in front of his family and numerous witnesses, the Russian authorities stated that "there are no facts supporting the claim that he was detained by Russian servicemen." Marzet Imakaeva has not had any information about the whereabouts of her son or husband since their disappearances.

After repeated threats and harassment, Marzet and the remaining members of her family obtained refugee visas to come to the US with the help of Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. They currently live in the Boston area. The whole family suffers from severe trauma and depression. They are struggling to adjust to life in the US, learn English and find a way to support themselves in a new country. *They need your help.*

Donations can be made on the Web at: [www.communityroom.net](http://www.communityroom.net) (search for "Amnesty International Local Group 133").

- OR -

Send check to: Imakaev Appeal  
c/o Amnesty International NE Regional Office  
58 Day Street, Somerville, MA 02144  
(Please make check payable to "Amnesty International group 133"  
and write "Imakaev appeal" on the check notes line.)

For more information on the Imakaev case and the human rights work of Amnesty International group 133, see  
[www.amnesty133.org](http://www.amnesty133.org)

All funds will be used to help the Imakaev family with living expenses, including health care and education needs, as well as their search for missing family members in Chechnya. (Donations to the Imakaev appeal are not tax-deductible as the funds will go directly to the family.)

DETACH HERE AND ENCLOSE WITH DONATION

## I WANT TO HELP!



**Amnesty  
International**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE ( ) - ( ) -

DAY

EVENING

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to join the Amnesty group 133 e-mail list? YES PLEASE  NOT YET

Send check (payable to *Amnesty International group 133*) to: Imakaev Appeal, c/o Amnesty International NE Regional Office, 58 Day Street, Somerville, MA 02144

*Thank you very much for your support of human rights!*