

# Resolution on the situation in Chechnya and the case of Oyub Titiev

2019/2562(RSP) - 14/02/2019 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the situation in Chechnya and the case of Oyub Titiev.

The resolution was tabled by the EPP, S&D, ECR, ALDE, and Greens/EFA groups.

Parliament called for the immediate release of Oyub Titiev, the director of the Memorial Human Rights Centre office in Chechnya, who was detained on 9 January 2018 and accused of illegal acquisition and possession of drugs and is expected to receive his verdict by mid-February 2019. The accusations have been denied by Titiev and denounced by other NGOs and human rights defenders as fabricated and as an attempt to obstruct his, and Memorials, work on human rights. Members noted that Memorial was awarded the European Parliament's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in 2009. They urged the Chechen authorities to ensure full respect for Oyub Titiev's human and legal rights, including his right to a fair trial, unhindered access to his lawyer and to medical care, and protection from judicial harassment and criminalisation.

Parliament noted that Titiev's case is part of the worrying trend of arrests, attacks and intimidation of independent journalists, human rights defenders and their supporters, and ordinary citizens alike, which appear to be part of coordinated campaigns. It pointed out that Chechnya has experienced a dramatic deterioration in the human rights situation over the past few years, which effectively prevents independent journalists and human rights activists from continuing their work without putting their own lives and the lives of those close to them at risk. It urged both the authorities of both Chechnya and the Russian Federation to put an end to the harassment and persecution of their citizens and to end the climate of impunity, which deters victims from seeking justice as they fear retaliation by local authorities.

Parliament asked the Commission, the EEAS and the Member States to continue to closely monitor the human rights situation in Chechnya, including the trial of Oyub Titiev, to call for an immediate cessation of the human rights violations, to raise the cases of all persons prosecuted for political reasons in relevant meetings with Russian representatives, and to continue to offer swift and efficient assistance to the victims of persecution and their family members, including when dealing with asylum requests. It stressed that the perpetrators of human rights abuses in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation should not be granted EU visas nor be allowed to keep assets in EU Member States. Members reiterated their support for a European Union 'Magnitsky Act', which should sanction the perpetrators of serious human rights violations, and called on the Council to pursue its work on this matter without delay;

The resolution went on to call on the Russian authorities to repeal the 2015 law on 'undesirable organisations' and the 2012 law on 'foreign agents', which has consistently been used to harass and attack human rights defenders and civil society organisations. The Commission was asked to engage with international human rights organisations active in the Russian Federation and with Russian human rights organisations and civil society despite the Russian law on 'foreign agents' and to continue to offer support to Memorial and other such organisations.

Lastly, Parliament called on international sports personalities and artists to refrain from participating in public events in Chechnya or events sponsored by the leadership of the Chechen Republic.