



## Centre de la protection internationale

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**Rule of Law II<sup>1</sup>**

Arbitrary arrests and detentions continue to exist in many OSCE countries. Furthermore, ill-treatment of detainees continues to be practiced by the law enforcement bodies.

By this submission Centre de la protection internationale seeks to provide brief information on arbitrary arrests, detentions as well as torture in Russia and Azerbaijan.

#### **RUSSIA**

Since 2014 Chechnya has been practicing so called “collective responsibility” for committing crimes by armed groups- namely, deportation from Chechnya and demolition of houses of families of those Chechens who were convicted for being members of illegal armed groups. This practice continues to exist despite public condemnation, including statements made by leaders of the country.

Arbitrary arrests and ill treatment of teenagers throughout Russia requests urgent attention of the international community. A number of teenagers were arrested during peaceful demonstrations against the increase of the pension age in Russia and sentenced either to fines or administrative arrests.

The situation with juvenile justice in Chechnya rests to be alarming. After an attack, presumably organized by a group of teenagers, against Chechen law enforcement bodies on 20 August 2018, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Chechnya reported that law enforcement agencies of the Republic "had carried out a set of preventive measures" aimed at "countering extremism" and "other negative phenomena among the youth". In fact, about 150-200 young people were attested without any explanation and kept under detention for several days. They were released only after

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<sup>1</sup> This submission is based on information possessed by the Centre de la protection internationale as well as other trustful recourses.

numerous complaints of the detained minors' relatives and publications in the media. Some of the teenagers stated that they were kept under pressure and requested to confess that they belonged to the group that had organized the attack. Relatives of teenagers who were charged with the organization of the attack, were to flee from Chechnya.

The observation of the arrests, detentions and the treatment of the members of so called "Novoe velichie" [New Greatness] group (a group of young people who gathered together to discuss different issues including those of political), illustrates the scale of arbitrariness while applying law against those who do not share the views of the political majority.

## **AZERBAIJAN**

According to the information disseminated by Azerbaijani independent NGOs, there are more than 150 political prisoners in Azerbaijan, including journalists, writers, civic activists, politicians, former high ranked officials, relatives of those who left Azerbaijan and received the status of political asylum in European countries, etc<sup>2</sup>.

From May to June 2017, twenty Azerbaijani citizens under full control of the authorities died in unknown circumstances.<sup>3</sup>

Dozens of peaceful demonstrators were arbitrarily arrested and five demonstrators killed during 2018 July-August peaceful assemblies.<sup>4</sup>

Centre de la protection internationale respectfully requests the OSCE to call upon Russia and Azerbaijan to guarantee the rights of arrested and detained persons under their jurisdictions as well as to identify and prosecute all the perpetrators of the violations.

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<sup>2</sup> The full list of political prisoners as well as brief information on them is available at: <http://ipdthinktank.org/List%20of%20prisoners%2017%20July%202018.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> More information is available at: [http://ipdthinktank.org/Killing\\_orders\\_eng.html](http://ipdthinktank.org/Killing_orders_eng.html), [http://ipdthinktank.org/Torture\\_death\\_eng.html](http://ipdthinktank.org/Torture_death_eng.html)

<sup>4</sup> More information is available at: [http://ipdthinktank.org/Ganja\\_ru.html](http://ipdthinktank.org/Ganja_ru.html)