

Mass Detainments and Harassment of Chechen Forced Migrants in Ingushetia. IDPs are fleeing to Chechnya

On June 23, two days after the raid of armed guerillas on Ingushetia, in compact settlements of Chechen IDP in Ingushetia were carried out mop-up operations with mass detainments of IDPs. Operations took place in compact settlements in Altievo, Nesterovskaja, LOGOVAZ.

"Memorial" monitors witnessed part of the mop-up in an IDPs settlement at a milk farm in village Altievo, which lasted from 3 to 8 p.m.. The mop up was carried out by representatives of Russian and Ingush power agencies. The Chechen men were put on the ground, beaten and then detained. Some women were also beaten. According to Raisa Isaeva, the commandant of the settlement, about 50 persons were taken that evening. The IDPs said that personnel of power agencies issued threats that unless they get out of Ingushetia they would be in trouble. "My brother was killed, said one of them. Now you are my enemies". While taking the detainees away, they promised that the families won't see them in good health again.

The second part of the operation was witnessed by "Memorial". It was carried out by RUVD of Nazranovsky district. While the human rights activists were present, nobody was beaten up, but several young men were detained. Neither the reasons for the detainment nor the future whereabouts of the detained were disclosed to the families.

At night on June 24, some of the IDPs were released. In the morning the IDPs brought to "Memorial" a list of 34 persons still detained by the power agencies. Their whereabouts are unknown. "Memorial" also received a written complaint from one of the women, who was cruelly beaten during the mop up in Altievo the night before.

At 9:30 in the morning, the representatives of HRC "Memorial" and the representatives of the families of the detained approached the GUVD department of Nazran. The human rights activists and the IDPs wanted to talk to the GUVD authorities and inquire information on the whereabouts of IDPs and the possible charges brought against them. The GUVD authorities refused to meet with the HRC "Memorial", and armed personnel of the GUVD in a very aggressive manner pushed them and the IDPs from the territory of GUVD.

In the meantime the Altievo camp was cut off electricity and gas. The gas pipe and the electricity wires were cut by the team of the district electricity company, which arrived at 9 a.m.

The commandant of the camp turned to the deputy head of Department for Migration, at the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Republic Ingushetia, Akhmed Tomov. Tomov explained to the commandant: "It's beyond my capacity to help you. If you are threatened and are given two days - you should flee. I am also afraid of these people".

In the afternoon, the commandant of the camp gave interviews to the local TV and radio "Echo Moskvi", where she explained what was going on in Altievo. She appealed to Russian and international human rights organizations to protect their rights. "We have nowhere to go, our homes lay in ruins in Chechnya. Please, take us to other regions of Russia", Isaeva said.

When Raisa Isaeva got back to the camp the migration services presented her a list of people, whose registration in the camp had been withdrawn. She was on the list of the excluded. Generally in a camp of 1200 only 320 had been registered until then. Under various pretexts the rest of the IDPs had been withdrawn registrations earlier.

Throughout June 24 IDPs were leaving the territory of milk farm. From barrack 1 out of 74 families, only 10 families remained. From the second barrack 4 families have moved, 4 other are getting ready for departure. Only those remain, whose relatives were detained on June 23.

At 5 p.m. on June 24 a new mop- up operation was launched in Altievo camp. It lasted for over an hour. The mop up was carried out by federal servicemen speaking unaccented Russian. The servicemen were swearing and abusing the women. According to the commandant Isaeva, they took golden things and valuables that they could find in the camp. One man was detained.

In the morning on June 25 the IDPs were demanded to file applications for voluntary return to Chechnya.