

**INFORMATION CENTER
OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE RUSSIAN-CHECHEN FRIENDSHIP**

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Documents

A disabled person is complaining about extortion from servicemen manning a checkpoint

On 11 August 2004, a seriously disabled person Khusein Chergizov filed his complaint to the Ingush office of the Russian-Chechen Friendship Society. He asserts in his complaint that the staff of the "Kavkaz-1" checkpoint, which is situated at the border between the Chechen Republic and Ingushetia, is corrupt. In his complaint, he also points to the fact that the staff of this checkpoint is in the habit of violating human rights of people passing it.

The abridged complaint follows.

*To Ella Pamfilova, the Chairperson of the Commission on
Human Rights at the President of the Russian Federation*

*To Imran Ezheev, the leader of
The Russian-Chechen Friendship Society*

*From Chergizov Khusein Sultangirievich,
A disabled person
Living in Ordjonikidzevskaya settlement at 14 Gordonov Street*

COMPLAINT

On 16 June 2004 at about 11 am, I, a disabled person suffering from epilepsy, was subjected to unlawful actions committed by servicemen manning the "Kavkaz-1" checkpoint. I know the name of this serviceman is Pisarev Evgeny Viktorovich. He is a militiaman. I have been subjected to unlawful actions several times at this checkpoint. I would not complain about that, if it had not repeated several times. They let no driver pass this checkpoint unless and until they pay money. If you don't pay, you are sure to be subjected to some unlawful actions. The young suffer most of all. They are offered to pay ten rubles; otherwise, they are forced to get out of a bus. Pisarev Evgeny Viktorovich kept for an hour to make me pay. He accused of me breaking the law, as there is no stamp about the military service in my passport. I presented the document verifying that I am a handicapped person and so I am relieved of the military service. He threatened me with making the report. I agreed. He started making the report repeating that I must have bought my documents at the market. When the report was ready, he asked me to sign it. I told that I had to read it and added that he had to give me its copy. He refused to do it and threw into a box. Having failed to obtain what he wanted from me, he turned his attention to the driver of the bus. He made him put the bus to the parking lot saying that he was going to check all the passengers. The driver parked the bus. After that, Pisarev took him aside and started making him pay, as I understood. It happens every day. They make a profit out of the common people's grief. Peaceful people suffer whereas people representing special services and force bodies pass it easily. When our bus was stopped at "Kavkaz-1" checkpoint, the driver collected all the passengers' passports, except ones of pensioners, and went to the checkpoint premises (a carriage). Some time later, a serviceman got into the bus together with the driver and started to give passports out to their owners. Coming up to me, he ordered me to get out of the bus. I told

him that I am a handicapped person. He repeated his order. I obeyed, as I didn't want to detain the bus and its passengers. I told the driver to go and to wait for me, because I understood that I would be detained there for quite a time, as they wanted me to pay money. It lasted for an hour, as I had assumed. Our rights are violated. Being a law-abiding citizen, I demand the punishment to the guilty person, as it is fixed by the law of the Russian Federation. I think that the law is above all and nobody can break it. I think that if they started to abuse the rights of disabled people, it is beyond any limits. It should be stopped if the laws of the Russian Federation prevail here. If it is not so, it is necessary to tell all the citizens that the laws do not prevail in Russia. Then people will start to oppose arbitrariness by themselves.

11.08.2004

With respect, Chergizov,

(From our correspondent)

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