

Family Appeal

To International Human Rights Organizations

My name is **Laura Kurdzhieva**. I am the wife of **Kemal Tambiev**, a software engineer, entrepreneur and father of two children. Today, my husband is serving a sentence of more than seventeen years in prison in Russia.

Kemal was convicted together with **Abdulmumin Gadzhiyev**, a journalist, and **Abubakar Rizvanov**, a civic and religious community figure. All three men were sentenced to extremely long prison terms — from **17 to 18 years** — in a terrorism-financing case where no violent act was proven.

I am writing not only as a wife, but as a mother, and as a person whose family has been torn apart by a conviction we believe to be deeply unjust.

Kemal is not a terrorist. He is a father who helped people, worked, built projects and tried to live with dignity. Abdulmumin is a journalist whose work gave voice to others. Abubakar is a community figure whose religious and civic activity was turned against him. Their humanitarian, religious and charitable contacts were presented as a crime, while the prosecution failed to prove that they committed, planned, prepared or supported any act of violence.

This case has destroyed the lives of three men and three families. Children are growing up without their fathers. Wives, mothers and relatives live for years between prisons, courtrooms, letters and hope. Every day of silence makes their isolation deeper and their situation more dangerous.

What makes this case especially important is that even within the court there were doubts. Judge **Rizvan Zubairov**, a member of the trial panel, issued a dissenting opinion. He questioned the evidentiary basis of the conviction and raised serious concerns about the fairness of the proceedings. This means that even inside the system that sentenced them, there was recognition that the case was not clear, not solid and not just.

In July 2026, Russia's Supreme Court left the verdict in force. This means that domestic remedies have effectively been exhausted. We no longer have a real path to justice inside the Russian legal system. That is why we are turning to the international community.

We ask international human rights organizations to recognize **Abdulmumin Gadzhiyev, Kemal Tambiev and Abubakar Rizvanov** as political prisoners.

This recognition is not just a label. For prisoners, it is protection. For families, it is hope. For governments, parliaments and international institutions, it is a signal that this case must not remain invisible.

We also ask that their names be included in political-prisoner advocacy lists, diplomatic lists and exchange lists. Today, for many political prisoners in Russia, visibility is not symbolic — it can become the only real road home. A name that is known can be defended. A name that is included in lists can be raised in negotiations. A name that is forgotten disappears behind prison walls.

Please do not let Abdulmumin, Kemal and Abubakar disappear.

We ask you to review their case materials, examine the dissenting opinion, speak publicly about their case, raise their names before governments and international mechanisms, and help secure their recognition as political prisoners.

Our families have carried this pain for years. We are asking you to help turn that pain into action — and to give these men a chance to return home.

Laura Kurdzhieva

Wife of Kemal Tambiev

On behalf of the families of Abdulmumin Gadzhiyev, Kemal Tambiev and Abubakar Rizvanov

Campaign: Free AKA — International Advocacy Campaign

Website: <https://free-aka.com>