

Free Abdulmumin Gadzhiyev, Kemal Tambiev and Abubakar Rizvanov

Purpose: International political-prisoner recognition and inclusion in political-prisoner exchange lists.

Abdulmumin Gadzhiyev, Kemal Tambiev and Abubakar Rizvanov are three Russian Muslim men from Dagestan sentenced to **17–18 years in prison** in a politically motivated terrorism-financing case. The prosecution did not prove that they committed, planned, prepared or supported any act of violence. Instead, humanitarian, religious, educational and charitable activity was presented as terrorism financing.

The case raises serious concerns about the misuse of counterterrorism legislation, pressure on Muslim civic and religious life, fair-trial violations and attacks on independent journalism. Gadzhiyev is a journalist associated with the independent Dagestani newspaper *Chernovik*. Tambiev is a software engineer, entrepreneur and father of two. Rizvanov is a civic and religious community figure.

Key Facts

- **Abdulmumin Gadzhiyev** — journalist and community figure; sentenced to **17 years**.
- **Kemal Tambiev** — software engineer and father of two; sentenced to **17 years and 4 months**.
- **Abubakar Rizvanov** — civic and religious community figure; sentenced to **18 years**.
- **No violent act was proven** by the prosecution.
- **Humanitarian, religious and charitable activity** was treated as alleged terrorism financing.
- **Judge Rizvan Zubairov issued a dissenting opinion**, questioning the evidentiary basis and procedural fairness of the conviction.

Why This Case Matters

This case is not only about three individuals. It reflects a broader pattern in Russia in which counterterrorism laws are used against journalists, Muslim civic networks, religious communities and humanitarian initiatives.

The dissenting opinion of Judge Rizvan Zubairov is especially important. According to the defence and case materials, the judge concluded that key parts of the prosecution case relied on assumptions rather than properly verified evidence. He also raised concerns about the admissibility and reliability of evidence, including issues surrounding Kemal Tambiev's first interrogation, which allegedly took place without effective legal assistance at a critical early stage.

Legal Status

- **12 September 2023:** Long prison sentences imposed.
- **1 November 2024:** Appeal upheld the convictions.
- **July 2026:** Russia's Supreme Court left the verdict in force.

Domestic remedies have now effectively been exhausted. International attention is urgently needed.

Our Request

We ask international human rights organizations, governments, parliaments, UN mechanisms and diplomatic missions to:

1. **Recognize all three men as political prisoners internationally;**
2. **Publicly call for their release;**
3. **Include their names in political-prisoner advocacy, diplomatic and exchange lists;**
4. **Monitor their prison conditions and raise their cases in human-rights dialogues with Russia.**

International recognition is essential. It turns a regional case into an international human-rights issue, opens doors in foreign ministries, parliaments and UN mechanisms, and provides greater protection inside prison. Since domestic remedies have been exhausted, the realistic path home now depends on visibility and inclusion in the lists used in political-prisoner negotiations and exchanges.

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