

Free Abdulmumin, Kemal, and Abubakar

Three lives, 52 years in prison, zero evidence of violence

A journalist, a software engineer, and a community activist have been convicted in Russia of "financing terrorism" in a case built on fabricated testimony, decade-old interviews, and humanitarian aid misconstrued as a crime.

WHO THEY ARE

- **Abdulmumin Gadjiev:** Journalist for the independent publication *Chernovik*, father of four. Sentenced to 16 years and 10 months.
- **Kemal Tambiev:** Software engineer, Bauman Moscow State Technical University alumnus, father of two. Sentenced to 17 years and 4 months.
- **Abubakar Rizvanov:** Community activist, charity organizer, father of seven. Sentenced to 17 years and 10 months—the longest term among the three.
- All three have been held in custody since June 2019.

ANATOMY OF A FABRICATION: Facts That Unravel the Prosecution

1. **A non-existent crime applied retroactively:** Gadjiev was convicted over two interviews published in 2008 and 2013—years before ISIS was designated a terrorist organization in Russia.
2. **16,000 rubles (\$200) for plane tickets branded as "financing terrorism":** The primary financial charge against Gadjiev hinges on a transfer proven to have been intended for purchasing airline tickets. The prosecution relied on testimony from a "secret witness" whose claims were subsequently disproven.
3. **Confession coerced without legal counsel:** Kemal Tambiev was forced to sign a statement drafted by an investigator without a lawyer present. Defense counsel was admitted only after the interrogation—a fact confirmed by official case files, yet ignored by the court during sentencing.
4. **Dissenting opinion from a panel judge:** The case was tried by a panel of three judges. One of them, Rizvan Zubairov, issued an official dissenting opinion stating that the verdict relied on assumptions rather than verified evidence, and that Tambiev's initial interrogation violated his right to effective legal defense.
5. **Collapse of the prosecution's central premise:** The entire case relies on an alleged link to preacher Abu Umar Sasitlinsky, who publicly spoke out against Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In April 2023, Interpol recognized his prosecution as politically and religiously motivated and removed him from the international wanted list.

THE UKRAINIAN CONTEXT

Ukrainian citizen E.V. Lazinskaya confirmed through an official statement that the funds received from Kemal Tambiev were strictly humanitarian aid, not terrorism financing. Furthermore, one of the charitable foundations listed in the indictment is legally registered in Ukraine. Russian investigators effectively criminalized cooperation with a legitimate Ukrainian humanitarian organization, framing routine charitable work as terrorist activity.

REACTION OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- **European Court of Human Rights (ECHR):** Recognized violations of Gadjev's rights regarding his detention and awarded him compensation.
- **Amnesty International:** Designated Gadjev a prisoner of conscience, calling the prosecution a "fabricated case as part of a concerted campaign".
- **Reporters Without Borders (RSF):** "The reporter remains in custody for a fifth year—a whistleblower in his own cell".
- **Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ):** Documenting the case and demanding their immediate release.
- **Human Rights Center "Memorial":** Officially recognized all three as political prisoners and demands an end to their criminal prosecution.
- **Interpol (Decision CCF/124/R577.22):** Confirmed the legitimacy of humanitarian activities by the affiliated charities (ANSAR, The Living Heart), which built schools, mosques, and water wells in Niger and Bangladesh.

PRESS QUOTE

"This case is not about terrorism. It is about how a 2008 interview, a 16,000-ruble plane ticket, and Ukrainian humanitarian aid were turned into 52 years in prison for a journalist, an engineer, and a father of seven. Even one of the judges on the trial panel publicly dissented from the verdict".

CALL TO ACTION

- International recognition of their political prisoner status.
- Inclusion of all three on prisoner exchange lists as the only realistic path to release.

Case details, legal documents, and press contact: free-aka.com | contact@free-aka.com