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For immediate release

European Court to rule on disappearance of father of three

On 8 January 2009, the European Court of Human Rights will rule in the case of *Abdulkadyrova and Others v Russia* – about the disappearance of Ayndi Dzhabayev from his home in Urus-Martan, Chechnya, in 2002. The applicants, Mr Dzhabayev's wife, Nurzhan Abdulkadyrova, and their three children, are represented by the European Human Rights Advocacy Centre (EHRAC), based at London Metropolitan University and the Russian NGO, Memorial.

On the morning of 8 September 2002, Ayndi and his children were at home. Witnesses say that at around midday military servicemen, who had arrived in armed personnel carriers, surrounded the house next door. Gunfire was heard. A serviceman wearing a balaclava and armed with an automatic weapon entered the courtyard of the applicants' house from the neighbouring courtyard.

Ayndi sent the children out into the street while he got dressed. Nine year-old Zumrat was slow to leave and saw the serviceman aim a gun at his father and heard him shout 'hands on the wall, animal!' When the children returned to the house with a neighbour Ayndi was not there. Things had been thrown out of the wardrobes and their furniture and clothes were bullet-ridden.

At around 3.30pm the heads of the town and district administration arrived and spoke to the servicemen. One of the neighbours later asked the officials where Ayndi Dzhabayev was. They said that no one had been detained.

Nurzhan returned home at 4pm and went to the town administration but it was already closed. The following day she began searching for her husband and applied to various official bodies, in person and in writing. All denied that her husband had been detained. She also travelled to locations where unidentified bodies have been found, but has been unable to ascertain Ayndi's fate or whereabouts.

On 20 July 2003, the applicants complained to the European Court under Articles 2 (right to life), 3 (inhuman treatment), 5 (liberty and security), 6 (fair trial), 8 (private and family life) and Article 1 of Protocol 1 (property).

[End]