



900 McGill Road
Kamloops BC
V2C 0C8

Thompson Rivers University Students' Union
Local 15 Canadian Federation of Students

t: 250.828.5289
f: 250.852.6350

Chairman Aleksandr Ivanovich Bastrykin
Investigation Committee of the Russian Federation
Tekhnicheskii pereulok, dom 2, 105005 Moscow, Russian Federation

August 22, 2017

Reports of homophobic hate crimes in Chechnya need investigation

Dear Chairman,


On behalf of the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union we are writing to urge you to promptly investigate reports of abductions and killings of men believed to be gay in Chechnya, to condemn any discriminatory or hateful comments made by officials, and to take all necessary steps to ensure the safety of any individual who may be at risk in Chechnya because of their sexual orientation.


We are deeply troubled by reports from Amnesty International of a coordinated campaign in Chechnya to abduct, torture, and imprison hundreds of men believed to be gay. We are also concerned with the threatening public statements made by Chechen government officials that condone or endorse homophobic violence against men believed to be gay.

We strongly believe that you and the Russian government have a responsibility under international law to investigate these reports, including the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Article 6 and 9* – the right to life, and the right to liberty and security of the person regardless of sexual orientation. If your investigation finds these reports to be true, then we would urge you to take action to hold any responsible person or official accountable for their illegal and immoral actions.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,


Tatiana Gilbert
President
TRU Students' Union


Caitlin Orteza
Vice-President Equity
TRU Students' Union

cc: Acting Head of the Chechen Investigation Committee Sergei Vasilievich Sokolov,
Ambassador Alexander Darchiev, Human Rights Ombudsman Tatiana Nikolaevna Moskalkova