



**Memorial for Samuel Paty.**

Source: Thomas Bresson, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:2020-10-21\\_12-05-53\\_rassemblement-Belfort.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:2020-10-21_12-05-53_rassemblement-Belfort.jpg), Attribution: CC BY 4.0

## France Teaming with Russia to Deport Purported Chechen Extremists

By Dodge Billingsley  
OE Watch Commentary

France is home to roughly 65,000 Chechens, Muslim refugees and immigrants from two wars with Russia—a very small number of whom have participated in jihadist actions at home and abroad. The grisly murder of high school teacher Samuel Paty in 2020, killed by a Chechen living in France, is a high-profile example. This and other incidents have put France’s relationship with its Chechen population on edge and led to a wave of deportations.

According to the excerpted article from *Novayagazeta*, a Moscow-based newspaper known for its critical and investigative coverage of Russian political and social affairs, Chechen refugee Magomed Gadaev was recently deported from France to Russia. Gadaev was flown to Novy Urengoy, where he has family, and then handed over to Chechen authorities. He has since disappeared. The *Novayagazeta* article’s primary focus was Amnesty International’s plea to Russian authorities to protect Gadaev, citing “extreme concern” for Gadaev’s life” since he had been a critic of the current Chechen government, as well as had been previously tortured and a witness to torture by Chechen security services.

According to Gadaev’s lawyer and other human rights advocates featured in an excerpted piece in *Euronews*, a France-based network focused on providing a European perspective, the deportation of Gadaev represents a gross violation of human rights. Moreover the article states that Gadaev isn’t the only one, claiming that recently at least 10 Chechens have been deported from France to Russia because of their alleged ties to radical Islam. The article also noted that the decision to send Gadaev back to Russia was done following a meeting between the French and Russian Foreign Ministers, suggesting that a possible informal and illegal arrangement may have been made.

**Source:** “Amnesty International обратилась к французским властям с требованием вернуть Гадаева во Францию из Чечни (Amnesty International calls on French authorities to return Gadaev to France from Chechnya),” *Novayagazeta.ru* (Moscow based newspaper known for its critical and investigative coverage of Russian political and social affairs), 11 April 2021. <https://novayagazeta.ru/articles/2021/04/11/amnesty-international-obratilas-k-frantsuzskim-vlastiam-v-trebovanii-vernut-gadaeva-vo-frantsiiu-iz-chechni>

*The human rights organization Amnesty International has issued an emergency statement in connection with the deportation of Chechen refugee Magomed Gadaev from France to Russia.*

*Amnesty International’s statement cites “extreme concern” for Gadaev’s life and calls on the Russian authorities to “ensure [him] the right to life” and prevent him from being subjected to torture and “other inhuman or degrading treatment” and to ensure “His right to a fair trial.”*

...

*Amnesty International calls on the French authorities to “take all necessary measures” to ensure that Gadaev’s life is not in danger, that he is not tortured and that he is guaranteed the right to a fair trial. “The French authorities must also do everything possible to ensure the safe return of Mr. Gadaev to France and to provide him with international protection,” the human rights organization demanded.*

...

*The French branch of Amnesty also launched a social media campaign urging President Emmanuel Macron to send demands for Gadaev to return to France.*

...

*Gadaev is a board member of the Bart Marshaw organization and a member of the Assembly of European Chechens, which represents the interests of the diaspora. He previously fled Chechnya after being tortured in detention.*

**“[Amnesty International] “strongly condemns the expulsion by France to Russia of Mr. Magomed Gadaev”, which occurred “despite the existence of obvious fears for his life and safety, which is a flagrant violation of France’s international obligations prohibiting the expulsion of any person, regardless of circumstances, to a territory where it may be exposed to serious human rights violations”.”**

## Continued: France Teaming with Russia to Deport Purported Chechen Extremists

**Source:** “France Slammed for Deporting Chechen refugee to Russia despite risk of Torture,” *Euronews* (a France based news network focused on providing a European perspective), 15 April 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/04/15/france-slammed-for-deporting-chechen-refugee-to-russia-despite-risk-of-torture>

*Gadaev was granted asylum in Poland before moving to France, where he became a witness in prominent torture cases involving Chechen security forces*

*... the decision to expel his client was made by the Ministry of the Interior as a consequence of rising stigma against migrants from the Caucasus, following the murder of teacher Samuel Paty in October last year by an 18-year-old Chechen.”*

...

*On April 10, Gadaev turned to the police in Novy Urengoy with a request to provide him with state protection. He was then handed over to Chechen security forces.*

*According to Memorial, a Russian human rights group, a criminal case was opened against Gadaev under Article 222 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation under a count of illegal arms trafficking. Investigators said they found a cache of weapons.*

...

*Just three days after the terror attack [murder of Samuel Paty], Gadaev’s request was rejected because he posed a “potential threat to national security.”*

*About the same time, French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin started security talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Kolokoltsev. According to media reports, those centered on the possibility of returning Russian illegal immigrants suspected of ties with radical Islamism and recorded in the so-called “S-File” (threat to state security) of French intelligence services.*

...

*“What kind of agreement was made? Was it just a verbal agreement? If not, the agreement should have been submitted for public discussion and taken under the control of Parliament,” said Jean-Francois Dubost, head of the “protection of populations” program at Amnesty International France.*

...

*The human rights activists added the case was based on so-called “white notes”—anonymous information about potentially dangerous individual compiled by intelligence services, which may contain unverified allegations.*

...

*According to Amnesty International, Gadaev is by no means an isolated case. In recent months, the NGO has become aware of at least ten Chechens deported under similar circumstances in France.*

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