22 January 2019

Mr. Yury Yakovlevich Chayka

Prosecutor General’s Office

Ul. B. Dmitrovka, d. 15a

125993 Moscow GSP- 3

Russian Federation

Dear Prosecutor General,

As a member/supporter of ACAT-Switzerland, the Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture and the Death Penalty, I am writing to you on behalf of

Mr. Oyub Titiev

Prominent Chechen human rights defender Oyub Titiev, in charge of the Grozny office of the Russian NGO *Human Rights Center Memorial,* was arrested by police on false drug possession accusations on 9 January 2018 and has remained in detention ever since. His detention was subsequently extended on numerous occasions. The judge also denied Oyub Titiev a release on bail under guarantee, as well as the right not to be held in a cage during his trial. It is strongly believed that the case against Oyub Titiev has been fabricated in order to silence him and obstruct his organization’s human rights work. Oyub Titiev runs the risks of being convicted to ten years imprisonment for a crime he did not commit. His arrest and arbitrary trial violate the International Convenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the UN Convention against Torture (CAT), which the Federation of Russia is Party of, and thus is bound to respect.

I am deeply concerned about the fate of Oyub Titievand I urge you to:

* Order his immediate and unconditional release and drop all charges against him, as he is a prisoner of conscience detained solely in connection with his legitimate human rights work;
* Ensure that human rights organizations in Russia, and in particular in Chechnya, including *Human Rights Center Memorial* can work without fear of persecution and intimidation.

I thank you for the attention you will give to this concern.

Yours respectfully,

Copy**:** Mr. Sergei Garmonin, Ambassador of the Federation of Russia, Brunnadernrain 37, 3006 Bern - CH