

# Chechen Court Sentences Mother of Prominent Activist to 5.5 Years in Prison

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Zarema Musayeva **Yelena Afonina / TASS**

Zarema Musaeva, the mother of prominent Chechen human rights lawyer and activist Abubakar Yangulbaev, has been sentenced to 5.5 years in prison, the Committee Against Torture rights group [reported](#) Tuesday.

A judge at a local court in Grozny, the capital of Russia's North Caucasus republic of Chechnya, found Musaeva guilty of assaulting the authorities and fraud — accusations she strongly denied.

Abubakar Yangulbaev [said](#) the sentence was "equal to the death penalty" given the state of his mother's health.

Earlier Tuesday, Musaeva's lawyer Alexander Nemov and prominent journalist Yelena Milashina, who arrived in the Chechen capital to attend the hearing, were [hospitalized](#) after being badly beaten on their way from the local airport.

## Embed:

☒☒Зарему Мусаеву приговорили к 5,5 годам колонии общего режима по обвинению в мошенничестве и применении насилия к сотруднику полиции, передает наша корреспондентка из зала Ахматовского суда Грозного

Именно столько и запрашивала прокуратура для матери чеченских оппозиционеров.... [pic.twitter.com/XWe6xywMoe](https://pic.twitter.com/XWe6xywMoe)

— SOTA (@Sota\_Vision) [July 4, 2023](#)

Musaeva, 53, was violently [detained](#) by Chechen law enforcement in January 2022, in the family's apartment in the city of Nizhny Novgorod some 420 kilometers east of Moscow.

Chechen security officers had also attempted to detain Musaeva's husband, the retired federal judge Saydi Yangulbaev, but were unable to arrest him due to his judicial immunity.

Musaeva has been held in a pre-trial detention center in Grozny since her detention. Abubakar Yangulabev and human rights groups repeatedly [sounded the alarm](#) about her deteriorating health as authorities denied Musaeva access to adequate medical care.

Abubakar Yangulbaev and his brothers, Baysangur and Ibragim, are vocal critics of Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov and are based outside the country.

**Related article:** [Why Kadyrov Has Imprisoned My Mother](#)

Human rights activists have linked Musaeva's arrest to her sons' activism.

Abubakar Yangulbaev in January publicly [offered](#) to surrender himself to Kadyrov in exchange for his mother's release.

Baysangur and Ibragim Yangulbaev were [added](#) to the federal list of "terrorists and extremists" in November 2022.

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