

North Caucasus SOS Crisis Group Yearly report 2025

Helping those who fight
for life and freedom



SOS || North
Caucasus



About us

The project was founded by human rights defenders and activists who had been helping people since 2017, when mass persecution of LGBTQ+ individuals in Chechnya became known.

In October 2021, we united to form the NC SOS Crisis Group. →



← About us

We help LGBTQ+ people escape regions where they face violence, and mortal danger. We also work with heterosexual women from the North Caucasus who face extreme danger. We provide safe housing, legal, financial, medical, and psychological assistance, and help create the necessary conditions for life in a new place. →



← About us

NC SOS documents human rights violations against LGBTQ+ people in the North Caucasus and tells the world about what is happening in the region. Our goal is to ensure accountability for torture and inhumane treatment based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and to put an end to impunity for such crimes. →



← About us

In 2023, the Russian authorities recognized the NC SOS Crisis Group as a “foreign agent,” and since 2024 the “international LGBT movement” has been labeled an “extremist organization.” But we continue to save lives no matter the obstacles. ■



Results

In 2025

43* people got help

19* people were evacuated from the region

11* people were evacuated outside the country or granted asylum

In total since 2017:

925* people got help

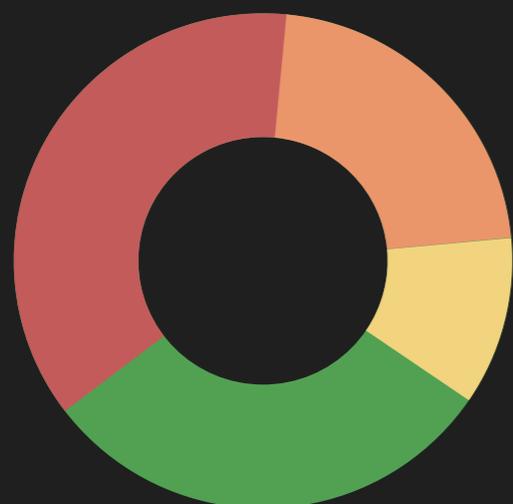
434* people were evacuated from the region

395* people were evacuated outside the country or granted asylum

* These numbers include only direct applicants and do not reflect family members and partners; the real figure may be significantly higher than indicated.

Applications

295 total amount of applications



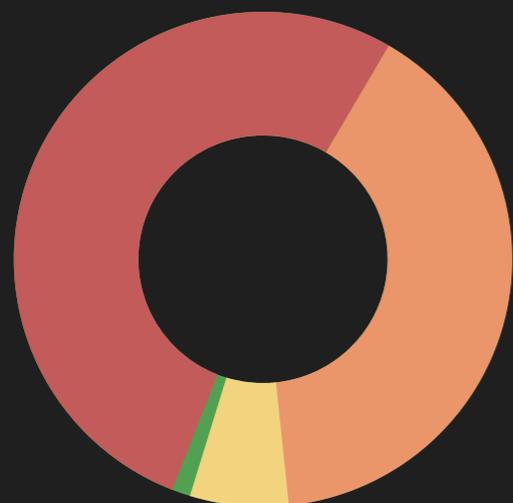
Republics of Origin

- 36,9% – Chechnya
- 22% – Dagestan
- 11% – Ingushetia
- 5% – Other sources

Sources of application



- 80,1% – Telegram
- 14,9% – Email
- 5% – Other sources



Applicants' gender

- 52,5% – women
- 40% – men
- 6,4% – transgender and non-binary persons
- 1,1% – Other sources

Applicants' age

- 13** years the youngest age
- 46** years the oldest age
- 18** years the most common age
- 22,5** years average age

Coordinators of the evacuation departments of NC SOS and “Vyvozhuk” held a webinar on evacuations for other support organizations.

Social assistance

8

people were in the program as of January 2025

17

people joined the program in 2025

35*

people received social support

* the number includes 10 of the applicants' children.

21

people received psychological assistance

9

people received job placement assistance after completing the program

21

people received help with document processing

9

people received employment assistance after leaving the program

+

we held one consultation to other organizations on the shelters' work

Legal Assistance



14 cases submitted to law enforcement, of which:

- 4 complaints
- 8 applications
- 2 petitions
- 4 were approved
- 10 were denied or ignored

7

people successfully crossed the Russian Federation border with our support

5

people were removed from the federal wanted list

24

applications processed through the legal bot

Most of the requests were consultations about safely leaving the region and receiving legal assistance during that process. The main regions were Dagestan and Ingushetia.

Seda Suleymanova's case

> **4800**

More than 4,800 people sent appeals to the Russian Investigative Committee asking for Seda Suleymanova's case to be taken under federal control. Most people did not receive responses. **More than 330 people** sent follow-up appeals demanding a reply.

Seda Suleymanova's case is still being investigated in Chechnya. As a result of the appeal campaign, Suleymanova was placed on the federal wanted list, but the case has not progressed beyond that.

The NC SOS Crisis Group submitted a report about Seda's abduction to the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. While Russia is not legally obligated to comply with the Working Group's recommendations, it brings discussion of Seda's case to the international level.

International Advocacy

25

support letters

4

asylum refusals
appealed (1 successful,
3 pending)

12

cases prepared
for visa or asylum
applications

3

consultations held with EU
migration authorities (Denmark,
Germany, United Kingdom)

5

cases
for which analytical briefs
were prepared for courts in
migration proceedings

22
7
4

submissions
appeals
individual
complaints

submitted
to UN
mechanisms

18

countries
we work with on protection and support measures for beneficiaries, countering transnational repression, legal mechanisms, and the return of EU residents or citizens of Chechen origin who were forcibly taken to Russia.

← International Advocacy

Interview for the EU Agency for Asylum

We gave an interview as a country expert to the European Union Agency for Asylum. The interview was reflected in the EUAA report of December 2025, including sections concerning the North Caucasus, women's rights, and LGBTQ+ rights. This report is an official source used by EU migration authorities to obtain country of origin information (COI) when assessing asylum applications.

← International Advocacy

Also:

- ✔ Participated in two sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council
- ✔ Took part in sessions of the Mariana Katzarova, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation, and worked within the consultative council
- ✔ Organized a side event within the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
- ✔ Held meetings with representatives of the European Parliament
- ✔ Participated in the World Forum on the Future of Democracy, Tech and Humankind



Volunteers

>120

people we have in our volunteer base who are helping us in various areas of our work. We appreciate each and every one of them!

Our cases *

*We only share stories that have become public. Most of our beneficiaries remain anonymous for security or personal reasons.



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Islam Musiev

In 2025, Islam, a teenager from Ingushetia, contacted the NC SOS Crisis Group and other human rights organizations with complaints of domestic violence and death threats from his relatives.

He provided photos of his injuries and reported that he had been locked inside the house, kept under constant control, and told that he would soon be killed. →

← Islam Musiev

NC SOS could not evacuate him because Islam was a minor. His relatives forcibly placed him in a psychiatric hospital in Stavropol for “correction.” However, following public attention to the case, the relatives took the young man out of the hospital, allowed him to move to another region, and enroll in college.

He now lives separately from his relatives. The NC SOS Crisis Group handled the legal aspects of the case and continues to monitor the situation and remain in contact with Islam in case the conflict with his family escalates again.

Evacuation of a European citizen with six children

Madina (name changed) travelled to the republic with her children to visit her mother. However, her husband's family confiscated both her documents and the documents of her children. Her husband himself returned to a European country and only occasionally visited Madina and the children.

Despite her European citizenship, Madina and her children were trapped in Chechnya. Both she and the children were regularly subjected to physical violence. She was unable to leave on her own: she had no money, was not allowed to work, and all her movements were strictly controlled.

With our assistance, Madina and her children were able to leave the republic and fly to their country of citizenship, where they resumed normal life — without her husband and his relatives, who posed a danger to them.

Main Events



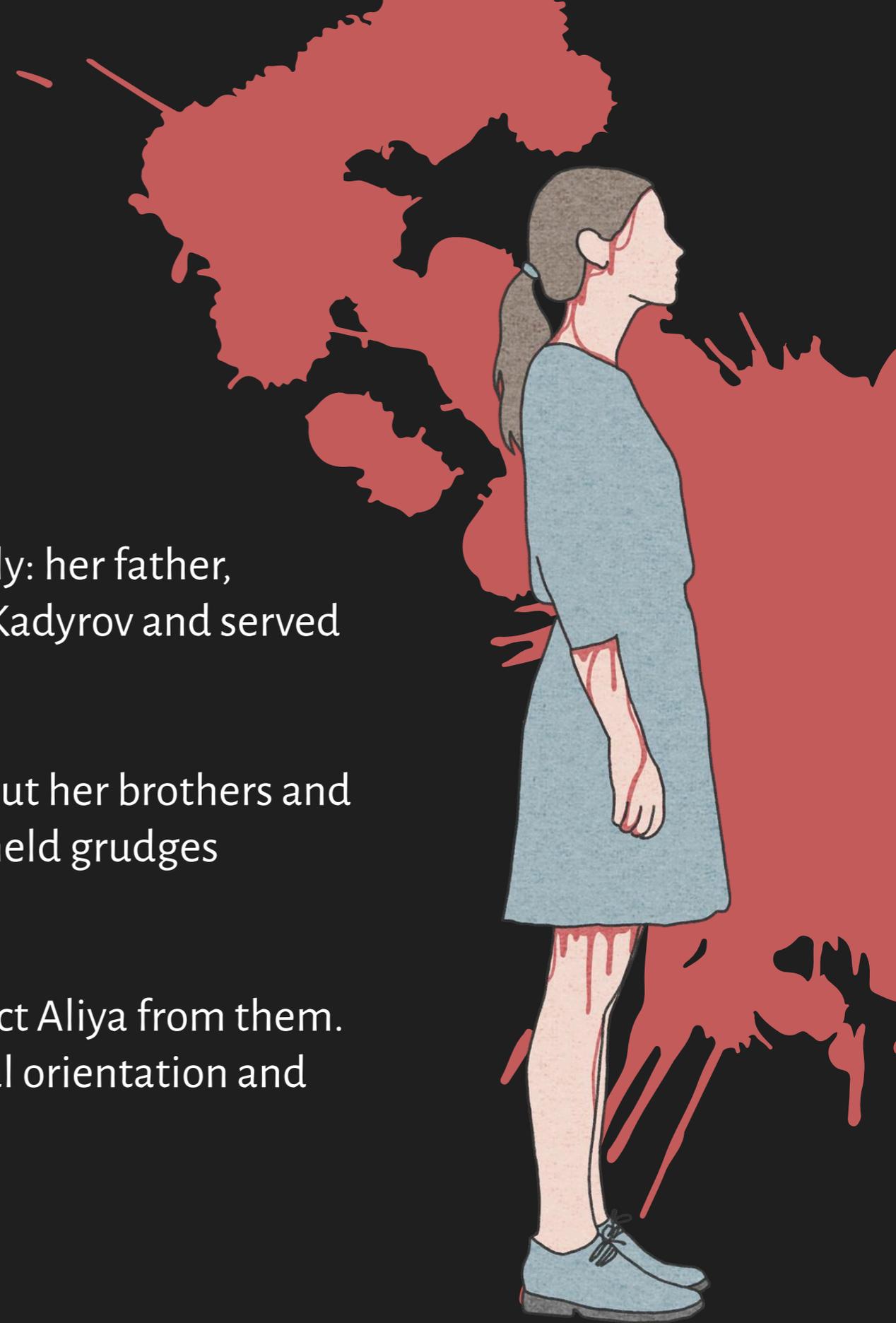
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Killing of Aliya Ozdamirova

Aliya came from an influential and wealthy family: her father, Usman Ozdamirov, was an associate of Ramzan Kadyrov and served as the head of the Gudermes District.

Aliya had a good relationship with her parents, but her brothers and cousins — also connected to Kadyrov's circle — held grudges against her.

After her father died in 2020, no one could protect Aliya from them. Her brothers were aware of her non-heterosexual orientation and threatened her. →



← Killing of Aliya Ozdamirova

In 2025, NC SOS helped her travel to Georgia with a plan for further evacuation to a safe country.

Aliya remained in contact with her uncle from Baku, Ali Asaev. On November 8, she was scheduled to leave Tbilisi, but at the airport she encountered her uncle, who convinced her that a criminal case had allegedly been opened against her and that she would not be allowed to cross the border. He offered instead to help her fly to Dubai the following day.

Human rights defenders warned Aliya that this was a trap and urged her to leave the country immediately. However, Aliya said that she trusted her uncle.

On November 9, she crossed the land border between Georgia and Russia. There, she was killed by her relatives — becoming a victim of an “honour killing.” Her funeral took place on November 12.

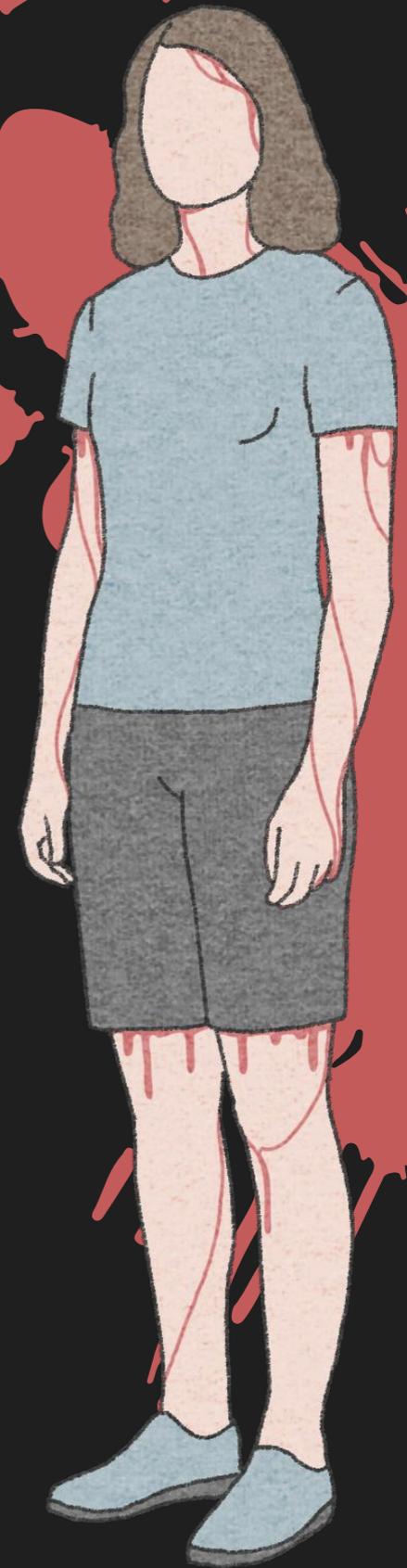
The NC SOS Crisis Group is seeking the opening of a criminal investigation in Georgia and a fair investigation into the abduction and killing of Aliya Ozdamirova.

Killing of Aishat Baimuradova

Aishat was born and raised in Chechnya. From childhood she was raised by her father, who separated her from her mother and forbade them from seeing each other.

Aishat reported not only beatings but also sexualized violence within the family that began when she was still a child.

She was forced into an early marriage against her will, and the couple had a child. Her husband beat her and threatened her with false accusations of infidelity that could have led to her killing. →



← Killing of Aishat Baimuradova

In 2024, NC SOS helped Aishat leave Russia, where she could not remain after escaping due to the influence of her relatives. She had only an internal passport, with which she entered Armenia.

On October 15, 2025, Aishat went to meet a friend and did not return home. On October 20, Armenian police reported that Aishat Baimuradova's body had been discovered in a rented apartment in Yerevan.

A criminal investigation into murder has been opened in Armenia. Two suspects — Karina Iminova and Said-Khamzat Baisarov — have been placed on the wanted list. Russia has not responded to Armenia's requests for assistance in the investigation. The woman's body remains in the morgue.

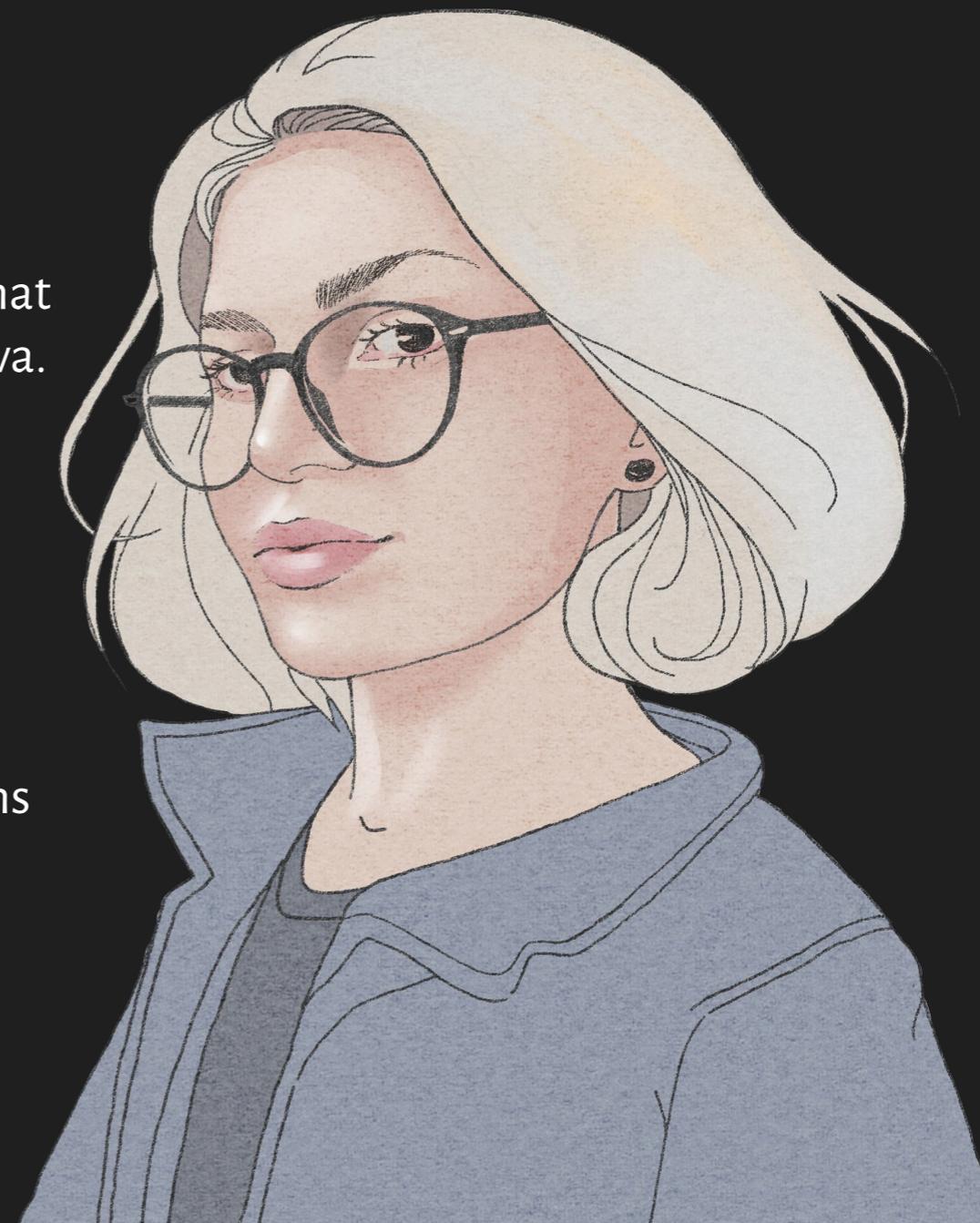
The NC SOS Crisis Group is advocating for proper burial arrangements for Aishat Baimuradova and a fair investigation into her murder, while also collecting and analysing information related to the case and the suspects.

A new statement by Ombudsperson Mansur Soltaev on the disappearance of Seda Suleymanova

After the killing of Aishat Baimuradova, the Chechen Human Rights Commissioner, Mansur Soltaev, accused human rights defenders of being responsible for her death. He also claimed that activists were responsible for the abduction of Seda Suleymanova.

Suleymanova's case has been investigated without result for almost two years, and Soltaev's statement represents the first publicly voiced version by Chechen authorities regarding what allegedly happened to her.

Soltaev promised to publish further details later, but four months after his statement no additional information has been made public.



Attempted intrusion into a shelter

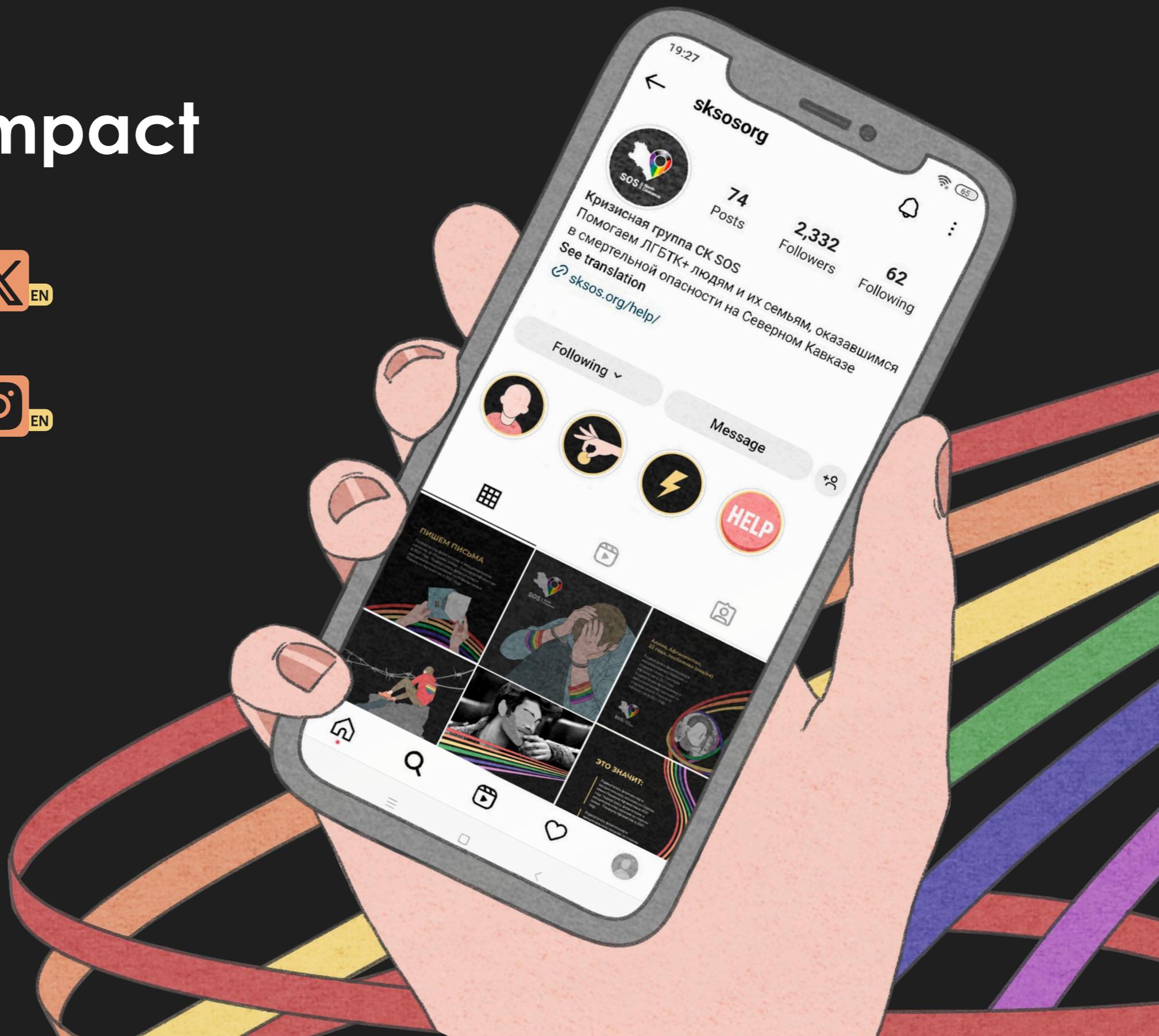
This incident took place in December 2024, but we decided to speak about it publicly only in January 2025. Unknown individuals attempted to enter an NC SOS shelter. As a result, the location had to be changed and the beneficiaries evacuated.

Several men tried to enter the shelter: they knocked on the door and attempted to break the lock. One of the men introduced himself as a local police officer but did not present any identification.

After unsuccessful attempts to force the lock and persuade the residents to open the door, the individuals left the building.

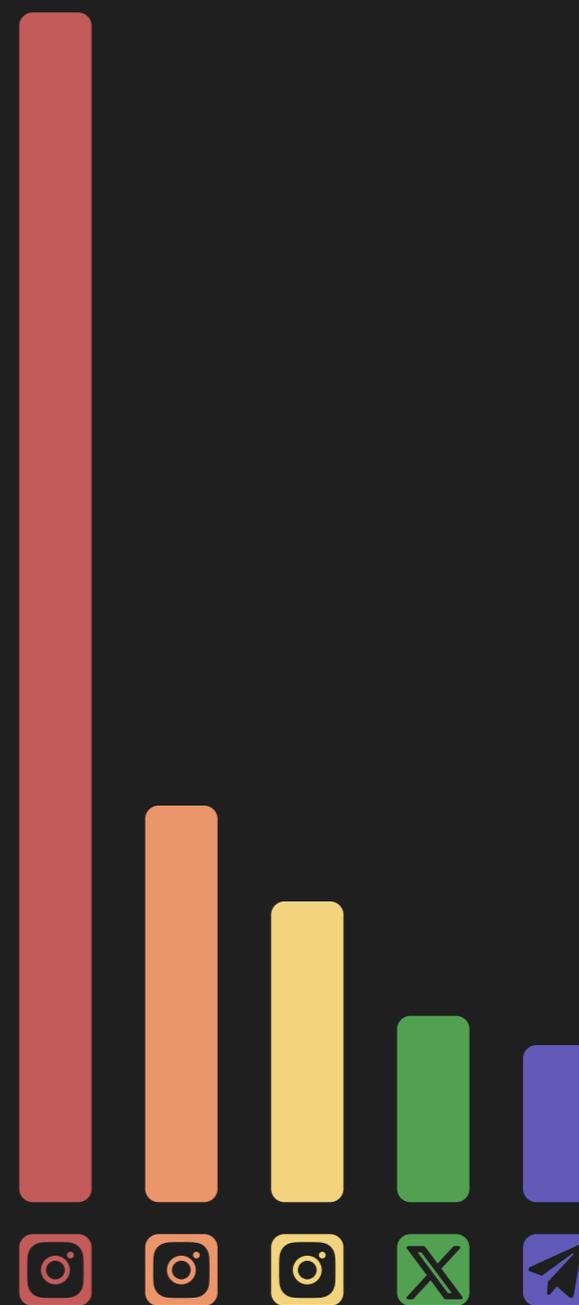
At that time, three beneficiaries were staying in the Moscow shelter. All of them were evacuated from the location within the next 24 hours and relocated to other safe places.

Media Impact



Top-5 posts by reach

Reach ↓	Post
1 M	Last words of Aliya Ozdamirova (Inst)
333,6K	A man who fled the scene of Aishat Baimuradova's murder has been identified (Inst)
252,4K	The Investigative Committee of Armenia opened a criminal case in connection with the murder of Aishat Baimuradova (Inst)
158,8K	Killing of Aliya Ozdamirova (X)
131K	Killing of Aishat Baimuradova (Telegram)



Audience

15K total audience
+1.2K ($\approx +8.6\%$) growth

Reach

5.3M reach
+2.7M ($\approx +103.8\%$) growth

Media

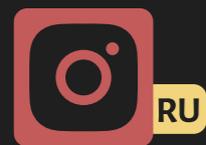
Audience

Reach



7.6K

1.3M



6K

3.8M



0.5K

53.6K

Media

Audience

Reach



0.4K

195.6K



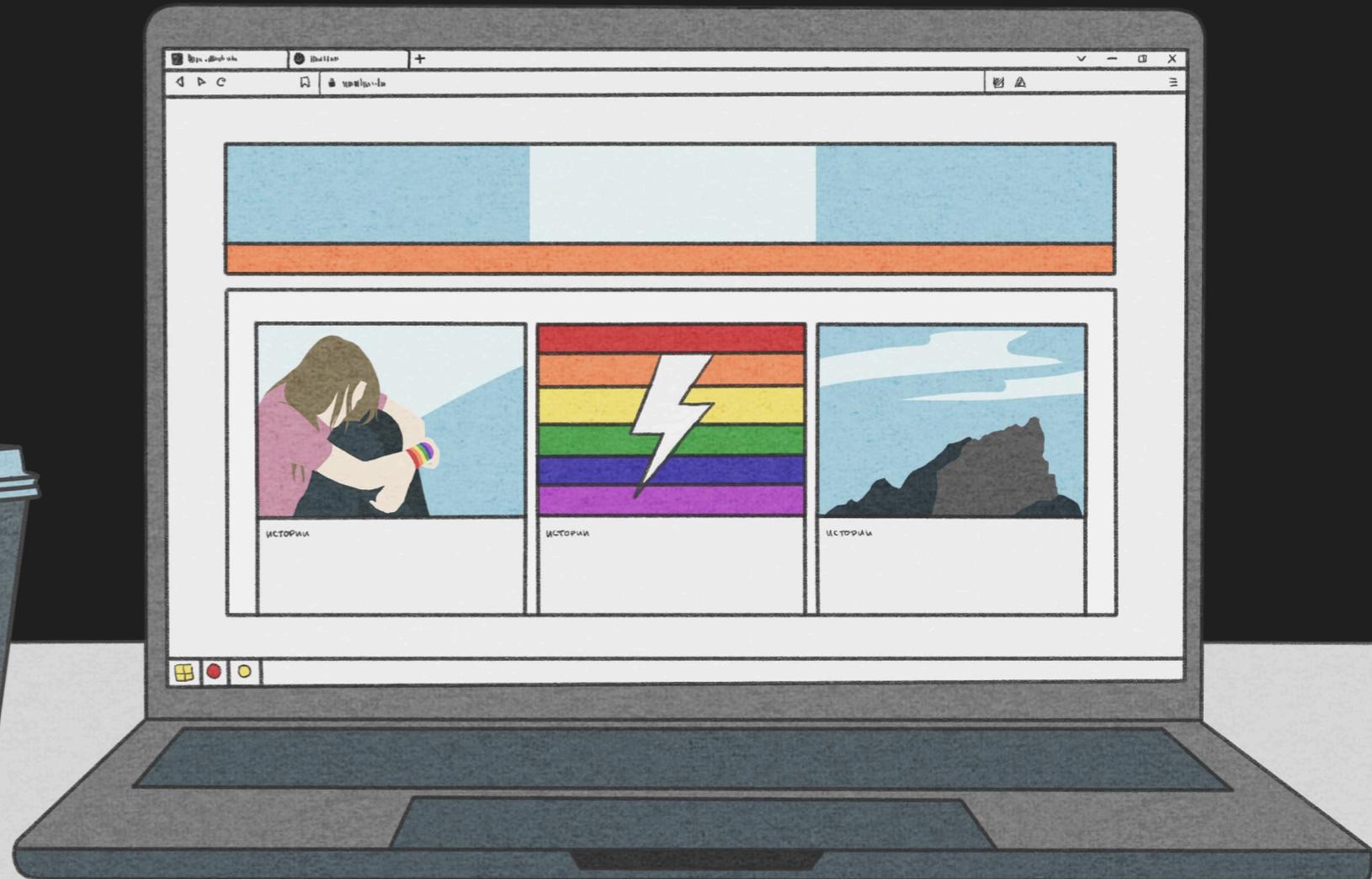
0.3K

53.6K

48.5K
views

24.4K
visitors

Website **RU** **EN**



Media

We have been featured in:

Meduza, The Insider, Novaya Gazeta and Novaya Gazeta.Europe, TVRain, Vot Tak, Horizontal Russia, Radio Liberty, Sever.Realii, Kavkaz.Realii, Caucasian Knot, Holod, Fontanka, Current Time, Takie Dela, Afisha Daily, Bumaga, Sirena, SOTA, BBC Russian Service, BBC, ASTRA, JamNews, OC Media, Orda.kz, The Moscow Times, Gay Times, The Pink News, and others



← Media

- ④ Employees of the NC SOS Crisis Group and the organization's beneficiary August Dobrovolsky participated in filming the movie **Hunting the Rainbow**, which was released on the channel of journalist **Irina Shikhman** and gathered more than 600,000 views.
- ④ Two reports by **TVRain**: on the investigation of the case of Seda Suleymanova and on the murder of Aishat Baimuradova.
- ④ Report by **The Insider** – “‘We will send you to the special military operation.’ How cases are fabricated in Nizhnevartovsk.” A beneficiary of NC SOS, August Dobrovolsky, gave an interview for this report.

How We Are Supported

Private Donations:

8343

euros was received this year

407

was raised for the New Year's gifts for the beneficiaries





Helping those who fight for
life and freedom

