



Doc. 11857

08 April 2009

Murder of Oumar Israilov

Reply to Written question¹: Written question No. 561 (Doc. 11829)
Committee of Ministers

1. Question from Mr Gross (Doc. 11829)

In view also of the statement of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights adopted on Monday, 26 January 2009, how does the Committee of Ministers intend to react to the murder, in Vienna, of Oumar Israilov, a refugee who had dared to accuse the Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov before the European Court of Human Rights of having personally tortured him?

In particular, what action will the Committee of Ministers take against such murders and how does it intend to protect other threatened refugees?

Reply by the Committee of Ministers

1. The murder of Mr Israilov was mentioned in the Committee of Ministers before the Honourable member put his question. As the Honourable member is certainly aware, an investigation has been started by the Austrian authorities. The Committee of Ministers hopes very much that this investigation, which is still continuing, will enable the murderers, and any instigators of the murder, to be rapidly identified and arrested, so that they can be brought to justice. The Committee expects any request for assistance which may be made to member states by the Austrian authorities in this context to be fully and speedily complied with.

2. The Committee of Ministers considers that it is a matter for member states to act on any requests for protection that they may receive from persons under their jurisdiction. The Committee recalls in this context the obligation of States Parties to the European Convention on Human Rights under Article 34 of the Convention not to hinder in any way the effective exercise of the right of individual petition to the European Court of Human Rights.

1. adopted at the 1053rd meeting of the Ministers' Deputies (1 April 2009)

