Activity Report of the International Circassian Center for Support and Assistance (ICCSA)

Reporting period: October and early November 2026.
Information current as of November 10, 2026.

During the reporting period, the International Circassian Center for Support and Assistance (ICCSA) submitted five individual submissions and one joint petition to the UN Special Procedures. Activities included collecting and organizing documents and liaising with lawyers, government authorities, and international human rights and humanitarian organizations.

The principal areas of work were facilitating access to international protection, seeking to prevent forced return where there is a risk of torture or persecution, and following up on requests from individuals and families in need of assistance.

1. Registration of ICCSA in New York State

Official confirmation was received from the New York State Department of State that International Circassian Center for Support and Assistance, Inc. has been incorporated as a New York not-for-profit corporation.

The organization’s registration number is **DOS ID 8127718**.

2. Work on the Case of Larisa Tuptsokova

Materials were collected concerning the case of Larisa Tuptsokova, a Circassian writer, philologist, translator, Circassian language teacher, and journalist with Circassian Media.

Available information concerning the criminal proceedings was cross-checked, a chronology was prepared, and Larisa’s position that the prosecution is connected to her work to preserve the Circassian language and culture was presented.

An individual submission concerning her case was sent to the UN Special Procedures. Submissions were also sent to Front Line Defenders, ProtectDefenders.eu, the EU Delegation to Georgia, and other European Union bodies.

Front Line Defenders acknowledged receipt. Materials concerning Larisa’s case were included in the appendix to ICCSA’s joint petition submitted to the UN.

3. Work on the Case of Anzor Unezhev in Bulgaria

Contact was established with Anzor's lawyer, documents were collected, and submissions were prepared for the Bulgarian authorities, UN and EU bodies, and international human rights and humanitarian organizations.

The work seeks to ensure Anzor's access to legal assistance and the international protection procedure, secure consideration of the risks associated with his forced return to Russia, and present the relevant materials to the competent authorities.

3.1. Submissions to the United Nations

An individual urgent submission concerning Anzor's case was sent to the UN Special Procedures under reference **d4g5i66r**.

Materials concerning his case were also included in the appendix to ICCSA's joint petition, submitted through the UN Special Procedures portal under reference **8i9sxk66**.

The submissions request measures to prevent Anzor's forced transfer to Russia, ensure access to a lawyer, and enable examination of his application for international protection.

Acknowledgment of receipt and the allocation of reference numbers do not constitute a decision on the merits or the adoption of protective measures.

3.2. Submissions to Bulgarian Government Authorities

State Agency for Refugees - Държавна агенция за бежанците (ДАБ), Sofia

A submission was sent requesting access to the international protection procedure, urgent examination of Anzor's application and the information provided concerning the risks, an interview at his place of detention, and notification to the court of the status of the procedure and the applicable safeguards against forced return.

Supreme Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria, Sofia

A submission addressed to the Prosecutor General requested the exercise of supervisory powers to review the lawfulness of the extradition proceedings and consideration of whether the prosecution should withdraw its support for extradition in light of the information provided concerning the risks.

Haskovo District Prosecutor's Office

A procedural notice was delivered to the prosecution requesting that seven international human rights files be added to the court case file before the hearings begin.

Obtaining confirmation that the materials have actually been added to the court case file remains a separate follow-up task.

Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Bulgaria, Sofia

Documents were sent to the Ministry's central registry requesting action within its powers to prevent extradition where there is a risk of violations of Anzor's rights.

The submission refers to Article 19(2) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

National Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria, Sofia

ICCSA's submission and supplementary submission were registered. An independent review was requested of compliance with Anzor's rights in the actions of the migration authorities and the prosecution.

3.3. Submissions to European Union Bodies

European Parliament Subcommittee on Human Rights - DROI, Brussels

A submission was sent to the Subcommittee's secretariat requesting consideration of parliamentary inquiries to the Bulgarian authorities.

European External Action Service - EEAS, Brussels

Documents were sent to the leadership of the human rights unit requesting attention to the case and the risks of forced return.

European Commission Representation in Bulgaria, Sofia

A request was sent to the Head of Representation asking for monitoring of the situation and consideration of the deployment of trial observers to Haskovo.

3.4. International Human Rights and Humanitarian Organizations

Amnesty International, London

A submission was sent to the International Secretariat for the Eastern Europe and Central Asia Team - EECA Team - requesting consideration of an Urgent Action.

Human Rights Watch

Documents were sent to the Europe and Central Asia Division through the general coordination channel and, additionally, through the Berlin office.

Bulgarian Red Cross

A request for additional information was received. A response was prepared and sent, asking the organization to consider providing humanitarian assistance to Anzor.

3.5. Preparation of a Request to the Commission for the Control of INTERPOL's Files - CCF

A draft request and legal arguments were prepared to challenge the processing of international wanted-person data associated with reference **2020/65233**, including arguments concerning the alleged political nature of the prosecution.

Following an initial email submission, the CCF Secretariat indicated that the request must be submitted through the Commission's secure portal. Submission through the portal has not yet been completed.

Two powers of attorney were prepared in Russian and English:

- for representation before the CCF;
- for human rights submissions to the UN and the competent Bulgarian authorities.

A personal letter to Anzor was also prepared, explaining ICCSA's activities and the assistance offered free of charge.

A legible copy of Anzor's identity document and signed documents authorizing representation are awaited to complete the application package and submit the request.

3.6. Ongoing Follow-Up

Work continues in the following areas:

- obtaining responses to the submissions;
- confirming that the human rights materials have been added to the court case file;
- clarifying the status of the international protection procedure;
- liaising with the lawyer regarding Anzor's current procedural position;
- completing submission of the request to the CCF;
- preparing supplementary submissions as new documents and information become available.

The submissions have brought information concerning the case to the attention of Bulgarian authorities, international institutions, and human rights organizations. However, submitting a request does not, in itself, suspend extradition or removal. Such an outcome must be confirmed by the relevant decisions of the competent authorities.

4. Cooperation with a Circassian Lawyer in Turkey

Cooperation was initiated with a Circassian lawyer in Turkey.

Discussions concern the legal assistance available to individuals at risk of forced return and how to arrange such assistance in specific cases.

5. International Protection: Mauritania

Several requests for assistance were received from Mauritania.

For cases in which the necessary materials had been collected, separate submissions were prepared and sent to the UN Special Procedures.

The work included gathering information about the applicants' circumstances, describing the reported risks, and organizing documents for international submissions.

6. Joint Petition on Protection against Forced Return

The signed ICCSA joint petition and Appendix A, containing materials concerning six cases, were submitted through the portal of the Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council.

The portal acknowledged receipt. The submission reference is **8i9sxk66**.

The petition requests an urgent assessment of the reported risks and measures to prevent extradition or removal to Russia where individuals face torture or other serious harm.

7. Public Information Work

Documentation of cases involving the persecution of activists continued.

Information materials and guidance were prepared on steps to take in the event of detention, threatened removal, loss of identity documents, or a need for urgent assistance.