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Media Advisory

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Russian Federation: Invitation to a press conference

Amnesty International is launching its third report in the year-long campaign on human rights in the Russian Federation. The report, *Rough Justice: The law and human rights in the Russian Federation* focuses on the impact of the legal changes that the Russian Federation has introduced in the last 12 years on the human rights situation of ordinary people.

When: **2 October 2003 at 1100 Moscow time (0800 GMT)**
Where: **House of Journalist
Internet Room
8a Nikitskii Blvd
Moscow**

Who: **Nicola Duckworth, Program Director Europe and Central Asia, International Secretariat of Amnesty International**, will present the main concerns highlighted in the report.

Coming on the eve of Presidential elections in the Chechen Republic, the report points out that large groups of people have been stripped of basic human rights which the Russian Federation is obliged to uphold under the international treaties it is a party to - the rights to life, liberty, security, respect for private and family life, protection of property and freedom of expression.

The report "*ROUGH JUSTICE: The law and human rights in the Russian Federation*" singles out children with mental disability in state institutions as one of the most vulnerable groups of people whose human rights are being systematically violated and who are deprived of any means of redress.

Karina Moskalenko, International Protection Centre, will speak on the importance of courts, international systems of redress and their limitations and on some of the most vulnerable groups in the Russian Federation who find it impossible to obtain redress through courts.

Krassimir Kanev, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, will speak on what state and community should do to provide care for mentally disabled children, and on the role of NGOs.

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Visit the Amnesty International Russia Campaign websites:

www.amnesty.org/russia

www.amnesty.org.ru

Amnesty International Russia press kit:

http://www.web.amnesty.org/mavp/av.nsf/pages/Russian_press_kit

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