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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Chechen Republic: Amnesty International sends Human Rights Day appeal to the UN Security Council**

To mark Human Rights Day, Amnesty International has sent an urgent appeal to the UN Security Council to immediately fulfil its responsibility under the UN Charter and remind all parties to the conflict in the Chechen Republic of their obligations to abide by international humanitarian law.

“As the world celebrates Human Rights Day, it would be a shocking message for the Security Council to remain silent while the Russian Federation, one of its Permanent Members, prepares to indiscriminately attack a city having argued that it is enough to have warned the civilians to leave,” Amnesty International said.

Amnesty International is urging the UN Security Council to call on all parties to the conflict to grant full, unhindered and safe access to Chechnya for UN humanitarian agencies and NGOs, and to ensure the safety of any civilians wishing to leave Grozny along the so-called ‘safe corridor’, reportedly established by the Russian Federal forces.

Amnesty International also renews its call on the UN Security Council to establish an international investigation into allegations of violations of international humanitarian law in Chechnya to establish the truth and to identify those responsible.

The UN Security Council should remind parties to the conflict of the recently adopted Resolution 1265(1999), in particular operative paragraph 2, which "Strongly condemns the deliberate targeting of civilians in situations of armed conflict as well as attacks on objects protected under international law, and calls on all parties to put an end to such practices."

“There will be little to celebrate if on the eve of a new Millennium, the basic rights of men, women and children not taking part in the fighting are being reduced to ashes in Grozny.” Amnesty International warned.

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**For a copy of the urgent appeal, or more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on 44 171 413 5566 or visit our website at <http://www.amnesty.org>**