

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Public Statement

AI Index: EUR 46/049/2004 (Public)
News Service No: 219
6 September 2004

Russian Federation: Amnesty International expresses condolences

Statement by Irene Khan, Secretary General of Amnesty International:

I would like to express, on behalf of Amnesty International members throughout the world, our solidarity with and condolences to all those persons who have suffered as a result of the hostage-taking attack in the North Ossetian town of Beslan.

As the families mourn and bury the victims of the school siege in Beslan, Amnesty International reiterates its strongest condemnation of the hostage-taking. Hundreds of civilians, many of them children, have been killed and many more have been wounded, while thousands have been left traumatized.

Amnesty International reiterates that there is no justification for hostage-taking. It is prohibited by international law. Those responsible for the terrifying ordeal must be held accountable in accordance with the law and international standards.