

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 46/03/94

Distr: UA/SC

This is a limited UA. Please organise 15 appeals per section.

UA 446/94 Appeal for the respect of humanitarian law 15 December 1994

RUSSIA

Amnesty International is appealing to both sides in the current conflict in the self-proclaimed Chechen Republic to respect human rights and observe basic humanitarian standards.

Amnesty International takes no position on territorial disputes. However, within the terms of its mandate the organization is calling on all parties to the conflict to protect both civilian and military victims of the fighting in accordance with international humanitarian and human rights law. Such protection includes ensuring that civilians are not the subject of deliberate attacks and are not arbitrarily detained; that detainees of any kind are not subject to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment; and that non-combatants are protected from all acts of reprisal and violence. Amnesty International is also calling on all parties to facilitate appropriate access to detainees by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The territory of the self-proclaimed Chechen Republic became part of the Tsarist empire in the nineteenth century, after fierce resistance, and was absorbed into the former Soviet Union following the Bolshevik revolution. The entire population was deported en masse to Soviet Central Asia by Stalin in 1944, and allowed to return only in the 1950s.

The Chechen Republic declared independence in 1991, a move not recognized by Russia or internationally. Tension between the Russian and Chechen sides has escalated during this year. On 11 December Russian troops entered the territory, and armed clashes have occurred as they move towards the capital, Grozny.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English, Russian or in your own language:

- urging all sides to the conflict to respect international humanitarian and human rights law, including by ensuring that civilians are not deliberately targeted and that non-combatants are not subject to acts of reprisal and violence

APPEALS TO

President of the Russian Federation, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin
Rossiyskaya Federatsiya
g. Moskva
Kreml

Prezidentu Rossiyskoy Federatsii YELTSINU B.N.

Telegrams: Rossiya, Moskva, Kreml, Prezidentu Yeltsinu

Faxes: +095 206 51 73

Salutation: Dear President

Minister of Defence, General Pavel Sergeyevich Grachev

Rossiyskaya Federatsiya

103175 Moskva

ul. Myasnitskaya, 37

Ministerstvo oborony

Ministru GRACHEVU P.S.

Telegrams: Rossiya, 103175 Moskva, Ministru oborony Grachevu

Faxes: +095 296 08 64

Salutation: Dear Minister

Minister of Internal Affairs, Viktor Pavlovich Yerin

Rossiyskaya Federatsiya

117049 Moskva

ul. Zhitnaya, 16

Ministerstvo vnutrennykh del

Ministru YERINU V.P.

Telegrams: Rossiya, 117049 Moskva, Ministru vnutrennykh del Yerinu

Faxes: +095 230 25 80

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Andrey Vladimirovich Kozyrev

Rossiyskaya Federatsiya

129110 Moskva

Prospekt Mira, 49a

Ministerstvo inostrannykh del

Ministru KOZYREVU A.V.

Faxes: +095 230 24 08

Commissioner for Human Rights, Sergey Adamovich Kovalyov

Rossiyskaya Federatsiya

103009 Moskva

Okhotny ryad, 1

Upolnomochennomu po pravam cheloveka pri Gosudarstvennoy Dume Rossiyskoy

Federatsii

KOVALYOVU S.A.

Faxes: +095 203 31 93

and to diplomatic representatives of Russia accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 26 January 1995.