

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE

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Russian Federation: Interview availability as a UN Committee examines Russia's human rights record on women

Russia's human rights record on women and girls will be under scrutiny as the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women meets to examine that country's fifth periodic report on Friday 25 January.

Mariana Katzarova, Amnesty International's researcher on the Russian Federation, will be in New York to brief journalists and members of the Committee. Ms Katzarova has recently returned from the Republic of Ingushetia, at the border with Chechnya where she documented abuses of the rights of women in the context of the armed conflict in the Chechen Republic.

To arrange an interview with Ms Katzarova, please contact her on + 44 (0)779 858 845, alternatively please call Amnesty International's press office in London on + 44 20 7413 5566.

Amnesty International continues to receive regular reports of torture and ill-treatment of women in police custody throughout the Russian Federation. Conditions in pre-trial detention facilities and prison colonies are far below minimum standards of health and hygiene. Women and girl detainees do not even have access to sanitary supplies and adequate medical care. The organization is also concerned at the failure of the Russian state to provide adequate protection to women against violence perpetrated in the context of domestic violence and trafficking of women. In the armed conflict in Chechnya, women have suffered a

variety of human rights abuses ranging from torture (including rape) to arbitrary detention, forced "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions.

A press release, case studies and a briefing summarising the concerns raised by Amnesty International at the UN is available on request.

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For more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on +44 20 7413 5566

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