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MEDIA ADVISORY

RUSSIA

Visit by an Amnesty International delegation

An Amnesty International delegation led by the organization's Deputy Secretary General, Mr Derek Evans, will be visiting the Russian Federation from 19 to 1 June. During their visit, the delegation will be meeting with government representatives as well as members of the NGO community, to discuss the current human rights situation in the country.

The members of the delegation, who include Mariana Katzarova, Researcher on the Russian Federation, will be available for interviews. Public events linked to the mission include:

- 20 May: Seminar organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice -- with participation of Council of Europe experts -- on ways to decrease the prison population in Russia by introducing alternative punishments.

- 21 May, 12:00: Public event around the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), at the park surrounding the Andrey Sakharov Museum. 19:00: Concert at the Conservatory to celebrate the birthday of Andrey Sakharov, with a presentation by Derek Evans on Andrey Sakharov, the UDHR and Amnesty International's current concerns in Russia.

- 25 May, 12:00: Joint press-conference with Russian NGOs at the Russian-American Press Centre in St. Petersburg, with the participation of prisoner of conscience Aleksandr Nikitin.

- 29 May: Conference on "Media and Human Rights". School of Journalism, Moscow State University.

- 30 May: Press conference/public meeting in Saransk, Mordovia, to highlight the issue of torture in police stations in Mordovia.

- 1 June: Press Conference in Moscow to announce the findings of the mission (to be confirmed)

For further information or to arrange an interview with a member of the delegation (in English, French, Russian or Spanish) please contact Soraya Bermejo, Press Officer, on +44 171 413 5562 (until today evening) or +7095 253 9565 (hotel number in Moscow from 18 May).