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Russian Federation: Launch of new report on racial discrimination

The report '*Dokumenty!* Discrimination on the grounds of race in the Russian Federation' will be launched at a press conference in Moscow on 19 March 2003. The report highlights the problems faced by ethnic minority groups in the Russian Federation, such as arbitrary detention and ill-treatment; the situation of former Soviet citizens, whose legal right to Russian citizenship is denied; racist attacks against asylum seekers and refugees, who suffer the additional difficulty that their documentation is not recognized by the police. Amnesty International's latest report is part of the organization's worldwide campaign against human rights abuses in the Russian Federation.

The press conference to present the report '*Dokumenty!* Discrimination on grounds of race in the Russian Federation' will take place at:

**Central House of Journalists
8a Nikitskii Boulevard
Moscow 121019**

Wednesday 19 March 2003, 11:00 hrs Moscow time (08:00 GMT)

Speakers:

Mary Murphy, researcher and author of the report.
Alexander Ossipov, Coordinator, Ethnic Discrimination Program of the Human Rights Center "Memorial", Moscow.

Present at the press conference will be victims of discrimination who will talk of their experiences.

The press conference will be followed by a **Platform for Action for NGOs** working to combat racial discrimination in Russia. It will serve as a forum for organizations to share campaigning experience and to strengthen their cooperation.

Maureen Greenwood, Advocacy Director for Europe and Eurasia, Amnesty International USA will be available for questions from the media on the international dimension of Amnesty International's campaign on human rights in the Russian Federation, on human rights in the USA, as well as on the organization's position on the political issues of the day.

For further information contact the Russia Campaign Press Officer Lydia Aroyo +44 7798 555 629 (UK mobile) or + 7 903 113 4874 (Russian mobile), e-mail: laroyo@amnesty.org.

Visit the Amnesty International Russia Campaign websites:
www.amnesty.org/russia

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