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Invitation to Press Conference in Moscow

CHECHNYA -- Amnesty International's latest findings from "filtration camps"

Amnesty International's researcher on the Russian Federation, Mariana Katzarova, who has just returned from a visit to Ingushetia, a neighbouring republic of Chechnya, will present new information on Russian "filtration camps".

The organization has documented reports of the following methods of torture being used in "filtration camps" during the current conflict: rape of male and female detainees — including children, the use of electric shocks and tear gas, beatings with hammers and clubs, and other torture methods including sawing off detainees' teeth and simultaneous beating around both ears to burst the ear-drums.

Human rights and campaigning organizations who have been working on issues surrounding the conflict on Chechnya, Human Rights Center "Memorial", Civic Assistance Committee, Fund "Glasnost", and the Moscow Helsinki Group, will also be participating in the press conference.

1330 hours Moscow time (+4 GMT)

Wednesday 29 March 2000

National Press Institute

3rd floor, 22/39 Zubovskiy Bulvard, Moscow, Russian Federation corner of the Sadovoye Koltso (Garden Ring) and Prechistenka Street Metro station: Park Kultury

Phone: (+7095) 245 3008

Mariana Katzarova will be available for interviews on mobile phone number (+7095) 747 2957.

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For more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on 44 171 413 5566 or visit our website at http://www.amnesty.org