

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 46/37/96

16 August 1996

Further information (1) on EXTRA 127/96 (EUR 46/36/96, 14 August 1996) - Fear for safety

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION -
CHECHEN REPUBLIC**Civilians under bombardment in Komsomolskoye

Amnesty International is gravely concerned for the safety of villagers and refugees in Komsomolskoye, a village 35km north east of Grozny, the capital of the Chechen Republic.

It is reported that on 14 August 1996, Komsomolskoye came under attack from six Russian fighter planes who dropped bombs on the village. Two houses were destroyed, and villagers say that nine people were killed in the attack and at least 16 injured: some of the dead and wounded were children. The attack took place despite the cease-fire agreed between Russian and Chechen forces on 14 August.

Press reports quote eye witnesses as saying that there were at least 22 explosions as the planes circled the village, which was followed by five helicopters firing rockets into the village.

Local people claimed that they received no prior warning of the attack. One of them, Alam-Akhid Skardalov, is quoted as saying, *"All I have done is farm all my life. We're just workers, not bandits"*.

Komsomolskoye is not known as a rebel stronghold. This is said to be the fourth time that Komsomolskoye has been attacked by Russian Forces since the beginning of the conflict in the Chechen Republic. Musa Shuayepov, another villager, speculated, *"Who knows why they picked our village?... This is the fourth time they have bombed us. They must just want to wipe us out"*.

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

- calling for all steps to be taken to ensure the safety of civilians in Komsomolskoye, and to uphold basic principles of international humanitarian law in particular as regards the protection of the civilian population;
- calling on the Russian Government to comply with its international commitments to protect human rights in times of armed conflict:
- as given to the Council of Europe upon Russia's acceptance to the Council in February 1996, including the commitment to *"respect strictly the provisions of international humanitarian law, including in cases of armed conflicts on its territory"*;
- and to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), when Russia signed the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security in December 1994.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin
Rossiyskaya Federatsiya
g. Moskva
Kreml
Prezidentu Rossiyskoy Federatsii

Yeltsinu B.N

Faxes: +7095 206 51 73

Telegrams: Rossiya, Moskva, Kreml, Prezidentu Yeltsinu

Salutation: Dear President

President Yeltsin's Special Envoy in Chechnya, Aleksandr Lebed

Faxes: +7095 206 0717

Russian Federation Minister of Defence, Igor Rodionov

Rossiyskaya Federatsiya

103175 g. Moskva

ul. Myasnitskaya, 37

Ministerstvo oborony

Ministru Rodionovu I.

Telegrams: Defence Minister, Moscow, Russia

Salutation: Dear Minister

Russian Federation Minister of the Interior, Col.-Gen. Anatoly Kulikov

Rossiyskaya Federatsiya

g. Moskva

ul. Zhitnaya, 16

Ministerstvo vnutrennikh del Rossiyskoy Federatsii

Ministru Gen.-Polk. Kulikovu

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Telegrams: Rossiya, Moskva, Ministru vnutrennikh del

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

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Chair of Human Rights Commission for the CIS (name not known)

Belarus

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ul. Kirova, 17

Kommissiya po pravam cheloveka - SNG

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and to diplomatic representatives of the Russian Federation accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 September 1996.