

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Media Advisory

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Russian Federation: Speakers' tour on human rights in a number of Russian cities

As part of its year-long campaign on human rights in the Russian Federation Amnesty International is organizing a speakers' tour in a number of Russian cities to discuss, with students, academics and non-governmental organizations, the activities undertaken by Amnesty International members all over the world to promote human rights in the Russian Federation. Amnesty International experts will be focusing on the role of international mechanisms for human rights protection in combatting the culture of impunity in the Russian Federation.

Bill Bowring, Professor of Human Rights and International Law, London Metropolitan University, will speak on impunity with regard to racism and discrimination.

Mark Fodor, Director of Amnesty International Hungary, will speak on Amnesty International activism and the work of Amnesty International Hungary on human rights in the Russian Federation with regard to violence against women in the family and children with mental disabilities.

Sergei Nikitin, Director of Amnesty International's Russian Resource Centre, will speak on Amnesty International activism in the Russian Federation and Amnesty International campaigning in other countries.

The speakers' tour will visit the following cities:

Moscow -	22 October -	Russian State Humanitarian University, 15 Nikolskaya St Room 6, 1245 hrs
Pyatigorsk -	23 October -	Pyatigorsk State Linguistics University, Room 3, 1400 hrs College of Information Technologies, 84 Moskovskaya St - 1730 hrs
St Petersburg -	25 October -	Hertzen Pedagogics University - 1130 hrs Citizen's Watch, 87 Ligovskii Avenue - 1500 hrs
Samara-	26 October -	Institute of the Ministry of the Interior - 1500 hrs Press conference at Hotel National - 2100 hrs
	27 October -	Samara State Economic Academy, 141 Sovetskaya Armia St, main building, room 9 - 1325 hrs

Journalists are welcome to attend the talks.

For more information and possibilities for interviews with the speakers please contact the Russia Press Officer Lydia Aroyo on +7 903 113 4874; +44 20 7413 5599 or +44 7798 555 629, e-mail: laroyo@amnesty.org; or the Public Relations Officer at the Russian Resource Centre Denis

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Background

Professor Bill Bowring is involved in a wide range of activities and has broad experience of human rights work in the Russian Federation. This includes advising the UK government on access to justice and human rights in the Russian Federation, working with the United Nations, the Council of Europe and OSCE as an expert on Russia and the former Soviet Union. A practising barrister, he represents clients at the European Court of Human Rights, he has also assisted in the presentation of cases in the European Court of Human Rights, in cases against Estonia, Latvia, Russia and Turkey. He has written a number of publications on human rights in the Russian Federation. Professor Bowring is fluent in Russian.

Mark Fodor's involvement with Amnesty International goes back to his high school days in Canada, where he started an "Amnesty International Club". He continued with his Amnesty International activities at university and joined Amnesty International Hungary after moving there in 1998. Mark Fodor comes from a Hungarian-Canadian immigrant family. Outside Amnesty International, he has worked on racism and xenophobia issues. He speaks fluent Russian.

Sergei Nikitin joined Amnesty International as the Director of the Russian Resource Centre in January 2003. Before that he worked for the international charitable organization Friends' House in Moscow, providing assistance to migrants and refugees, and other vulnerable groups. He believes that there is a good potential for the development of human rights activism in the Russian Federation and welcomes any new members and partnerships with non-governmental organizations.

Public Document

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