

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## External Document

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## **Russian Federation: Amnesty International opens its doors in Moscow**

Amnesty International is stepping up its presence in the Russian capital with the opening of a Resource Centre in Moscow which will be an integral part of its campaign on human rights in the country. The campaign will run until the end of 2003, but the Centre will continue its existence after that.

The Resource Centre will be a show window for the activities of the more than one million-strong membership of the organization which encompasses 140 countries. It will present their contribution to the promotion and preservation of human rights worldwide and their actions as part of the campaign on Russia.

Crucial to Amnesty International's work, the Resource Centre will cooperate closely with local NGOs in their work to increase the awareness of human rights issues in the Russian Federation, to place them at the centre of the public debate and to mobilize as many people as possible. The Resource Centre will initiate and support projects with local NGOs and Amnesty International's membership that will offer training and education in human rights issues and will provide specially adapted materials to enable Russians to join Amnesty International and the organization's campaigns. The Resource Centre will work with the press and make contact with professional groups and organizations.

As a global campaigning movement, the Resource Centre will inform the Russian public of cases and campaigns Amnesty International has undertaken in other countries, the way it has carried them out and the results it has achieved. This will be an example of what can be accomplished in the Russian Federation during the campaign period and beyond.

The Russian language website, [www.amnesty.org/russia/russian](http://www.amnesty.org/russia/russian), will provide up-to-the-minute information on Amnesty International's work around the world. Interested members of the public will be able to take part in Amnesty International's campaigns on-line.

The Resource Centre will also support local Amnesty International groups in their efforts to set up a national organization in the country so that Russia can take part in the Amnesty International movement and determine its future policies along with other national sections.

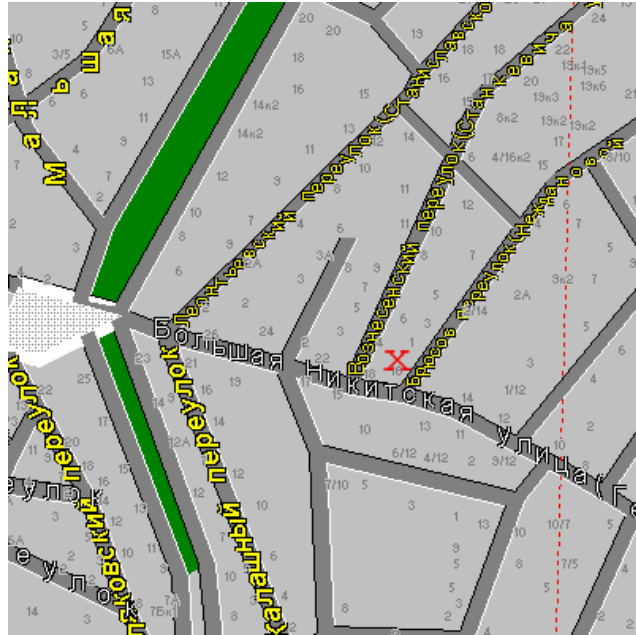
The Resource Centre will be a focal point and touchbase for human rights activists from the Russian Federation and will thus stimulate the growth of civil society in the country.

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