

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information (7) on UA 446/94 (EUR 46/03/94, 15 December 1994) - and follow-up(s): EUR 46/01/95, 4 January 1995, EUR 46/02/95, 25 January, EUR 46/03/95, 1 February, EUR 46/06/95, 13 March, EUR 46/07/95, 15 March) - Appeal for respect of humanitarian law

This is a limited UA. Please organize up to 15 appeals per section.

RUSSIA Further reports that Russian troops have deliberately killed civilians

Amnesty International has received further reports that Russian troops have deliberately killed civilians, including children, in the continuing armed conflict in the Chechen Republic-Ichkeriya.

People fleeing fighting in the town of Samashki (around 35km west of the Chechen capital, Grozny) claim Russian troops burned down houses and threw grenades into basements where residents had been taking cover.

Kkava Teysukayeva, speaking to a Reuters correspondent in the nearby town of Sernovodsk, described how her 7-year-old son had been killed in one such attack.

Another woman, Yakha Alpatova, 32, said her father and aunt had been killed when troops hurled a grenade into the cellar where the family was hiding. A third, Raisa Khuseyova, said her son Albi, also aged 7, had been crushed to death when troops threw him under a moving armoured vehicle.

Russian troops, who say they took Samashki on 8 April, have denied journalists any access to the town. An official from the International Committee of the Red Cross who was allowed to spend a few hours there on 10 April reported seeing many bodies still in the streets, and said residents claimed 200 people had been killed in the assault.

Russian military officials say they undertook the operation, killing over 130 supporters of Chechen President Dudayev and taking over 120 prisoners, after an ultimatum to surrender voluntarily was ignored and after over 450 civilians had been evacuated from the area.

Since the beginning of the conflict Amnesty International has urged all parties to protect non-combatants in accordance with humanitarian and international human rights law. The organization has repeatedly urged the Russian authorities to carry out comprehensive and impartial investigations into all incidents in which Russian troops are alleged to have deliberately targeted and killed civilians, with the results made public and any persons found responsible brought to justice within the bounds of international law.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams//faxes/express and airmail letters:

- urging the Russian authorities to hold a comprehensive and impartial investigation into the incident described above, with the results made public and any persons found responsible for violations brought to justice within the bounds of international law;
- urging that all necessary steps are taken to ensure that non-combatants are protected in accordance with international humanitarian and human rights law.

APPEALS TO:The President of the Russian Federation

Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin

Rossiyskaya Federatsiya

g. Moskva

Kreml

Prezidentu Rossiyskoy Federatsii YELTSINU B.N.

Telegrams: Rossiya, Moskva, Kreml, Prezidentu Yeltsinu**Faxes: +095 206 51 73****Salutation: Dear President**The Minister of Defence

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Telegrams: Rossiya, 103175 Moskva, Ministru oborony**Grachevu****Faxes: +095 296 08 64****Salutation: Dear Minister**The Minister of Internal Affairs

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Telegrams: Rossiya, 117049 Moskva, Ministru vnutrennykh del**Yerinu****Faxes: +095 230 25 80****Salutation: Dear Minister****COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**The Minister of Foreign Affairs

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and to diplomatic representatives of Russia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 May 1995.