

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**RUSSIA**

**LAUNCH OF NEW AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT**

Amnesty International will be launching a major new **report on torture in the Russian Federation** with a **media briefing** at:

**11:00 am, Thursday 3 April 1997**  
**Amnesty International, International Secretariat**  
**1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ**  
**(in the conference room)**

The report, *Torture in Russia - "This Man-made Hell"*, will be introduced by Mariana Katzarova, Researcher on the Russian Federation (who will be available for interviews in English and Russian) and Brian Phillips, Europe Regional Campaign Coordinator. It offers a comprehensive overview of the current human rights situation in the Russian Federation and political developments linked to it, and in-depth analysis of:

- Current legislation facilitating torture and ill-treatment
- The new criminal code of the Chechen Republic, torture and ill-treatment during the armed conflict, and the draft amnesty law relating to the conflict
- The targeting of ethnic minorities by law enforcement officials
- Torture of women, adolescents and disabled people by the police, as well as other cases of police brutality and death in custody
- Prison conditions
- Participation of medical personnel in torture
- The death penalty and confessions extracted under torture and used as evidence – sometimes leading to the death penalty
- Torture and ill-treatment in the army, and ill-treatment of conscientious objectors
- Torture and ill-treatment of refugees
- Deportation of asylum-seekers to countries where they may face torture and ill-treatment
- Factors facilitating torture and ill-treatment: Why does torture continue in Russia?

**For further information, please contact:** Soraya Bermejo, Press Officer, 0171 413 5562

THE LAUNCH OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S  
1997 CAMPAIGN ON THE RIGHT TO  
CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION TO MILITARY  
SERVICE IN EUROPE



MOSCOW, 15 APRIL 1997  
ANDREY SAKHAROV MUSEUM  
ZEMLYANOY VAL 57  
STROENIYE 6

PRESS CONFERENCE 11:00 - 12:00  
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION (INCLUDING LUNCH BREAK) 12:30 -  
18:00

Amnesty International will launch its major new public action on the right to conscientious objection to military service in Europe on this occasion. The press conference marks the publication of the organization's new report *Out of the Margins: The Right to Conscientious Objection to Military Service in Europe* and the start of a European-wide campaign to secure recognition of the right to conscientious objection to military service and to promote public awareness about this basic component of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Participants in the press conference and the roundtable discussion will include representatives of the Council of Europe; representatives of the International Secretariat of Amnesty International; representatives of the European Bureau for Conscientious Objection (EBCO); and conscientious objectors and human rights activists from a number of European countries, including the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Germany, Austria, France, and The Netherlands.

Representatives of the Parliament of the Russian Federation and the Russian Government have also been invited to take part.

For further information, please contact Brian Phillips, Europe Regional Program, International Secretariat, Amnesty International, London (+44 171 413 5970 - phone; +44 171 956 1157 - fax) or the Moscow office of Amnesty International (enquiries in Russian only: +7 095 291 2904).