

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Media Advisory

AI Index: EUR 46/084/2003 (Public)
News Service No: 230
6 October 2003

Russia Federation : European Human rights bus tour

Amnesty International's most colorful action in Russia yet: a brightly decorated bus with Swiss registration plates " an "envoy" for the world's biggest human rights' organization - is crossing the border of the Russian Federation for the first time. After a hugely successful visit to 14 Central and Eastern European countries, the bus will stop in:

St Petersburg	7 October
Pskov	9 October
Novgorod	11 October
Moscow	13 October

Visitors to the bus can get leaflets and brochures; watch videos and photo stills presenting Amnesty International's actions on the human rights situation in different countries like Iraq and Turkmenistan, the USA and the Russian Federation. They have the chance to sign a petition designed as a symbolic passport urging President Vladimir Putin to address the plight of hundreds of thousands of former Soviet citizens in Russia who are being denied their legal right to obtain Russian citizenship and/or permanent residency rights.

"This tour, organized by Amnesty International Switzerland, is an excellent example of the vigor, creativity and international solidarity of our organization whose 1.8 million members in 140 countries are campaigning relentlessly to change for the better people's lives all over the world. The purpose of the tour is to tell the public more about our organization and to promote human rights issues in the Russian Federation and other countries in the world. The tour started in July as part of Amnesty International's worldwide year-long campaign on human rights in the Russian Federation, and we look forward to hosting our Swiss friends in Russia," Sergei Nikitin, Director of Amnesty International's Russian Resource Centre said.

"Our bus has already covered more than 10,000 kilometers and crossed the boundaries of 14 European countries. Throughout the journey, from Yverdon in Switzerland, to Gomel in Belarus, and now going into the Russian Federation, mass media and the general public continue to meet the bus with great interest and enthusiasm as it raises drastically the profile of AI and its human rights message," Daniel Bolomey, Secretary General of Amnesty International Switzerland said.

For further information please contact Sergei Nikitin, Director of Amnesty International's Russian Resource Centre, on +7 095 291 2904

Public Document

For more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on +44 20 7413 5566
Amnesty International, 1 Easton St., London WC1X 0DW. web: <http://www.amnesty.org>

For latest human rights news view <http://news.amnesty.org>