

José Sócrates Carvalho Pinto de Sousa  
Prime Minister of Portugal  
Presidency of the European Union

Brussels, 23 October 2007  
Our ref: B707

Dear Mr. Sócrates,

**Subject: EU-Russia summit in Mafra on 26 October 2007**

In light of the upcoming EU-Russia summit, Amnesty International has prepared the attached briefing highlighting the main human rights concerns in the Russian Federation.

We call on the EU presidency to reaffirm its commitment that human rights are on the agenda for all bilateral dialogues and ensure that the main issues discussed at the EU-Russia Human Rights Consultations are therefore also raised at the highest level during the EU-Russia summit.

In the briefing, Amnesty International expresses concern over human rights violations perpetrated by State officials in the North Caucasus, the deterioration of freedom of expression and assembly and the reported continuing increase in racist violence in the Russian Federation.

Specifically, we would like to draw to your attention the increasing number of enforced disappearances, abductions and other human rights violations in Ingushetia. Russian and Ingush authorities must ensure that all actions of their security forces are carried out according to international standards and Russian law. Observing the rule of law, including human rights law, has to be at the heart of the response to the security crisis in Ingushetia and the mistakes made during the Chechen conflict must not be repeated.

We look forward to hearing from you on the outcome of your deliberations with your Russian counterparts.

With best regards,



Dick Oosting  
Director,  
Amnesty International EU Office



Lucília José Justino  
Vice- Chair,  
Amnesty International Portugal

Cc: Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy  
Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy  
Dr. Luís Filipe Marques Amado, President of the Council of Ministers of the European Union

*Annex : Russia: Human Rights Concerns- Briefing paper prior to the EU-Russia Summit, October 2007*