

**Постоянное
Представительство
Российской Федерации
при Организации
Объединённых Наций**



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PRESS RELEASE

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Unofficial translation from Russian

Beslan Appeal

People of good will,

Mankind entered the 21st century and the third millennium only five years ago. Ever since the end of the Cold War, like all the Earth's peoples, we had looked forward to that moment, hoping for stable peace, the promotion of humanistic principles, free of ideological dogmas, prejudices and violence. These expectations were supported by technological achievements of civilization, which in the new conditions allowed for unfolding the advantages of a uniting of peoples, countries and international communities to a full extent.

But events show that our civilization has again been confronted with a threat of heavy ordeals. Into our common home of the Earth's inhabitants Evil is now intruding and impudently settling down there, Evil that recognizes no state boundaries, violates the laws of morality and rights, even ignores the logic of natural instincts. This Evil is terrorism.

On September 1, 2004, it chose a new target – a school in Beslan, a town in the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania, which is part of the Russian Federation.

For three days the terrorists held more than 1,400 hostages - teachers, children and their parents who had come for the holiday, the Knowledge Day - in a mined gym without food or water. On the third day they blew it up. The terrorists killed 330 people, of them 178 children, by the explosion and subsequent point-blank shooting.

September 3, 2004, became a day of national mourning for Russia.

The Beslan tragedy has constituted a proof that terrorism intrudes upon our living space and then mercilessly kills our children, depriving us all of a future, undermining in us the most important quality - faith and trust in Man.

We consider that the evil conniving forces, born by a world of adults and by the will of adults, should not hang like a Damoclean sword over children anymore.

At the same time, the crime not only shocked the world, but also aroused enormous sympathy for the victims among millions of people who are not indifferent and have offered their overwhelming solidarity.

That support from people of good will has breathed into us a faith in mankind's ability to endure this misfortune, rallying to protect children, our common future, from the evil of terror.

Therefore we, who suffered the loss but also felt at that difficult hour the strength of the unity of supporters of Good and Mutualism, ahead of the one-year Beslan remembrance anniversary, call upon peoples and states, all men and women regardless of their racial, religious, political or other distinctions to unite efforts for the sake of protecting the children of the planet from terror and in the name of the future of all humanity.

We are duty-bound to jointly tip the balance in favor of a peaceful childhood of new generations, pledging for responsible actions by political authorities, against double morals and double standards now prevailing in the world community and, by disuniting people, provoking protest, violence and destruction.

Let us protect the world's children and our future from terror!

Beslan, June 1, 2005

Please send your support for this appeal to the following e-mail: rusun@un.int