

To the President of the United States, George W. Bush,  
the United States Congress, and  
the United States Senate.

Appeal

Dear Sirs!

The Chechen people began the new year 2002 under the brutal occupation of Russian troops, who, convinced they can get away with it, are killing our children and parents. For three years now, the blood of innocent people, mostly elderly people, women, and children, has been shed on Chechen soil. Over 300,000 Chechen citizens have died in two wars with Russia. More than 30,000 of our compatriots are held in concentration camps in Chechnya and Russia. In violation of all international conventions and treaties, Russian troops daily bombard our cities, towns, and villages, destroying homes and capturing our children and women without charge. We are forced to pay huge sums of money to ransom the bodies of our murdered brothers and sisters, collected from across the city and village. Our minor children, who by all international law should have been under our care, find themselves in a tragic situation. They are being captured and then killed or taken out of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria. Numerous human rights activists, both international and Russian, have documented the massacre in Chechnya, allowing us to assert that the Kremlin is deliberately exterminating the Chechen people, one of the oldest ethnic groups on Earth.

Delegations from European international organizations visiting Chechnya do not go beyond what they are shown by Russian military personnel and local collaborators. After 9/11, when a true catastrophe struck the United States, we, as a nation, sincerely sympathized and empathized with the American people. Our people, like no other in the world, know the pain Americans endured during terrorist attacks on their cities by international criminals. Our democratically elected President of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria, A. Maskhadov, whom the United States considers its legitimate leader, condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Today, as the Chechen people face a grave threat of physical extinction, and as the question arises as to whether the Chechen nation will exist or not, we call on you to take all necessary measures to facilitate the end of the Russo-Chechen war and the beginning of peace negotiations between the two sides in the conflict.

Dear Sirs, today you have a great opportunity to demonstrate to the Islamic world that the fight against international terrorists knows no religious, national, or racial distinctions. By saving the Muslim Chechen people from Russian state terrorism, you will give faith and hope to all the oppressed peoples of the world, demonstrating that there is a country capable of stopping any aggressor and thus confirming the inevitable victory of good over evil.

In conclusion, as we wish you, and through you, the friendly American people, a Happy New Year, we urge you to help us organize an international tribunal to investigate crimes against humanity committed by Russia and to punish those responsible.

International Committee for Human Rights of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria.

Women's Union of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria.

Committee of Soldiers' Mothers of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria.

Union of Chechen Mothers.

Union of Students of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria.