

RUSSIAN FEDERATION: BOMB BLAST IN MOSCOW

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The Disaster

The beginning of the conflict in Dagestan has coincided with an alarming increase in violence in both Dagestan and Moscow, with the following series of incidents considered to be acts of terrorism by the Russian authorities:

- The first incident occurred at the beginning of August 1999 when a bomb was detonated in the Central Trade Hall in downtown Moscow, destroying the building and killing one woman. The force of the explosion left few intact windows in the surrounding area. Fearing possible further bombs, 600 residents were evacuated from their apartments;
- A second explosion hit an underground shopping mall in central Moscow on August 31;
- On September 4, 1999, a third bomb killed 64 people in a five storey building in Buinaks (Dagestan) housing Russian officers and their families;
- The fourth explosion occurred at midnight on September 9, 1999 in southern Moscow, destroying 72 apartments in a nine storey building in southern Moscow. Ninety four people were killed and 63 were pulled out alive from under the rubble;
- Following these tragic events, on Monday, September 13 the Russian government announced a national day of mourning for the victims of the two explosions, both in Moscow. However, perhaps coincidentally, on Monday, 13 September, a fifth explosion, apparently caused by a bomb, destroyed an 8-story apartment block in Moscow, killing at least 34 people and injuring many others.

Russian authorities blame Islamic militant separatists from Russia's breakaway Chechnya region for at least two of the explosions.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

To respond to the situation and to assist the Russian Red Cross (RRC) primarily with the most recent two explosions, the Federation immediately allocated CHF 5,000 from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). The RRC, with the support of the International Federation's Moscow Delegation and in collaboration with EMERCOM (the government emergency agency), has provided immediate emergency assistance to the following groups affected by the explosion: hospitalised survivors; members of families of casualties; those evacuated from their partially destroyed apartments; food and other assistance for the for the rescue teams.

Assistance was also provided to Moscow city's Red Cross branch to organise soup kitchens, food for the victims and relatives who expressed reluctance to leave their homes, as well as the distribution of clothes, footwear, and bed-linens.

The Armenian Red Cross has also offered the services of their International Post Trauma Rehabilitation Centre.

Needs

At this time the needs are being fulfilled locally.

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