

# ETUDES SANS FRONTIÈRES STUDIES WITHOUT BORDERS



© Françoise Spiekermeier

## CHECHEN STUDENTS PROGRAM

***Chechnya needs them. They need us.***

# ETUDES SANS FRONTIÈRES:

## CHECHNYA: SURVIVING IN A WAR-TORN SOCIETY

### BEFORE THE WAR, CHECHNYA WAS:

- An historical symbol of resistance
- The most developed region in North Caucasus
- A cosmopolitan, cultural and academic centre
- A moderate Muslim country, totally free from Wahhabi influence

*In 1994, Russian troops invaded the breakaway republic:  
Grozny was the first European capital to be rased since the destruction of Warsaw in 1944.*

### WAR IN CHECHNYA MEANS:

- 200,000 people have died in 2 wars out of a total population of less than one million. Proportionally, this would equal 50 million dead in the US
- 200,000 internally displaced persons or refugees
- More than 5,000 missing persons, making Russia the world leader for arbitrary disappearances
- A failed democratic transition in Russia
- Progressive radicalization of Chechen separatists



### TODAY, CHECHNYA IS STILL:

- An outlaw Republic: arbitrary detentions, physical abuse, extrajudicial executions and torture
- An isolated country suffering in silence: journalists or NGOs are not allowed to work freely in Chechnya
- A devastated country, despite spectacular rebuilding operations: all forms of cultural or social elite have disappeared.

*Totally isolated from the outside world, Chechnya has become a ghetto.*

### CHECHNYA'S LOST GENERATION:

All 20 year-olds have spent half their lives simply trying to survive in a war zone, while teenagers in our countries study in well-equipped classrooms. The recently rebuilt University of Grozny still suffers from a tremendous lack of professors and equipments. Young people have no connection with the Western world. They often don't know European languages, history, institutions and political culture.

*The West did not try seriously to stop the war,  
it has to help Chechen students to build the peace.*

# EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRACY

## ETUDES SANS FRONTIÈRES: HELPING CHECHENS TO BUILD THEIR FUTURE

Etudes Sans Frontières was founded by a group of French students in 2003 in order to help their counterparts from war-torn societies to come and study in western universities.

*"When children grow up with war, all they want is war.*

*Chechen youth is surrounded by violence, making it all the more vital that it has access to learning". Milana, (Chechen student helped by Etudes Sans Frontières, in Christian Science Monitor, April 26th 2005)*

***Let's help them. They will help their country.***

After the first war in Chechnya (1994-1996), late President Maskhadov asked western countries to host Chechen students. Nobody answered... except Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. As a result, Wahhabi influence made its way to Chechnya.

***Etudes Sans Frontières believes that giving Chechen students a free education can save the society from total destruction, prevent the rise of terrorism and help to rebuild the country on a democratic basis.***

Today, 21 Chechen students from Grozny have been able to come and study in France. Etudes Sans Frontières obtained visas, flight tickets, housing and enrolment for them in the best French schools and universities. Then Etudes Sans Frontières helps them to prepare a project of their own to help Chechnya.

Today, international sections of Etudes Sans Frontières have been created in Italy, Belgium, Canada, Spain and Germany, launching the same program. We want now to extend our action to the US.

Today, Etudes Sans Frontières plans to develop an action inside Chechnya by creating a European House of Culture in Grozny.

***A limited French initiative is becoming an international movement of solidarity, heightening Western public opinions awareness of condition in Chechnya.***

### **TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS, WE NEED:**

- To internationalize the formation of our students (by getting internships in American media, institutions,...)
- More fundings and media coverage.
- More international and institutional partners





© Stanley Greene – AGENCE VU

### **ETUDES SANS FRONTIÈRES**

Etudes Sans Frontières, a non-profit French association, was created in March 2003 by a group of young French students. Since then, it has welcomed Chechen students at universities in free and democratic countries.

#### **CONTACT US**

[www.etudessansfrontieres.org](http://www.etudessansfrontieres.org) / [contact@etudessansfrontieres.org](mailto:contact@etudessansfrontieres.org)

Etudes Sans Frontières – 4 Cité Joly - 75011 Paris, France

President	Laure Salefranque
Head of Chechnya Program	Aurélia Chaudagne
Public Relations	Raphaël Glucksmann

#### **TO MAKE A DONATION**

ETUDES SANS FRONTIERES - BPRIVESPARIS NOTRE DAME (00041)

IBAN : FR76 1020 7000 41 04 0410 3782 518 - BIC : CCBP FRPP MTG

#### **WE ARE SUPPORTED BY**

Youri Afanassief, Frédéric Beigbeder, Jane Birkin, Elena Bonner-Sakharov, Pascal Bruckner, Daniel Cohn-Bendit, Leos Carax, Bronislaw Geremek, André Glucksmann, Romain Goupil, Pierre Hassner, Yves Jégo, Bernard Kouchner, Vytautas Landsbergis, Jack Lang, Pierre Lellouche, Bernard-Henri Lévy, Josep Ramoneda, Alain Touraine, Walter Veltroni, Elie Wiesel...

**PRESIDENT OF HONOUR: VACLAV HAVEL**

**Chechnya needs them. They need you.**