

PAUL D. WELLSTONE  
MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA TOLL FREE NUMBER:  
1-800-642-6041

SAC-02845-01

COMMITTEES:  
LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES  
SMALL BUSINESS  
INDIAN AFFAIRS  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
FOREIGN RELATIONS

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2303

May 14, 2001

The Honorable George J. Tenet  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Director:

I have been informed that Chechen Foreign Minister Ilyas Akhmadov urged the U.S. government to use satellite imagery to document publicly the existence of mass graves and concentration camps in Chechnya.

I strongly support this proposal. Here's why: The discovery of several mass graves in Chechnya is testimony to untold terror in the Northern Caucasus. Several human rights organizations, including Human Rights Watch, have gone to great lengths to photograph and publicize the existence of these mass graves. Unfortunately, as is typical of the Russian actions in Chechnya, their efforts are strictly controlled and an accurate picture of the scope of the tragedy is unavailable.

In addition to mass graves, the existence of "filtration camps" is an accepted fact of Chechnya's desperate state of affairs. These camps, such as the infamous Chernokosovo ("black Kosovo"), are the scene of systematic torture and mass execution of Chechens by Russian troops. Over the past year Russia has prevented human rights organizations, including the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), from effectively monitoring these concentration camps.

Mr. Director, as long as Russia continues to exclude independent human rights monitors from Chechnya, Russian forces will continue to act with impunity.

The United States has a unique ability to monitor this situation with satellite imagery. I strongly urge that you utilize these capabilities at your disposal to conduct a survey of Chechnya and its environs to document the existence of mass graves and concentration camps.

HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2303  
(202) 224-5641

2550 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, WEST  
COURT INTERNATIONAL BUILDING  
ST. PAUL, MN 55114-1025  
(651) 645-0323

POST OFFICE BOX 281  
105 20 AVENUE, SOUTH  
VIRGINIA, MN 55782  
(218) 741-1074

417 LITCHFIELD AVENUE, SW  
WILLMAR, MN 56201  
(320) 231-0001

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: SEP 2001

2

It is our moral obligation to hold Russia publicly accountable to the international community for its human rights abuses in Chechnya.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Wellstone". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Senator Paul D. Wellstone  
U.S. Senator

CC: Richard Armitage, Deputy Secretary of State