

## Study finds European police racist

LONDON (AP) — Some police in Europe are contributing to the "rising tide of racist violence" instead of turning it back, Amnesty International said in a report released Wednesday.

The human rights organization, based in London, said police are guilty of abuses "ranging from racial insults and threats of deportation to severe beatings and other forms of torture."

"It is pitifully rare for these officers to be brought to justice for their behavior," it said in a statement.

"In the present climate, with racial attacks on the increase and racist groups growing in size, that failure to act is tantamount to condoning racist crimes in society at large."

Amnesty said many victims are foreigners, including asylum-seekers. It cited examples of abuse in France, Germany, Italy, Greece, Spain and Portugal where "the race of the victim appears to have been a factor."

Amnesty said governments must take action to curb police racism by screening prospective police officers more closely, providing better training and dismissing police who show racist attitudes.

Amnesty International noted "several reports" of assaults on asylum-seekers by German police in 1992. It said it had received reports "of a raid on a hostel in Granitz ... where people are pulled from bed, beaten with batons and punched." It said the authorities are investigating.

# Russia commemorates Battle of Stalingrad



VOLGOGRAD, Russia (AP) — With mountains of flowers and a thunderous flyover by military jets, Russia on Tuesday commemorated the 50th anniversary of victory over the Nazis in the Battle of Stalingrad.

In this industrial river city, called Stalingrad before dictator Josef Stalin died, it was a day of emotional reunions of old veterans, Communist outrage over the Soviet collapse, and muted attempts to reconcile with a former enemy.

A Russian honor guard laid more than 90 wreaths at the Eternal Flame that stands near the old department store where Nazi Field Marshal Friedrich Paulus surrendered on Feb. 2, 1943, ending the 200-day battle and the German advance to the east.

The Battle of Stalingrad — a turning point in World War II — remains a powerful symbol of the sacrifice that the Soviet republics made during the war, which took the lives of an estimated 26 million Soviet citizens.

More than 800,000 Germans and 1 million Soviet soldiers and civilians died at Stalin-

grad, which Adolf Hitler was determined to take and Stalin to hold at all costs. Only 6,000 German survivors made it home after the war.

Thousands of veterans displaying rows of medals on their chests watched solemnly as wreaths were presented by parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, Vice President Alexander Rutskoi, Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, military commander of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

At one point, Shaposhnikov was surrounded by a small group of veterans who demanded to know why the military had allowed the Soviet Union to collapse.

"I could ask you the same question," Shaposhnikov replied, and walked away.

Hundreds of pro-Communists, led by hard-liners Sergei Baburin and Viktor Alksnis, marched to the Eternal Flame beneath red flags bearing the hammer and sickle.

"We fought for the Soviet Union at Stalingrad, and we will fight to restore the Soviet Union," said Alexandra Ivanova.

President Boris Yeltsin did not attend, but sent a message to German Chancellor Hel-

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— Helmut Kohl,  
German chancellor

mut Kohl. He said Russia and Germany have "embarked on the route of final and complete reconciliation, cooperation and partnership."

Kohl echoed Yeltsin's message. "I feel especially encouraged by words and gestures from veterans of both sides who demand with special emphasis a closer cooperation between Germans and Russians," Kohl said. "The survivors of Stalingrad have become the most convincing advocates of peace between our nations and peoples."

Although German veterans were welcome in Volgograd, they kept a low profile, hovering in the background.

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