

Worse Than a War

“Disappearances” in Chechnya—a Crime Against Humanity

A Human Rights Watch Briefing Paper

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It’s worse than a war. During the war, we weren’t so scared... We knew, of course, that we might be hit by a bullet – no one was safe from that. But now, how can one sleep through the night? They wake people, take them away, shoot them... I’m terrified to talk, the prosecutor’s office is terrified – we’re all scared! At any moment [the security forces] might come after anyone of us. Ask anyone here – we are all weeping from fear. --A father of a young man who was summarily executed in June, 2004, Chechnya, February 4, 2005.