

Organization of psychological work

Scripkina T.P., Mjasnikova M.N.

Work of RPS psychologists in Beslan and Vladikavkaz after the terrorist act on September, 1-3, 2004

On September 2004 experts of the South-Russian Regional Fund for Development of Tolerance and Preventive Measures of Extremism (Rostov-on-Don) worked in Vladikavkaz and Beslan.

The purpose of their work was to study analyses of the situation and to offer psychological and methodical assistance to psychologists and teachers of Beslan and Vladikavkaz, and also to children, parents, and other people who had suffered from the terrorist act on September, 1-3, 2004 and were taking part in the liberation of hostages.

An analysis of the situation brought us to draw the following conclusions:

- It is necessary to take certain special measures to assist in preparing the psychological experts of Vladikavkaz and Beslan to work with victims in states of trauma;
- The task of creating a system for coordinating continued aid for victims by visiting and local experts is still ongoing;
- Actualization of rehabilitation programs is vital for the experts involved with the Beslan events and these programs should have a systemic character;
- It is necessary to carry out diagnostic research to gain insights particularly about the risk-group and groups that require psychological aid, and to organize a system of psychological rehabilitation.

A number of seminars were conducted for psychologists of educational institutes, the PAMRS (Psychological Assistance of Medical Rescue Service) centre "Trust", and psychologists of MIA (Ministry of Internal Affairs). For the purpose of psychological rehabilitation, a consultation was carried out with the individual experts who worked with relatives and the general population, preceding and during the storm of the school and during corpse identification.

The plan for the continuing work is elaborated in the following directions:

- Offering practical help to victims;

- Carrying out the ongoing work with children, parents, and other family members;
- Offering assistance to children with especially complex mental impairment;
- Organizing training courses to improve the professional skills of psychologists, and to teach methods and ways of working with victims;
- Organizing rehabilitary actions for the experts taking part in the Beslan work and offering assistance to victims.
- Working with school teachers of Beslan and Vladikavkaz;
- Monitoring the state of children who suffered from the terrorist act, to determine the extent of posttraumatic impairments.