

**MOSCOW PROTESTANT CHAPLAINCY**  
**Social Services**

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**Report on Racial Violence and Harassment**

September 2009

**Task Force on Racial Violence and Harassment**  
**Moscow Protestant Chaplaincy**  
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# Report on Racial Violence and Harassment September 2009

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# Report on Racial Violence and Harassment

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## Introduction

The Task Force on Racial Violence and Harassment was established by members of the Moscow Protestant Chaplaincy (MPC) in 2001. Its aim was to record and report on racially motivated attacks and harassment against people of color in the Moscow region. In doing so, the Task Force sought to contribute to the discussion of the presence of racism in Moscow, since no reliable statistics were available on the full extent of racially motivated crimes at the time. In addition to reports documenting individual incidents, in 2002 the Task Force conducted its first survey of Africans in Moscow on their perceptions and experiences of their race relations with Russians. This latest report is both an update of the 2002 survey and the Task Force's latest report on its recent work in the field. From this point forward, the Task Force intends to produce a review of its work on an annual basis.

Russia's federal government recognizes that racially-motivated crime is a problem in this country.<sup>1</sup> However, there remains a lack of information on the extent of this type of crime, likely due to underreporting. Indeed, it is clear that without the Task Force's interviews, African victims' stories would remain mostly undocumented. This lack of information continues to distort the debate about racism in Russia. Without it, the authorities and victims cannot determine whether or not racism is a pervasive problem in Russia, or simply the by-product of hooliganism.

The following findings are based on respondents' answers from a two-page survey circulated in the African community in MPC's parish, as well as incident reports taken from victims of attack and harassment. Whilst the Task Force endeavors to maintain objectivity, the circumstances under which this report was researched and written will necessarily introduce some subjectivity in relation to the emphases of the report. However, despite limited resources, the ultimate aim is to properly reflect the realities of racism faced by the minority black African community in Russia today. The report finds that although race relations between the African and Russian communities have improved since 2002, the situation remains bad. Many respondents remain scared for their personal safety on a daily basis as they continue to be harassed and attacked in Moscow.

## Methodology

This report is based on the results from a 42-question survey circulated in both English and French throughout the MPC community and social outreach programs between February and July 2009 (for original copy of the English survey, see **Appendix 1**). There were 209 respondents to the 2009 survey, an increase from the 180 respondents surveyed in the 2002 report (for the raw data results of the 2009 survey, see **Appendix 2**).

The research also draws on one-on-one interviews with victims of violence and harassment by members of the Task Force. The Task Force collected these reports by seeking out and counseling victims within MPC's African community who were attacked between January 2006 and August 2009. There were 49 incidents recorded over this period. The majority of victims consented for their personal details to be included with the details of their attacks in this report, while others have disclosed under the condition of anonymity. This is taken into consideration in this report where personal accounts have been used as examples of how, when and why members of the African

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<sup>1</sup> 5 February 2009, "Over 80 racially-motivated crimes recorded in Moscow in 2008 – official", *Interfax news agency*. Accessed from BBC Monitoring. Accessed on 6 February 2009.

community are typically attacked in Moscow. The Task Force has also been monitoring various news media outlets in order to document racially motivated violence against the African community in Moscow during this period.

With regard to analytical accuracy, it is hard to estimate whether or not respondents are a statistically representative sample of the entire black African population living in Russia. No official population figure is available. There is a wide variety of individuals within MPC's community, from refugees and homeless economic migrants to university students on scholarships, businessmen and women, and foreign diplomats. An unknown number of Africans migrate to Russia illegally, they do not register with their embassies and therefore there is no official statistic available for the number of Africans living in Moscow either. In 2006, the *BBC* quoted that approximately 1,000 African students from 43 states were studying at People's Friendship University (RUDN),<sup>2</sup> Moscow's purpose-built university for foreigners (an institute where several of the 2009 survey respondents attend). A 2002 estimate made by the Task Force placed the number of Africans living in the Moscow region at approximately 10,000 or more. Every month, MPC welcomes into its community newcomers from Africa.

### **Population Profile**

All of the respondents of the 2009 survey as well as interviewees of harassment and attack reports are of African origins (with the exception of three respondents from Afghanistan, India and Indonesia). Countries of origin include Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Ethiopia, Sudan, Chad, Kenya, the Central African Republic (CAR) and Madagascar. Of the 36 nationalities surveyed, the largest country sampled is Nigeria with 51 respondents (approximately 24.5% of the sample). The second most represented countries are Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with 23 and 22 respondents, respectively.

Of that sample, respondents range between the ages of 15 to 67. However, the mean age is 29.5 and the median age lies between 21 and 35. There are 88 males and 24 females, with 97 respondents not listing their gender. In general, the African population which MPC works with is primarily composed of young men who migrate to Russia either on student scholarships or in search of work.

Time spent in Russia varies vastly, with respondents having lived in Moscow from anywhere between one month and over 20 years, with a fairly even distribution across the range. Respondents who have stayed in Moscow from 11-20 years come from a variety of backgrounds. They hail from across Africa (namely, Angola, Cameroon, CAR, DRC, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria and Madagascar) and are a mix of both legal and illegal migrants. Approximately 26% of those surveyed have lived somewhere else in Russia or the CIS before moving to Moscow, with popular regions including Voronezh, St. Petersburg, Rostov-on-Don, Siberia and Ukraine.

In terms of respondents' legal status, 51.5% of respondents claimed to have legal documents to be living in Russia. Although 16% of respondents defined themselves as refugees, their status may not be official since it is difficult to obtain legal refugee status with either the UNHCR or the Russian Immigration Bureau. In the Task Force's experience few respondents have the certification to prove these claims, making them more likely to be economic migrants and not political refugees. Most respondents classified themselves as students, the majority of which attend RUDN University, and return home upon completion of their courses. Anecdotal evidence suggests that most of these claims are accurate. However, some individuals enter Russia on student visas with the intention of staying on as economic migrants. This may help to explain the gap between the number who claim

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<sup>2</sup> 24 February 2006, "Living with race hate in Russia" by Patrick Jackson. *BBC News Website*. Accessed 15 August 2009.

to have legal status (148) and the number who say they have legal documentation (108), demonstrated in the figures below:

Why are you living in Russia?

	Out of 209
Refugees	16% (33)
Russian citizens	0.5% (1)
Economic migrants	17% (35)
Students	47% (98)
Employees/Diplomats	6.5% (14)
Other	7% (15)

\* 13 respondents (6%) did not answer the question

Do you have legal documents to be living in Russia?

	Out of 209
Yes	51.5% (108)
No	37% (77)

\* 24 respondents (11.5%) did not answer the question

### General Perception of Race Relations in Moscow

In order to assess whether Africans living in Russia have changed their perception of race relations since moving here, respondents were asked both:

a) How would you describe inter-race relations when you first arrived in Russia?

	Out of 209
Very good	3% (6)
Good	10% (21)
Neutral	21% (44)
Tense	34% (71)
Very tense	27% (57)

\* 10 respondents (5%) did not answer this question

b) How would you describe inter-race relations in Russia today?

	Out of 209
Very good	0.5% (1)
Good	7.5% (16)
Neutral	25% (52)
Tense	33% (69)
Very tense	28% (58)

\* 13 respondents (6%) did not answer this question

While the majority of respondents retained their original perception, there is a noticeable slide down the scale indicating that those who arrived in Russia with a positive attitude towards race relations became increasingly negative over the duration of their stay. However, there has been major improvement since 2002, when 53% said that relations were very tense and 9% said that relations were normal or neutral.

When asked whether or not racial tensions permeated their day-to-day living, **a staggering 88.5% of all respondents stated that race relations affect their daily routine in Moscow.** Respondents were asked to list all the ways in which it affects their routine:

	Out of 209
Change your day-to-day movements around Moscow	36.5% (76)
Avoid using the metro at certain times	53.5% (112)
Avoid certain neighborhoods (if so, where?)	31.5% (66)
Avoid going out during certain times of day (if so, when?)	42.5% (89)
Avoid busy areas, crowded places and events	40% (84)
Avoid police officers and/or Russian officials	24.5% (51)
Other	3% (6)

\* Respondents were asked to circle all answers that applied to them. Where they gave several answers, we have included them.

More than half of all respondents said that they avoid using the metro at certain times of day. Indeed, a significant proportion of racially-motivated attacks and harassment cases reported to the Task Force have occurred on the metro. Victims have been taunted and spat at in crowded carriages, had tear gas sprayed in their faces or even been ambushed and attacked inside or outside of metro stations. In one especially poignant case, a Cameroonian man died after being stabbed by an unprovoked attacker near VDNKh metro station in January 2009.

Additionally, 40% of all respondents said that they avoid busy areas, crowded places and events while 31.5% avoid certain neighborhoods because of uneasy race relations in Moscow. Specifically, respondents listed neighborhoods with football stadiums such as Dinamo and Luzhniki as areas to be avoided as well as night clubs, public markets and parks. Since many homeless members of the African community take shelter in the metro and in parks, this means that many respondents are most vulnerable to attacks and harassment at “home”. For example, many Africans live in and around Kuzminki Park and it is notoriously dangerous for this community. Nine (18%) of the 49 attacks recorded by the Task Force occurred in that neighborhood.

Respondents’ comments indicate that tensions permeate everyday relations: “I am being insulted all the time I am in the midst of Russians. I hate that I am black,” said one respondent. Another said, “Everything I do in Moscow is affected by me being African.” In addition, relations with the police are uneasy, with 24.5% saying that they avoid police officers and/or Russian officials. “I have no confidence in the police,” one respondent said, while another added, “the police should be feared.”

### **Harassment and Verbal Abuse**

In order to assess the likelihood and frequency of harassment, **respondents were asked if they had ever been verbally attacked while living in Russia. An overwhelming 74.5% of all respondents said yes.** In total, the frequency of verbal attacks was:

	Out of 209
Daily	14.5% (30)
Weekly	6% (12)
Monthly	12% (25)
Not often	37% (77)

\* 64 respondents (30.5%) did not answer the question

Additionally, when asked if co-workers/fellow students/peers had made derogatory comments about the respondents' race, 64.5% said yes. Common insults heard by Africans in Moscow are along the xenophobic themes of "Russia is for Russians," and "Go back to your own country." Frequent name-calling and taunts usually relate to jungle themes, implying that Africans are animals. Monkey, black monkey, banana-eater, savage, hyena, dirty nigger and negro are all common names which respondents reported.

In total, 14.5% said that they are verbally attacked in Russia on a daily basis. This is significantly down from 2002, when 66% heard such comments daily. One Liberian man, who has been living in Moscow for eleven years, says that the situation has improved. "If you look at the old surveys, you will see very bad stories there from when things were really bad," he said. **However, 2% said that they had not heard any negative remarks.**

### **Violent Attacks and Physical Abuse**

In an effort to gauge how many people within the African community have been subject to race-related violence, respondents were asked if they had ever been the victim of a racially-motivated attack. **In total, a startling 58.5% responded that they have been physically attacked while living in Russia.** There has been some improvement since 2002, when 66% said that they had been attacked. However, **41% of all respondents said that they have been attacked in Moscow within the last 12 months.** In total, during the last 12 months, attacks against all respondents happened with the following frequency:

	Out of 209
1-2 times	25% (52)
3-5 times	9% (19)
6-8 times	1% (2)
9 or above	6% (12)

\* 124 respondents (59.5%) did not answer the question

In total, 37.5% of the survey's female respondents and 60% of the male respondents report being attacked while living in Russia. This imbalance towards men could indicate that violence is specifically targeted at the male African population. However, since the survey population is predominantly male, this could be a false assumption. In fact, sometimes even the most statistically unlikely victims are targeted in violent attacks. In May 2009, a 64 year old woman from the DRC was attacked on a crowded trolley bus during the middle of the day. She was beaten by three men, sustaining severe bruising to her face, shoulders, chest and torso as well as a split lip. The attack was unprovoked, beginning with the men approaching her and calling her names like "nigger" and "monkey." The only person on the trolley bus who helped her was the bus driver. Some of the other passengers reportedly laughed during the attack.

Refugees remained the most vulnerable survey population to attacks, with 85% of the respondents who defined themselves as refugees saying they have been attacked while living in Russia. This is only slightly down from the 2002 figure of 87%. Meanwhile, 74.5% of the 2009 survey's economic migrant population said they have been attacked while living in Russia. Given the uncertain status of some of the respondents who defined themselves as refugees, the number of economic migrants who are vulnerable to attack could be much higher. A more telling figure is the **50% of both the survey's student and employee populations that have been attacked.** Students and often employees have accommodation, on-campus or office security and usually speak excellent Russian (a requirement to study at Russian universities). It is because they are less vulnerable than refugees or economic migrants that their 50-50 chance of being attacked is not encouraging.

In an attempt to compile an accurate profile of which demographics are most likely to engage in violent behavior against the African community, respondents were asked questions about the perpetrators of violent attacks, resulting in the following breakdown:

	Out of 209*	Out of the 122 respondents who said they have been attacked while living in Russia*
Group	38% (80)	65%
Individual	10.5% (22)	18%
Male	33% (69)	56%
Female	2.5% (5)	4%
Sober	6.5% (14)	11.5%
Intoxicated	12.5% (26)	21.5%
Unarmed	16.5% (35)	28.5%
Armed†	14.5% (30)	24.5%
Adolescent (13 and below)	0.5% (1)	1%
Youths (14-18)	7% (15)	12.5%
Young adults (18-25)	28% (59)	48.5%
Adults (25-40)	12% (25)	20.5%
Older adults (40-60)	1% (2)	1.5%
Elderly (60 and above)	0.5% (1)	1%

\* Respondents were asked to circle all answers that applied to them. Where they gave several answers, we have included them.

† Weapons used in attacks included knives, pieces of wood, bottles, baseball bats, brass knuckles, tear gas and a gun.

In general, perpetrators of attacks are most likely to be in groups of young adults (aged 18-25), male and almost as likely to be armed as unarmed. The stereotype that attackers are young hooligans is partially supported by the 28% of all respondents, or 48.5% of those who have been attacked, stating they were attacked by young adults. However, the instance of intoxication reported is low, with less than a quarter of respondents describing their attackers as drunk.

This raises the concern that attacks against Africans are premeditated and not only isolated, random and purportedly drunken occurrences carried out by alleged skinheads and hooligans. In one instance reported to the Task Force in February 2009, two Nigerian men were invited by a Russian man to his apartment under the guise of a drink and friendship. The two men were reluctant and skeptical, but homeless and willing to take the chance. Once inside the locked apartment, the Russian man attacked the two Nigerians with a knife, saying that he had killed blacks in Chechnya and that he wanted to attack more black men because they were trying to dominate Russia. Both Nigerian men sustained cuts on their head and hands, but managed to escape after overpowering their attacker. They received treatment at MPC's medical consultation center. They did not report the attack to the police.

There is much skepticism in the African community about the usefulness of reporting attacks to the police. Only 23% of all respondents reported the incident(s) to the police. Anecdotal evidence from



Task Force interviews suggests the main reasons for this are that many Africans believe: a) the police will not be able to help them find their attackers; b) the police will not want to help them; c) the police will harass them, especially if they do not have legal documentation; and finally d) they will not be able to explain the story because they do not speak good Russian.

These suspicions are not unfounded, as shown by the results seen by those who did approach the police:

“Did you report your attack(s) to the police? If so, what were the results?”

	Out of 48 respondents who did report their attacks to the police* the results they saw were:
Nothing	68.5% (33)
Police actively investigated it	10% (5)
Police did not find attackers	50% (24)
Attackers were identified but not charged	14.5% (7)
Attackers were charged and found guilty	4% (2)
Attackers were charged and found innocent	2% (1)

\* 28 out of the 48 respondents who reported attacks to the police said that they had been attacked at least three times. Where they gave several answers relating to several attacks, we have included them.

It is disappointing that there was only one case in which the attackers were charged and found innocent and only two cases that produced guilty verdicts. In total, **33 or 68.5% of those who filed reports, said that those reports produced no results**, either in terms of police action or action taken against their attackers. This further supports the African community’s belief that reporting crimes to the Russian police will be fruitless. Out of the 48 respondents who reported their attacks, only 10% said that their reports were actively investigated, a figure which is down from 25% in 2002.

### Relations with the Police and Russian Authorities

In order to properly assess relations between Africans and the police in Moscow, respondents were asked, “How would you describe your relations with the police?” Their answers were:

	Out of 209
Very good	0.5% (1)
Good	14% (29)
Neutral	36% (75)
Tense	18% (38)
Very tense	16.5% (35)

\* 31 respondents (15%) did not answer the question

There has been a significant improvement in Africans’ perceptions of their relations with police since 2002. Then, 41% and 50% described their relations with the police as “tense” and “very tense,” respectively. The number of respondents who said that they have a “neutral” or “good” relationship increased to 50% compared to 2002, when 10% of respondents said that they had a “normal” relationship with the police. However, the situation remains bad. Since the role of the police is to protect victims of crime, the fact that 34.5% of respondents have a tense or very tense relationship with the police remains concerning.

One reason behind this is that amongst Africans there is a general fear of the practice of document inspection by the police. This is not only because many people lack legal documentation and fear arrest but also because the inspection process is reportedly often long and arduous. 69% of respondents reported having had their documents inspected. In total, the frequency of inspections is as follows:

a) How frequently do the police inspect your documents?

	Out of 209
Daily	12.5% (26)
Weekly	4% (8)
Monthly	7.5% (16)
Not often	37% (77)

\* 82 respondents (39%) did not answer the question

b) How long does the document check last?

	Out of 209
Less than 30 minutes	36% (75)
1-4 hours	12.5% (26)
Over 4 hours	14% (29)

\* 79 respondents (37.5%) did not answer the question

\* 3 respondents gave two answers because they have been stopped more than once. The more conservative figure has been included.

The process can also be expensive, as **47% of respondents have been asked to pay a fine to a police officer, regardless of whether or not they are in possession of legal documentation to reside in Russia.** Of those who have paid a fine, a quarter paid between 500-1000 rubles, while 21.5% paid over 100 rubles. **Only 6% of those who have paid a fine demanded by a police officer have ever received a receipt.**

The Task Force has received multiple reports of extortion by police officers, often threatening to plant drugs on Africans and throw them in prison unless they give the officers the money in their pockets. One respondent reported that a police officer “openly demanded I give him money, or else he would put drugs in my pocket.” In another case, an Ethiopian man with legal refugee status from the Russian Migration Service was thrown into a van by the police after having his documents checked. The officers refused to speak to the victim’s case worker from the Service on the telephone. Other people in the van were eventually let go once they relented and paid a bribe, but this victim refused. He was finally released after being held for several hours during which he was threatened with a large gun and roughly handled by the police officers. Similarly, 25% of all respondents reported that they have had personal items stolen from them by the police including money, metro cards, mobile phones, articles of clothing, a video camera, a TV, a computer and documents.

Although cases like these are disturbing, it is important to note that they are not necessarily racially motivated but rather financially motivated. People of all races are illegally extorted for money by the authorities in Moscow, and it is not a problem solely in the African community.

However, racism is clearly a motivator when victims are verbally insulted by the police, as 36.5% of respondents have reportedly endured. Insults such as “nigger” and “Monkey, go home; we have no bananas here,” are commonly reported. Moreover, 13.5% of respondents reported being physically

attacked by police officers, such as being pushed or kicked. One female respondent was attacked by a police officer after refusing to be strip searched without a witness present.

## **Conclusions**

The results of this research indicate that although race relations between the African and Russian communities have generally improved, the situation remains bad. The majority of Africans perceive race relations in Moscow to be tense, for various reasons. Frequent document checks, requests for bribes, verbal harassment and physical attacks are several hurdles which Africans must regularly face. This research demonstrates that racism and xenophobia remain a pervasive problem in Moscow. No African demographic group, be it male or female, young or elderly, homeless or diplomat are free from harassment. Attacks are both premeditated and spontaneous, and sometimes deadly. It is an inhospitable environment for migrants to settle in, whether they are legal or not.

It cannot be overstated that the situation remains challenging for vulnerable communities throughout Moscow. The Task Force hopes that this research, combined with similar studies as well as directed lobbying, will result in a more open and public debate on how Russia can deal with racism and especially its violent manifestations. Ultimately, this report seeks to help vulnerable communities in Moscow and across Russia be better served and protected.

## **Policy Recommendations – steps to be taken by NGOs, embassies, interested parties**

Whilst informing the general public about the challenges which the African community in Moscow faces on a daily basis is the primary goal of the Task Force, it is also a hope that this research will inform and influence those who legislate on this issue. Ultimately, one of our goals is that this vulnerable community be one day protected, and thus the Task Force would like to make the following recommendations:

- Russian legislators should state publicly that racism, and not just extremism or hooliganism, will not be tolerated in Russia;
- Russian law enforcement authorities should increase efforts to catch offenders of racially motivated crimes and bring them to court;
- Russian law enforcement authorities should increase efforts to reduce the incidence of extortion amongst its officers;
- African governments should increase efforts to educate their citizens about how to register with their embassies, regardless of their legal status, in order to track migrants in Russia;
- African governments should provide information to their citizens on the risks of being attacked on the basis of their race in Russia on their foreign ministries' websites; and
- NGOs and media outlets should increase efforts to document and report instances of racially motivated violence against minority populations.

**Contact Information**

For further information on this report or to become involved with MPC's Task Force on Racial Violence and Harassment, please contact:

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## Moscow Protestant Chaplaincy

### Task Force on Racial Attack and Harassment

Name: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Country of origin: \_\_\_\_\_ Male/Female (please circle one)

How long have you been living in Moscow? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you live anywhere in Russia before moving to Moscow? Yes/No

If so, where? \_\_\_\_\_ For how long? \_\_\_\_\_

Why are you living in Russia:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic migrant  | <input type="checkbox"/> Refugee                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student           | <input type="checkbox"/> Russian citizen              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employee/Diplomat | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ |

How would you describe inter-race relations when you first arrived in Russia?

1	2	3	4	5
Very Good	Good	Neutral	Tense	Very Tense

How would you describe inter-race relations in Russia today?

1	2	3	4	5
Very Good	Good	Neutral	Tense	Very Tense

Do you find that race relations affect your daily routine in Moscow? Yes/No (please circle)

If so, please specify: (check all that apply)

- change your day-to-day movements around Moscow
- avoid using the metro at certain times
- avoid certain neighborhoods (if so, where \_\_\_\_\_)
- avoid going out during certain times of day (if so, when \_\_\_\_\_)
- avoid busy areas, crowded places and events
- avoid police officers and/or Russian officials
- other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain further: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

How would you describe people in shops and offices treat you?

1	2	3	4	5
Very Respectfully	Respectfully	Neutral	Poorly	Very Poorly

Have you been verbally attacked while living in Russia? Yes/No (please circle)

If so, how often: *daily / weekly / monthly / not often*

Have your coworkers/fellow students/peers made derogatory comments about your race? Yes/No

If so, how frequently: *daily / weekly / monthly / not often*

What types of remarks have you heard? (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been physically attacked while living in Russia? Yes/No (please circle)

If so, how often? (please circle) *1-2 times / 3-5 times / 5-8 times / 9 or above*

How you been attacked in Moscow within the last 12 months? Yes/No (please circle)

If so, how many times? \_\_\_\_\_

Were your attackers: (please underline all that apply)

individual / group	adolescent (13 and below) / youths (14-18)
male / female	young adults (18-25) / adults (25-40)
sober / intoxicated	older adults (40-60) / elderly (60 and above)
unarmed / armed	

if so, what type: \_\_\_\_\_

Did you report your attack(s) to the police? Yes/No (please circle)

If so, what were the results? (please check)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> nothing                         | <input type="checkbox"/> attackers were identified but not charged |
| <input type="checkbox"/> police actively investigated it | <input type="checkbox"/> attackers were charged and found guilty   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> police did not find attackers   | <input type="checkbox"/> attackers were charged and found innocent |

How would you describe your relations with the police?

1	2	3	4	5
Very Good	Good	Neutral	Tense	Very Tense

Have the police ever inspected your documents? Yes/No (please circle)

If so, how frequently: *daily / weekly / monthly / not often*

How long does the document check last? *less than 30 mins / 1-4 hours / over 4 hours*

Do you have legal documents to be living in Russia? Yes/No (please circle)

If no, what happened to them? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever paid a fine to the police? Yes/No

If so, how much? *less than 200 rubles / 200-500 rubles / 500-1000 rubles / over 1000 rubles*

Did the police give you a receipt? Yes/No

Have you ever been verbally insulted by police officers in Russia? Yes/No (please circle)

If so, please explain: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been physically attacked by police officers in Russia? Yes/No (please circle)

If so, please explain: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Have the police ever stolen anything from you? Yes/No (please circle)

If so, please explain what: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize the MPC Racial Task Force to use this survey in their research, subsequent publications and to pass on this information to international and/or local human right organizations.

## Appendix II: Raw Data Results of Survey 2009

### Raw Data

**Note: All results are calculated assuming that 209 = 100% unless otherwise stated**

Total respondents – 209; Male – 88; Female – 24; Did not say – 97

Average age: 29.5

#### **“Why are you living in Russia?”**

Refugees	16% (33)
Russian citizens	0.5% (1)
Economic migrants	17% (35)
Students	47% (98)
Employees/Diplomats	6.5% (14)
Other	7% (15)

\* 13 respondents (6%) did not answer the question

### General Opinion of Race Relations

#### **“How would you describe inter-race relations when you first arrived in Russia?”**

Very good	3% (6)
Good	10% (21)
Neutral	21% (44)
Tense	34% (71)
Very tense	27% (57)

\* 10 respondents (5%) did not answer this question

#### **“How would you describe inter-race relations in Russia today?”**

Very good	0.5% (1)
Good	7.5% (16)
Neutral	25% (52)
Tense	33% (69)
Very tense	28% (58)

\* 13 respondents (6%) did not answer this question

#### **“Do you find that race relations affect your daily routine in Moscow?”**

Yes	88.5% (185)
No	5.5% (12)

\* 12 respondents (6%) did not answer this question

	Each percentage calculated out of 209
Change your day-to-day movements around Moscow	36.5% (76)
Avoid using the metro at certain times	53.5% (112)

Avoid certain neighborhoods (if so, where?)	31.5% (66)
Avoid going out during certain times of day (if so, when?)	42.5% (89)
Avoid busy areas, crowded places and events	40% (84)
Avoid police officers and/or Russian officials	24.5% (51)
Other	3% (6)

\* Respondents were asked to circle all answers that applied to them. Where they gave several answers, we have included them.

#### **Neighborhoods avoided:**

house or work, parks, stadiums (Dinamo, Luzhniki [Fili]), “all”, clubs, concerts, “in my university”, Dinamo, Fili, markets, metro Taganskaya, Vykhino, all public neighborhoods, “red metro line” (line that services Luzhniki stadium), nightclubs, my house, sport areas, under Moscow (metro), Moscow oblast, “area near Sparrow Hills” (near Luzhniki stadium), “anywhere”, train platform

#### **Time of day avoided:**

night, celebrations, all the time, public holidays, “anytime, but at night”, dark, Thursday

#### **Comments respondents wrote included:**

- I have change place of living five times
- I have no confidence in the police
- Everything I do in Moscow is affected by me being African.
- I do not go out in the night or use the metro after 11pm because of a possible attack
- during Thursday, there are skinheads and gang activities
- the danger is permanent and we must always be vigilant
- I have been here since 1993. I have never had a good life in this country; it's bad for us foreigners.
- Young Russians [between 13 to 17 years old] consume a lot of alcohol and become aggressive. I need to avoid late hours, and supporters of football.
- When there is a sport match taking place or a big celebration therefore there are aggressions to strangers everywhere in the town.
- When we go out about the town they always insult. We avoid the metro because of being attacked by the skinheads.
- the displaced live, find work, are attacked and injured in public places or the metro
- I am being insulted all the time I am in the midst of Russians. I hate that I am black.
- Racist attacks in Russia are very frequent, can happen at any hour and in any neighborhood, the police here do not ensure any security for strangers, the police are to be feared

**“Have you been verbally attacked while living in Russia?”**

Yes	74.5% (156)
No	19.5% (41)

\* 12 respondents (6%) did not answer this question

**“If so, how often?”**

	Out of 209*	Out of all 156 respondents who said “yes”†
Daily	14.5% (30)	19.5% (30)
Weekly	6% (12)	7.5% (12)
Monthly	12% (25)	16% (25)
Not often	37% (77)	48% (75)

\* 64 respondents (30.5%) did not answer the question

† 14 respondents (9%) who said “yes” did not answer the question

**“Have your coworkers/fellow students/peers made derogatory comments about your race?”**

Yes	64.5% (135)
No	27.5% (57)

\* 17 respondents (8%) did not answer this question

**“If so, how often?”**

Daily	18.5% (39)
Weekly	5.5% (11)
Monthly	3.5% (7)
Not often	31.5% (66)

\* 86 respondents (41%) did not answer this question

**Verbal attacks and remarks respondents heard included:**

- Blacks are noun [known] to be strong
- The people are bullies and ready to fight anytime and [drunkards]
- How many hyenas/lions did you kill before coming to Moscow?
- Russia is for Russians and Moscow is for Muscovites
- insult in the metro, pour spite on you when they see you, they start laughing and saying "Abizana"

**Racist Violence**

**“Have you ever been physically attacked while living in Russia?”**

Yes	58.5% (122)
No	33% (69)

\* 18 respondents (8.5%) did not answer this question

**“If so, how often?”**

1-2 times	24% (50)
3-5 times	13% (27)
6-8 times	3.5% (7)
9 or above	8.5% (18)

\* 107 respondents (51%) did not answer this question

**Gender of those who answered “yes” (122)**

	Out of 209	Out of all 122 respondents who answered “yes”*
Male	25.5% (53)	43.5% (53)
Female	4.5% (9)	7.5% (9)

\* 60 respondents (49%) who answered “yes” did not specify their gender

**Percentage of attacks within survey population, by gender**

	Number represented in survey population	Number who have been attacked while living in Russia	Out of survey population number
Male	88	53	60% (88)
Female	24	9	37.5% (24)

**Status of those who answered “yes” (122)**

	Out of 209*	Out of all 122 who answered “yes”†
Economic migrant	10.5% (22)	18% (22)
Student	23.5% (49)	40% (49)
Employee/diplomat	3.5% (7)	6% (7)
Refugee	13.5% (28)	23% (28)
Russian citizen	0% (0)	0% (0)
Other	5% (10)	8% (10)

\* 6 out of 209 respondents (3%) did not specify their status

† 6 out of 122 respondents (5%) who answered “yes” did not specify their status

**Percentage of attacks within survey population, by status**

	Number represented in survey population	Number who have been attacked while living in Russia	Out of survey population figure
Economic migrant	35	26	74.5%
Student	98	49	50%
Employee/diplomat	14	7	50%
Refugee	33	28	85%
Russian citizen	1	0	0%
Other	15	10	66%

**“Have you been attacked in Moscow in the last 12 months?”**

Yes	41% (86)
No	37.5% (78)

\* 45 respondents (21.5%) did not answer this question

**“If so, how often?”**

1-2 times	25% (52)
3-5 times	9% (19)
6-8 times	1% (2)
9 or above	6% (12)

\* 124 respondents (59.5%) did not answer this question

**Gender of those who answered “yes”**

	Out of 209	Out of all 86 respondents who answered “yes”
Male	18% (38)	44% (38)
Female	3.5% (7)	8% (7)

\* 41 respondents (48%) who answered “yes” did not specify their gender

**Status of those who answered “yes”**

	Out of 209*	Out of all 86 who said “yes”†
Economic migrant	7.5% (16)	18.5% (16)
Student	13.5% (28)	32.5% (28)
Employee/diplomat	2.5% (5)	6% (5)
Refugee	11.5% (24)	28% (24)
Russian citizen	0% (0)	0% (0)
Other	3.5% (7)	8% (7)

\* 6 out of 209 respondents (3%) who said “yes” did not specify their status

† 6 out of 86 respondents (7%) who said “yes” did not specify their status

**Who are the attackers?**

	Out of 209*	Out of 122 (who said they have been attacked while living in Russia)*
Group	38% (80)	65%
Individual	10.5% (22)	18%
Male	33% (69)	56%
Female	2.5% (5)	4%
Sober	6.5% (14)	11.5%
Intoxicated	12.5% (26)	21.5%
Unarmed	16.5% (35)	28.5%
Armed†	14.5% (30)	24.5%
Adolescent (13 and below)	0.5% (1)	1%
Youths (14-18)	7% (15)	12.5%

Young adults (18-25)	28% (59)	48%
Adults (25-40)	12% (25)	20.5%
Older adults (40-60)	1% (2)	1.5%
Elderly (60 and above)	0.5% (1)	1%

\* Respondents were asked to circle all answers that applied to them. Where they gave several answers, we have included them.

† Weapons used included wood, knives, bottles, baseball bats, chains, brass knuckles, gas and a gun

**Comments respondents wrote included:**

- “beating”
- “skinheads, hooligans, drunkards”

**“Did you report your attack(s) to the police?”**

Yes	23% (48)
No	32% (67)

\* 94 respondents (45%) did not answer this question

**“If so, what were the results?”**

	Out of 209	Out of 48 respondents who did report their attacks to the police* the results they saw were:
Nothing	16% (33)	68.5%
Police actively investigated it	2.5% (5)	10%
Police did not find attackers	11.5% (24)	50%
Attackers were identified but not charged	3.5% (7)	14.5%
Attackers were charged and found guilty	1% (2)	4%
Attackers were charged and found innocent	0.5% (1)	2%

\* Respondents were asked to circle all answers that applied to them. Where they gave several answers, we have included them.

**Comments respondents wrote included:**

- “no (since nobody listens to us)”
- “no (twice, nowadays I don't.)”
- “no (because when you go to the police, they demand to see your documents)”

**Relations with the Police**

**“How would you describe your relations with the police?”**

Very good	0.5% (1)
Good	14% (29)
Neutral	36% (75)
Tense	18% (38)
Very tense	16.5% (35)



\* 31 respondents (15%) did not answer the question

**“Have the police ever inspected your documents?”**

Yes	69% (144)
No	17% (36)

\* 29 respondents (14%) did not answer this question

**“If so, how frequently?”**

Daily	12.5% (26)
Weekly	4% (8)
Monthly	7.5% (16)
Not often	37% (77)

\* 82 (39%) of respondents did not answer the question

**“How long does the document check last?”**

Less than 30 minutes	36% (75)
1-4 hours	12.5% (26)
Over 4 hours	14% (29)

\* 79 respondents (37.5%) did not answer the question

\* 3 respondents gave two answers because they have been stopped more than once. The more conservative figure has been included.

**“Do you have legal documents to be living in Russia?”**

Yes	51.5% (108)
No	37% (77)

\* 24 (11.5%) of respondents did not answer the question

**“Have you ever paid a fine to the police?”**

Yes	47% (98)
No	41.5% (87)

\* 24 (11.5%) of respondents did not answer the question

**“If so, how much?”**

	Out of 209	Of those who said “yes” (98)
Less than 200 rubles	5% (11)	11% (11)
200-500 rubles	13.5% (28)	13.5% (28)
500-1000 rubles	11.5% (24)	24.5% (24)
Over 1000 rubles	10% (21)	21.5% (21)

\* 60% (125) of the total respondents did not answer this question

\* 14.5% (14) of those who said “yes” did not answer the question

**“Did the police give you a receipt?”**

	Out of 209	Of those who said they have received a police fine (98)
Yes	3% (6)	6% (6)
No	36% (76)	71.5% (70)

\* 61% (127) of total respondents did not answer the question

\* 22.5% (22) of those who said “yes” did not answer the question

**“Have you ever been verbally insulted by police officers in Russia?”**

Yes	36.5% (76)
No	51.5% (108)

\* 12% (25) of total respondents did not answer the question

**Comments respondents heard included:**

- Monkey, why don't you go back to your country? Go back to your monkeys.
- They accuse for crime I never committed.
- By taking off my clothes to search for money.
- Monkey go back to Africa and showed me middle finger.
- They see every blacks as people selling drugs so I was kinda insulted cos they think I was a dealer.

**“Have you ever been physically attacked by police officers in Russia?”**

Yes	13.5% (28)
No	74.5% (156)

\* 12% (25) respondents did not answer this question

**Comments respondents wrote included:**

- dirty monkey, and immediately kicks
- a drunken police officer threatened and attacked me
- When I refused to be strip searched without a witness.
- pushing & kicking
- They were on mufti without uniforms, then they like asked me for drugs, I told them I don't do drugs, they were like harassing me when I wanted to like retaliate they told me they were the police

**“Have the police ever stolen anything from you?”**

Yes	25% (52)
No	64.5% (135)

22 respondents (10.5%) did not answer this question

**Comments respondents wrote included:**

- He openly demanded I give him \$ or else he would put drugs in my pocket. M. Kurskaya (voksal) at 3am
- They have to check all my pocket and later they found money in my pocket, they took it from me
- subway card
- my money and other important documents
- mobile, belt & wallet
- They asked me for my documents. After seeing my documents they searched my pockets and stole some money.
- Russia police have not stolen anything from me, but they collect money with force/threat in the influence of no document.