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Human Rights Watch Slams Russian Schools as Refugee Children Expelled

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Leading international rights organization Human Rights⊠Watch has condemned Russian schools for turning away foreign children⊠illegally.

The group said that children of asylum seekers, migrants⊠and other foreign citizens were being expelled from Moscow schools if they⊠couldn't provide proof that they were registered with Russia's Federal⊠Migration service.

Russia's Supreme Court ruled in 2015 that it was illegal to⊠bar unregistered children from classes. The practice however is still widespread,⊠with refugee charity Civic Assistance handling 82 complaints on the issue since⊠2014.

Related article: Russia's Refugees: They Picked the Wrong Country

"This has to stop," Human Rights Watch said in a statement on their website. "Russian

authorities should send an unequivocal message to school officials at all levels that proof of registration is not a requirement and cannot be used as an excuse for denying children access to education."

Seven-hundred and seventy people have been granted official refugee status in Russia since 1991. Others have been granted temporary asylum, which must be renewed on a yearly basis. Many of those moving through the asylum process are unable to formally register in Russia, restricting them from accessing basic services.

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