

### Five Rebels Killed in Ingushetia; Opposition Postpones Protest

Security forces in Ingushetia killed five militants during a special operation conducted in the city of Karabulak on June 11. Itar-Tass quoted law-enforcement sources in Ingushetia as saying the militants, who were holed up in a house, were blockaded by security forces, who called on them to surrender. Instead, the militants opened fire, and a battle ensued in which the five rebels were killed. According to the sources, the house in which they were holed up caught fire during the shootout. Itar-Tass quoted a military source as saying that one of the militants was killed when he tried to escape, after which the rest were killed in the battle. The news agency also reported that a woman was among the five dead militants. According to the opposition Ingushetiya.ru website, the woman killed in the battle owned the house where the militants were staying and her son was among those killed. Life.ru on June 11 quoted a law-enforcement source as identifying the slain woman and her son as having the surname Abalakov and saying that they had recently arrived in Karabulak.



A source in Ingushetia's Interior Ministry told Itar-Tass that the slain militants had been involved in the murder of the head of the chancellery of the anti-organized crime directorate (UBOP) of Ingushetia's Interior Ministry, Bembulat Bogolov, who was shot to death in Nazran on June 8.

On June 9, a bomb exploded in Nazran near the home of Magomed Khazbiev, the head of the organizing committee for the Ingush national protest. No one was hurt in the blast, but Kavkazky Uzel quoted Khazbiev as saying that the bombing was a terrorist act targeting him and members of his family. Khazbiev told the website that two weeks earlier his car, which had a portrait of Ingushetia's former president, Ruslan Aushev, on its hood, came under gunfire but that he had not publicized the incident so as not to traumatize his parents. Khazbiev accused Ruslanbek Zyazikov, a relative of Ingushetian President Murat Zyazikov who has been identified as the head of the president's security detail, of organizing the attack. The opposition Ingushetiya.ru website reported that the attackers escaped in a black VAZ-21114 automobile.

The explosion near Khazbiev's home followed another in Nazran the same day. That blast took place shortly after a police patrol discovered an explosive device that went off as bomb disposal experts were preparing to defuse it. No one was hurt in that explosion, which broke windows in nearby dwellings.

Police had raided Khazbiev's home on June 6, ostensibly searching for weapons. Khazbiev, for his part, said the search was connected both to the fact that he heads the national protest organizing committee as well as his involvement in the drive to gather signatures on a petition calling for the removal of Murat Zyazikov as Ingushetia's president and his replacement by Ruslan Aushev.

Ingushetia's opposition decided to postpone the republic-wide protest action that was scheduled to take place on June 6 (Chechnya Weekly, June 5). Kavkazky Uzel reported on June 5 that opposition leaders had decided to wait until the anti-Zyazikov/pro-Aushev petition drive is completed and the petition is forwarded to the Kremlin. It should be noted that the prosecutor's office in Ingushetia had declared the planned demonstration illegal and called on residents of Ingushetia not to participate in it.

Ingushetiya.ru reported on June 5 that opposition leaders also noted that the republic's Supreme Court ordered the release of the remaining opposition members who were incarcerated for participating last January's protest demonstration in Nazran. According to Kavkazky Uzel, the arrested opposition members had been transferred from a remand prison in Nalchik, Kabardino-Balkaria, to a remand prison in Pyatigorsk. Kavkazky Uzel reported on June 6 that three of the opposition members—Ismail Barakhoev, Salman Gazdiev and Ruslan Khazbiev—were freed from the Pyatigorsk prison following the republican Supreme Court's decision, but that two others, Maksharip Aushev and Ramzan Kulov, remained in custody because the court had not given their correct dates of birth. Another incarcerated participant in the January protest was freed earlier in June.

Meanwhile, Moscow's Kuntsevo court on June 6 banned the opposition Ingushetiya.ru website on charges that it was extremist. "The Kuntsevo district court ruled to grant the prosecutor's petition and terminate the functioning of Ingushetiya.ru on the worldwide web," Itar-Tass quoted Judge Lidia Sorokina as saying. Prosecutor Irina Semyonova

said she had been able to prove in court that Ingushetiya.ru was a mass media outlet disseminating extremist materials and that its activity must therefore be banned. A lawyer for Ingushetiya.ru, Musa Pliyev, called the ruling “illegitimate and unjustified” and said the website “will continue functioning.” Pliyev said that only the person who has registered a given media outlet can stop its activity but that Ingushetiya.ru “has not been registered as a media outlet.” Magomed Yevloev, who has been identified as the website’s owner, is in fact “an owner of the domain name” but “doesn’t own the site,” Pliyev said. Semyonova, the prosecutor, responded: “It’s difficult to shut down the website, but we believe we’ll be able to stop its work with the help of the Ministry of Communications and the Bailiffs Service.” According to Itar-Tass, Ingushetiya.ru lawyers said they will appeal the ruling to a higher court.

Following preliminary hearings, the Kuntsevo court judge suspended Ingushetiya.ru, but it continued to be available to Internet users during the main hearings. Earlier, North Ossetian prosecutors demanded that Ingushetiya.ru be shut down. Kuntsevo prosecutors instituted criminal proceedings against Ingushetiya.ru for violating article 282 of Russia’s Criminal Code, which bans the incitement of national, racial or religious enmity. According to Itar-Tass, the press service of the Moscow prosecutor’s office said that specialists, after examining the content of materials placed on Ingushetiya.ru, had concluded that the website bore the hallmarks of crimes covered by article 282.

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### Chechnya Bombings: Zapad Revenge against the OMON?

Investigators have determined that an explosion which took place in a café in the Chechen capital Grozny on the evening of June 9 was caused by a bomb, Kavkazky Uzel reported on June 10. According to initial reports, the blast in the “Dallas” café was caused by the explosion of two gas tanks; according to subsequent reports, an initial gas explosion had detonated ammunition that was being carried by a policeman who was in the café. Yet an official with the Chechen branch of the Investigative Committee, Maryam Nalaev, told Interfax that the theory the blast was the result of a gas explosion turned out to be unfounded, and a Chechen law-enforcement source told Kavkazky Uzel that the blast had been caused by an improvised explosive device.



Kavkazky Uzel reported that the explosion injured 7-12 people: according to the website, the Chechen Interior Ministry put the number of wounded at seven, including five policemen and two local inhabitants. The “Dallas” café is located not far from the base of a Chechen Interior Ministry OMON special unit. “Seven people received wounds and varying degrees of trauma in the café explosion—three OMON, one employee of the Chechen MVD’s PPS (patrol-sentry service) and three civilians, including a cashier and waitress from the café,” a Chechen police officer told the website. “After being given first aid, the women were sent home. Doctors assess the condition of one of the wounded OMON as extremely grave.”

According to Kavkazky Uzel, local residents believe the blast may have been part of an ongoing “razboroka”—settling of scores—between members of the Chechen OMON and servicemen belonging to the Russian Defense Ministry’s Zapad battalion. In the summer of 2007, a shootout between members of the OMON and the Zapad battalion left four Zapad members dead. According to reports at the time of the incident, a Chechen policeman was also killed in the shootout (Chechnya Weekly, June 21, 2007). Kavkazky Uzel reported that following last year’s shootout, the “kakietsy” (the name given to Zapad battalion members in honor of their former commander, Said-Magomed Kakiev, who several months ago was transferred to the post of Chechnya’s deputy military commissar) declared a vendetta against members of the Chechen OMON.

On June 11, just two days after the Grozny café explosion, a large bomb went off on a road in Chechnya’s southeastern Shali district connecting the city of Shali and the village of Agishty. The explosive device detonated as two cars were passing by with seven members of the OMON force from Perm Krai who are currently deployed in Chechnya. No one was hurt in the blast.

Meanwhile, security forces detained two policemen in Chechnya’s Vedeno district suspected of collaborating with separatist rebels, Kavkazky Uzel reported on June 11. An unnamed police officer told the website that the identity of the police collaborators was learned from “an active participant” in the “illegal armed formations” who had recently been captured. The website noted that security forces had captured a wounded militant in Vedeno district on June 9. The militant is believed to have been wounded in a shootout with servicemen on the outskirts of the town of Vedeno on the evening of June 8. Interfax reported on June 8 that three unidentified gunmen had fired on servicemen who tried to detain them on the outskirts of Vedeno earlier that day, and that the servicemen had returned fire.

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### Chechens Protest in Front of Vostok Battalion's Base

A protest against the activities of the Vostok battalion of the Russian Defense Ministry's Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU) was held in front of the battalion's base near the village of Druzhba in Chechnya's Gudermes district on June 12. According to Kavkazky Uzel, the demonstrators, numbering from 600 to 1000, held up photographs of relatives they claim were abducted by Vostok members along with signs reading, among other things, "Yamadaevs – return our sons!", "Yamadaevs – murderers of our sons!" and "Yamadaevs – enemies of the Chechen people!" The Vostok battalion, which is commanded by Sulim Yamadaev, has been locked in a power struggle with forces loyal to Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov following a confrontation this past April that reportedly culminated in a shootout. Kadyrov has since accused the battalion and its leaders of criminal activities and declared that it will be disbanded (Chechnya Weekly, April 17 and 24; May 1, 8, 16, 22 and 29; June 5). "Several days ago, in the area of the village of Druzhba, a mass grave with victims of extra-judicial killings was discovered," Aslambek Apaev, chairman of the Committee to Protect the Rights and Freedoms of Citizens and a North Caucasus expert for the Moscow Helsinki Group, told Kavkazky Uzel. "No one has any doubts that these murders were committed by 'yamadaevtsy', since the remains were buried near the battalion's base. Besides, the place where the bodies were buried was learned about from one of the former 'yamadaevtsy'. As far as I know, the former Vostok servicemen who left the battalion told of several places where the bodies of people they killed were buried, not only in Gudermes district, but also in Vedeno district."



The website quoted Madina Yusupova, a 40-year-old resident of Chechnya who was at the protest, as saying: "I myself live in Gudermes and in the winter of 2003, my nephew was abducted. His mother and I searched for him for a long time, appealed to various structures, but we did not manage to find him." She claimed that she was approached by people who said her nephew was being held by Vostok battalion members and could be freed if a \$5,000 ransom were paid, but that these middlemen then disappeared. "Many women standing in front of the Vostok base cried and cursed these monsters," she said of her fellow demonstrators. "And when we left, we left all of the signs on which was written 'Yamadaevs – Murderers' on the ground in front of the base's entrance. Let them now how their own people hate them." She noted that Magomed Khanbiev, the formal rebel commander who is now a deputy in Chechnya's parliament, also attended the protest outside the Vostok battalion's base.

Kavkazky Uzel interviewed by telephone a Vostok battalion serviceman who called the demonstration a "cheap performance." "Who brought that crowd of people here, gave them placards and signs?", he said. "One of the former top 'satans', Magomed Khanbiev, was running the whole thing. Earlier he was 'minister of defense of Ichkeria', and now he's gone over to Ramzan Kadyrov and is portraying himself as a normal person." The Vostok serviceman told Kavkazky Uzel that he thought the demonstration outside the Vostok base was a response to the recent statement made by General Vladimir Shamanov, who heads the Russian Armed Forces' Main Directorate for Combat Training and Service, who said that the Vostok battalion will not be disbanded. "This has hurt them more than anything," he said. "Ramzan said that we will be broken up, and here you see everything is to the contrary. Therefore they are trying to make us out to be criminals." (See Andrei Smirnov's article in this issue.)

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### Soldiers, Rebels Killed in Khasavyurt Shootouts

A large improvised explosive device was discovered on the Khasavyurt-Babayurt road on the outskirts of the Dagestani city of Khasavyurt, Newsru.com reported on June 12. The device, which was defused by bomb disposal experts, consisted of ammonium nitrate that would have exploded with the force of five kilograms of TNT, along with metal bolts and nuts that would have acted as shrapnel and a remote control device fashioned out of a car alarm. A police source was quoted as saying that the Khasavyurt-Babayurt road was clearly targeted because it is heavily traveled.

A soldier was killed and another wounded in an attack that took place at a railway terminal in Khasavyurt overnight on June 8-9, RIA Novosti reported. "Unknown gunmen, most likely in a Zhiguli car without a license plate, fired automatic weapons at a group of soldiers who were due to board a troop train from Chechnya," a police source told the news agency. "One soldier, 21, was killed, another, 22, was taken to a local hospital with serious wounds." The source said the attackers had not been "traced."

On June 7, Russian special forces killed three rebel fighters during a special operation in Khasavyurt. Reuters quoted Interfax as saying that there were no Russian deaths in the operation, which lasted around 40 minutes and involved armored personnel carriers.

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# Kadyrov versus the Yamadaevs Becomes Kadyrov versus the Generals

By Andrei Smirnov

The conflict between Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov and the Yamadaev brothers, who control the Vostok battalion of the Russian Defense Ministry's Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU), shows few signs of winding down. Kadyrov failed to achieve his goal of disbanding the battalion quickly and kicking the Yamadaevs out of Chechnya and the conflict has become a standoff, turning from a conflict between two Chechen pro-Russian clans into a dispute between the Chechen authorities and the Russian military. On June 10, General Vladimir Shamanov, who heads the Russian Armed Forces' Main Directorate for Combat Training and Service, declared that the special battalions of the Russian army, Vostok and Zapad, composed of contract soldiers of Chechen origin, will be left intact. "These battalions will certainly remain, because they not only fulfill important missions as part of the Combined Group of Forces in the North Caucasus, but they also carry out peacekeeping missions in Abkhazia and South Ossetia," he said (Itar-Tass, June 10).



Vladimir Shamanov

Throughout May, Kadyrov tried every way possible to finish off the Yamadaevs and the Vostok battalion. Mass graves were discovered in Chechnya one after another, and each time the Vostok fighters were immediately accused of being responsible for these murders (Chechnya Weekly, May 8 and 16). On May 12, Ramzan Kadyrov announced the suspension of Vostok battalion commander Sulim Yamadaev and called on Chechen and military prosecutors to investigate whether Vostok troops, including Yamadaev, were linked to murders and kidnappings in Chechnya and Dagestan (Chechnya Weekly, May 16). On May 15, the Chechen parliament, in a special declaration, came out in support of Sulim Yamadaev's suspension (Regnum, May 15). On May 16, four Chechen deputies to the Russian parliament said in a statement that "the uncompromising policy of the president of the Chechen Republic, Ramzan Kadyrov, of putting on trial anybody who is guilty, regardless of their official position and previous merits, is being portrayed by the Yamadaev brothers as an attempt to get rid of unwanted and uncontrollable people" (Grozny-Inform, May 16).

On May 31, during a meeting with members of Chechnya's government and the heads of the republic's district administrations, Kadyrov announced that criminal proceedings had been started not only against ordinary Vostok members, but also against Vostok commander Sulim Yamadaev himself. Ramzan said that bodies were being exhumed in Vedeno District and other areas of Chechnya in connection with murders that the Yamadaev brothers were accused of (Chechnya Weekly, June 5).

In late May, Chechen utility companies cut off supplies of gas, electricity and water to the Vostok battalion's base in Gudermes. Kadyrov even received indirect support from Memorial, Russia's most influential human rights organization. Memorial demanded that the crimes supposedly committed by members of the Vostok battalion be fully investigated (Chechnya Weekly, May 22).

Yet each time Kadyrov initiated an attack against the Vostok and the Yamadaev brothers, the latter received support from the Russian Defense Ministry. Four days after Kadyrov said that Sulim Yamadaev had been suspended as commander of the Vostok battalion, a military official declared that the Vostok battalion had not been disbanded and that Yamadaev had not been removed as its commander (Grani.ru, May 19). When Kadyrov announced criminal proceedings against Sulim Yamadaev, the Military Prosecutor's Office immediately denied this (Kommersant, June 1).

In the middle of May, at the peak of Kadyrov's campaign against Vostok, General Alexander Baranov, who was then the commander of the North Caucasian Military District, declared: "The existence of the battalions that were formed on an ethnic basis (Vostok and Zapad - AS) is fully justified and the need for these units was dictated by life itself" (Regnum, May 24). At the same time, the commander of the Combined Group of Forces in the North Caucasus, Major General Nikolai Sivak, told the military newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda that the Chechen population supports the rebels in the region "while the insurgency continues to carry out attacks on federal forces such as the police, units of the Defense Ministry and Interior Ministry Internal Troops, including Chechens serving in the Interior Minister and in the Defense Ministry's Vostok and Zapad battalions" (Krasnaya Zvezda, May 20). In his interview, Sivak targeted Kadyrov personally. In fact, in stating that the rebels mostly attack Russian forces or pro-Russian Chechen troops like

the Zapad and Vostok battalions, the Russian commander was implying that Russia's generals regard these battalions as a more reliable force than any of the Chechen troops loyal to Ramzan Kadyrov.

Kadyrov could not simply ignore this implication. Protests by Nurdy Nukazhiev, Chechnya's human rights ombudsman, and Lema Gudaev, Kadyrov's assistant, over the interview (Chechnya Weekly, May 29) showed just how enraged Kadyrov was by Sivak's words.

On April 24, the commander of Russia's ground forces, Vladimir Moltenskoi, met with Kadyrov in Chechnya and let it be understood that the Russian military command would not give up the Yamadaev brothers and their Vostok battalion easily (Regnum, May 24). Vladimir Shamanov's recent statement only confirms this. The Russian generals have demonstrated again that they, not Kadyrov or anybody else, are the true masters in Chechnya and that only they can decide whom to suspend from command and what units should be disbanded. Commenting on Shamanov's words about the fate of the Vostok and Zapad battalions, the Russian journalist Vladimir Rechkalov wrote that "the stronger the federal group is in the Chechen Republic, the longer will be the life of Ramzan Kadyrov who, being young, has already forgotten with the help of whose bayonets he has become the most important Chechen" (Moskovsky Komsomolets, June 11).

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### Teofil Lapinski: Hero and Leader of the Circassian War for Independence (Part Two)

By Aliy Berzegov

Another foreign visitor to Cherkessia, James Bell, who also left evidence of his stay in Cherkessia during the national liberation war, characterized the peculiarity of Cherkess statehood in the following manner: "Popular opinion and established customs—this is what, in my view, represents the supreme law of the land, and I can only be amazed by the order that flows from such state of affairs. Violent and cruel offenses and outright crimes occur, but most of these are the result of quarrels and their consequences and their occurrence is relatively rare. Only a few states with established laws and complex mechanisms of justice can boast such a level of morality, accord and good manners—all these things distinguish this people in their everyday interactions" [1].

Similar testimonies can be quoted at length. The statehood of Cherkessia functioned in a peculiar manner through verbal provisions of laws and separate written state documents as well as agreements regulating relations between the provinces and with neighboring countries. It is possible to draw a parallel with the contemporary constitution of Great Britain, which does not consist of one written document or the list of documents comprising it. The modern British or Anglo-Saxon system of law is characterized by the use of a legal precedent as the source of the law. In this regard it is very similar to the Cherkess law, as it existed before the occupation and loss of sovereignty.

Particularly noteworthy are Lapinski's comments about the filial and social life of the Cherkess. The literature describing the Caucasus is often peppered with descriptions of highland women, who are portrayed as being utterly dependent on and in some cases even enslaved to their male companions. This may have been true of the eastern part of the Caucasus, but among the Cherkess the situation was drastically different. Addressing this subject, a prominent Cherkess writer and ethnographer wrote the following: "All those who make judgments about domestic life of the Cherkess by comparing it to the lifestyles of other Asiatic peoples who believe in the Mohammedan creed have an erroneous view about this subject. The chivalrous ambition introduced a lot of beautiful aspects into their customs. The great respect for women, which this wonderful but weak gender fully deserves, can be counted as one of those beautiful traits" [2].

Lapinski gave a very similar description in his book. "The mother," he noted, "commands the same authority as the father and is revered devoutly by the entire family." The high status of Cherkess woman in society, her broad rights, the exquisite forms and principles of her veneration, which were the most important elements of Adyg etiquette, were puzzling to the majority of travelers and explorers, who expected to see a reverse picture. "Unconstrained freedom of women and girls," noted Lapinski, "could have seemingly led to the lax morals, but in spite of that, almost all the girls are chaste."

With regard to the ethnic pedagogy of the Cherkess, Lapinski commented that "children are brought up in a sensible manner, and a child is never beaten or even reprimanded." Nor did Lapinski leave unnoticed the social institutions of the Cherkess. Without delving into the details of Lapinski's comments about them, it is worth quoting the following statement by him: "...neighbors live in such harmony with each other that it could be an example for emulation by the rural residents of Europe."

In describing the religious views of the population of sovereign Cherkessia, Lapinski concluded that the traditions of statehood and the popular customs that were established over centuries played a more important role in everyday life. In practice a secular system existed and different religious views were often mutually respected and revered. As in the contemporary, de facto independent Abkhazia, the Orthodox religion in Cherkessia had an applied character. While Turkey was trying to influence the religious beliefs of the population, Cherkessia remained Christian, but as soon as Russia launched an aggressive proselytization campaign the Cherkess turned to Islam.

As any Pole, Lapinski was a devout Catholic and he persistently looked for traces of Christianity in Cherkessia. He thought that one way to save Cherkessia was to introduce the Christian religion of Western orientation instead of Islam. "What is the reason that this people of the same race as us and who did not renounce Christianity outright, who cannot be called 'Barbarians' because they are more civilized than peasants of many European countries, a



people, who, one can say, live at the very gates of Europe and are estimated to be one million in population, what is the reason—I thought—that none of the many political and Protestant missions attempted to sow the seeds of the Gospel on this fertile ground...No one cares about the spiritual salvation of one the most beautiful by nature, most cultured people.”

Nonetheless, Lapinski did come across Christianity in Cherkessia, albeit in a modified form. “...On 22 July 1859 I entered the lands of a previously unknown to me small Christian people called the Svanets. In the course of the two days that I stayed there I did not have a chance to study the differences in morals and customs between the Adygs and the Svanets. Although a cursory examination of these differences revealed to me that they were insignificant. The houses, clothes and weapons were the same here as among the Adygs; the hospitality is the same; the dialect is similar to Ubykh, but many speak the Adyg language as well. Their religion consists of Christian rituals, but there are no clerics; many crosses can be seen along the roads and in houses and they are worn as amulets too” [3].

Another pronouncement made by Lapinski speaks clearly and unequivocally of his deep affection toward the Cherkess nation. “The Abaz (that is, Cherkess) by his nature is courageous, decisive, but does not like to spill blood mercilessly and is not cruel. He likes to travel, but does not like to stay away from his Motherland for too long. Most of all he likes his forests and mountains. His personal freedom he views as the supreme blessing, he allows himself to be ruled with gentleness and conviction, as a child, and he can even withstand strictness, but he rebels against any injustice. He jealously guards his military fame, but sincerely admires the courage of others, even enemy...He rides horses and sings all day, and he is almost indifferent when his house and property burn or when his body is cut and shot at, but he feels deep love to his family. His obedience to parents, his harmony in marriage can serve as examples for any civilized people.”

After Shamil's surrender in the eastern Caucasus and the increase in the concentration of armed forces in western Caucasus, the defensive system built by the efforts of the Dagestan-native Muhammad-Amin collapsed. Muhammad-Amin surrendered following the surrender of his patron Shamil. The leadership of the resistance was transferred to the Ubykh clans. On the regional level, at a meeting of the national representatives of the Cherkess province of Ubykhia in consultation with the military leadership of the irregular forces, the decision was made to form a detachment of six thousand Ubykh volunteers to support the combat spirit of the Cherkess forces located on the northern slopes of the Caucasus Mountains. Thus, Cherkessia's struggle for independence continued from 1859 until 1864, when the capital of independent Cherkessia, where a complex of parliament buildings was built in 1861 to the north of Sochi, was occupied. This is precisely the same place, where the present Russian regime decided to host the blasphemous Winter Olympics on the bones of victims of the Cherkess genocide of the 18th-20th centuries.

While in Europe, Lapinski did not abandon attempts to organize a new expedition to Cherkessia. In particular, during his stay in London in the early 1860s, he offered the English government a new plan to organize an intervention in the Caucasus, which was rejected. Everyone understood by then that the fate of Cherkessia was sealed. Upon returning to Europe in 1859, Lapinski again actively engaged in the work of the Polish émigré community. In 1860s and 1870s his name became popular in Europe. Lapinski established connections with the most prominent activists of the European revolutionary movement. In 1863 in London he met Karl Marx, under whose influence he was animated by the ideas of socialism for some time [4].

During the Polish rebellion of 1863, Lapinski undertook desperate measures to render assistance to the rebels. In March of that year the leaders of the Polish émigré community decided to organize a naval expedition to the shores of Lithuania in order to support the rebels in Poland and Lithuania. The man in charge of that expedition was Teofil Lapinski. A.I. Herzen, who also participated in the expedition, wrote: “After a long quest Domontovich and his Parisian friends decided to select Colonel Lapinski as the most capable military leader of the expedition. He was in the Caucasus for a long time on the side of Cherkess and he knew mountain warfare so well that travel by sea was but a mere trifle. One would not call this choice erroneous” [5].

Lapinski's expedition to the shores of Lithuania on board the steamboat Ward Jackson was unsuccessful because the volunteers could not disembark on land close to Klaipeda. In early May 1863 Lapinski undertook another attempt at a naval expedition, for which the Danish schooner “Emilia,” with the detachment of volunteers on board, was prepared to set sail toward the Lithuanian shores. Some of the volunteers, however, perished in a storm during a landing near Palanga. The schooner was forced to retreat to the Swedish island of Gotland. After several failed expeditions Lapinski lived for some time in England, France, Italy and other European countries. In the early 1870s he received an amnesty from the Austrian government and relocated to his ancestral land in Galicia. Teofil Lapinski died in 1886 in Lviv, on the territory of the present-day sovereign Ukraine. Almost all countries—Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine and Belarus—for whose independence Teofil Lapinski, the hero of Cherkessia, fought so valiantly, became

independent at the end of the 20th century.

#### Notes

1. Journal of Residence in Circassia during the Years 1837, 1838 and 1839: Volumes 1-2.
2. Khan-Girey, "Zapiski o Cherkessii" (Notes on Cherkessia), Nalchik, 1978, p.292.
3. Teofil Lapinski, op. cit., p.409.
4. Wielka Encyklopedia powszechna. Warszawa, Volume 6, p.688.
5. A. I. Herzen, "Byloe i dumy" (Past and thoughts), Moscow, 1973, Volume 3, p.346.

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