

### Suicide Bomber Targets Ingush Interior Minister

A suicide bomber attacked the motorcade of Ingush Interior Minister Musa Medov on September 30. The Moscow Times reported on October 1 that the male bomber attempted to ram a Lada hatchback packed with explosives into Medov's convoy in downtown Nazran at 8:20 a.m., local time, but the car exploded before it collided with the minister's armored Mercedes sedan. According to Gazeta.ru, Ingush prosecutors said Medov and his bodyguards were unharmed, while five bystanders were wounded and several houses in the vicinity of the blast were damaged. Kommersant reported on October 1 that among the injured were a taxi driver and his passenger who were driving by when the bomb detonated and two women living in apartment buildings nearby.



Musa Medov

Kommersant quoted sources in Ingushetia's Interior Ministry as saying that Medov was saved by the fact that his Mercedes was armored. In April 2004, a suicide bomber in a car targeted the motorcade of Ingush President Zyazikov. According to Kommersant, in that incident Zyazikov, like Medov, was saved by his armored Mercedes. Kavkazky Uzel reported on September 30 that an unexploded bomb equal to 40 kilograms of TNT in explosive force was found at the scene of the attack on Medov and that his life was spared due to the fact that the bomb failed to detonate.

Following the attack, Medov said: "Behind today's explosion stand forces that are doing everything to destabilize the situation in both Ingushetia and the entire North Caucasus." According to Kommersant, Medov also claimed that the situation in the republic is stable and under the control of its law-enforcement bodies.

On September 3, just four days after Magomed Yevloev, founder of the Ingushetiya.ru opposition website, died of a gunshot wound sustained in police custody, his father, Yakha Yevloev, vowed that Ingush President Zyazikov and Ingush Interior Minister Medov would be made to answer for his son's murder, declaring a blood feud with both men (North Caucasus Weekly, September 5). However, Kommersant reported on October 1 that Ingush officials were not inclined to connect the suicide bombing targeting Medov to the actions of his friends and relatives. "Those seeking revenge don't take vengeance that way – it was more likely work of Wahhabis, who place no value even on their own lives," Umar Sapraliev, Ingushetia's deputy authorized representative in Moscow, told the newspaper. He also claimed that Yakha Yevloev had already taken back his own declaration of a blood feud. Ingush opposition leader Magomed Khazbiev also rejected the idea that the attack on Musa Medov was the result of a blood feud. "Yes, we consider Mr. Medov guilty of the death of Magomed (Yevloev), but that does not mean we planned to take revenge on him this way," Khazbiev said.

Meanwhile, former Ingush president Ruslan Aushev told Ekho Moskv radio on September 30, the day of the failed attempt on Ingush Interior Minister Musa Medov's life, that news coming out of Ingushetia is reminiscent of "reports from the front-line" and that the situation in the republic has "elements of a slow civil war." According to the Russian opposition website Theoterrussia.org, Aushev told Ekho Moskv that law-enforcement authorities, public servants and ordinary residents in the region are coming under fire and that attacks on state officials and kidnappings of ordinary citizens, allegedly carried out by security forces, have spiked in recent months. Aushev did not connect the suicide bombing attack on Musa Medov with a blood feud over the murder of Magomed Yevloev, but did not exclude the possibility that it was related.

Aushev said that while the Kremlin was sending additional soldiers to Ingushetia, it would be impossible to solve the republic's economic, social and political problems by use of force alone. "Pressure by force gives rise to retaliatory pressure by force," Aushev said. "The radicalization of society is happening, especially of the youth. We need to understand what is happening." According to Interfax, Aushev told Ekho Moskv that he thought the investigation of Magomed Yevloev's death has been delayed unnecessarily. "This was a prominent man in Ingushetia," Aushev said of Yevloev. "It seemed to me that this would be the most rapid solving of a crime in the Russian Federation in the past ten years. I thought the first suspects would be arrested the same evening. Look how much time has passed. They know what car it was, who met him and who was seeing him off. The man is dead, and they are still discussing what court the case should be passed to. They should have found out who did what within an hour."

According to Kavkazky Uzel, Aushev also told Ekho Moskv that it is necessary as quickly as possible "to restore elementary lawfulness" in Ingushetia "and establish order in the law-enforcement bodies and power structures temporarily located on the territory on Ingushetia" so that they do not feel they can act with impunity.

Ingushetia.org reported that President Zyazikov ordered the republic's radio and television broadcasting center to block Ekho Moskv's signal into the republic for the duration of Aushev's on-air interview. As Theoterrussia.org noted, Ingushetia.org is a copy of Ingushetiya.ru, whose domain name was revoked by a court order and which has had increasing problems operating in the republic.

Interfax on October 1 quoted Ingush People's Assembly Speaker Makhmud Sakalov as saying in response to Aushev's comments that it is "extremely unpleasant to hear such arguments from a person who headed the republic for many years and understands full well that these problems also existed under him, and that he left them unresolved as a legacy for the republic's new leadership."

Meanwhile, Kavkazky Uzel on September 30 quoted Aleksei Mukhin, head of the Center for Political Information, as saying that it is time for the Kremlin to intervene in the situation in Ingushetia. Radio Liberty quoted Mukhin as saying that the reason for the escalation of the conflict in Ingushetia is that "the so-called opposition in Ingushetia came into being because the financial flows between RUSNEFT, which was headed by [Ingush businessman] Mikhail Gutseriev, and Ingushetia, ceased." According to Mukhin, this left Ingushetia's clans without financing. Now, Oleg Deripaska, owner of the Basic Element holding and the richest person in Russia, is seeking to buy RUSNEFT, which will mean "the total loss of very powerful financial nourishment for Ingush circles," Mukhin said. He also said the President Dmitry Medvedev needs to deal with Ingushetia the way that Vladimir Putin dealt with Chechnya. "He [Medvedev] should choose a powerful figure in Ingushetia and completely delegate all power and all authority to them in order to pacify Ingushetia the way Putin did in his time in Chechnya," Mukhin said.

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## North Caucasus Weekly

Volume 9, Issue 37 (October 3, 2008)

### Violence in Ingushetia Unabated

The failed suicide bombing targeting Ingush Interior Minister Musa Medov on September 30 was just one of several recent attacks in the republic. On October 2, the acting head of Sunzhensky criminal police was shot in the village of Ordzhonikidzevskaya when unidentified gunmen fired on his car. According to Newsru.com, the police officer - who was identified as Tamerlan Mamilov in some media reports and Timur Korigov in others - was taken in serious condition to the hospital, where he later died from his wounds.



Around the same time, unidentified attackers fired on a police post in Nazran and on a VAZ-2109 automobile carrying Interior Ministry Internal Troops in the city, Interfax reported. Two servicemen were wounded in the attack on the police post, while two servicemen were killed and another wounded in the attack on the VAZ-2109.

On October 1, gunmen fired at a police post located on the Kavkaz federal highway near the village of Ekazhevo. No one was hurt in that attack, RIA Novosti reported. On September 30, the same day as the attack on Ingush Interior Ministry Musa Medov, gunmen fired at a Mercedes that was being driven in the city of Malgobek by Bagaudin Merzhoev, an officer with the district criminal investigation department. Merzhoev was wounded in the attack and hospitalized.

On September 27, unknown persons burned down two food kiosks in Ingushetia's Malgobek district, Kavkazky Uzel reported. No one was hurt in the incidents, which took place in the city of Malgobek and the village of Sagopshi. The Novyi Region news agency reported that according to one theory, the fires were started by people unhappy with the fact that the kiosks sold alcoholic beverages. Law-enforcement sources noted that Ramadan began on September 1 and that three shops and a café were burned down in Nazran on September 6.

On September 26, unidentified gunmen fired at a private home in Nazran belonging to the dean of Ingushetia's Law and Economics Institute, Sulambek Khalukhaev, who was shot and seriously wounded outside his home in Nazran on September 10 (North Caucasus Weekly, September 11).

Meanwhile, Kavkazky Uzel on September 26 quoted several experts on the North Caucasus as saying they were certain that the abduction of Magomed Khamkhoev, who was kidnapped in Moscow on September 14 and, according to his own testimony, held in the basement of a cottage and beaten and tortured for several days (North Caucasus, September 19), was the work of Russia's special services.

Aslanbek Apaev, a North Caucasus expert with the Moscow Helsinki Group, said that what went on in the cottage where Khamkhoev was held in Moscow's Serebryany Bor region was reminiscent of a death camp. "People were sent there for liquidation," he said. Khamkhoev claimed that he was shown the body of a man during his incarceration. Ten Ingush have reportedly disappeared without a trace in Moscow since the beginning of September. Asked which country's special services were capable of such actions, Apaev answered: "Russia."

Magomed Mutsolgov, head of Ingushetia's Mashr human rights group, agreed that Russia's special service were probably behind Khamkhoev's abduction. "Naturally, there are decent people in the special services, but they do not include the ones who were operating in Serebryany Bor," he said. Asked about Khamkhoev's claim that his captors told him his treatment was revenge for the September 2004 Beslan hostage-taking, Mutsolgov said it was possible either that Ossetians were among Khamkhoev's kidnappers or that such statements "were aimed at fomenting inter-ethnic discord."

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### Yamadaev Suggests Brother Killed to Provoke Conflict with Kadyrov

In his first press interview following the murder in Moscow of his brother, former State Duma Deputy Ruslan Yamadaev, former Vostok battalion commander Sulim Yamadaev rejected the theories put forward by investigators and others - including Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov - that his brother was killed as the result of a blood feud or a business dispute.



In the interview with Kommersant, which was published on September 29, Sulim Yamadaev complained that he was unable to attend the funeral of his brother – who was also known as Khalid - in Gudermes because he had been warned that the murder might have been a ploy to get him to return to Chechnya so that he, too, could be murdered. Yamadaev said his murder would have “very bad consequences,” adding: “Not everyone in Chechnya understands that, especially people who serve in federal structures.”

Asked whether his brother could have been killed as the result of a vendetta, Yamadaev said no one has declared a vendetta against his family. “We have the same enemies that Ramzan and the federal servicemen have,” he said. “These enemies are the Wahhabis. Everyone knows that I have many enemies. I have fought the Wahhabis since 1998, and now many of them are serving in the [Chechen] law-enforcement bodies, have official IDs, weapons and the ability to travel to any part of the country.”

Yamadaev also denied that his family is involved in Chechnya’s oil business or that his brother had any business in Moscow that might have gotten him killed. Asked whose car his brother was driving when he was murdered, Yamadaev answered: “It was my car, but I gave it to Khalid at the start of this spring and it was he alone who was driving it during the last half year. It can be ruled out that [the killers] confused us. They wanted to kill Khalid. They followed Khalid for more than a week. He himself knew he was being followed, but didn’t attach any significance to it. He thought, they are following me in order to watch me.”

Sulim Yamadaev refused to speculate about why his brother was murdered. However, when asked to comment on the theory that his brother’s murder was connected to his conflict with Kadyrov, he answered: “Many people tell me Ramzan did it. But I don’t want to believe that Ramzan resorted to murdering members of my family. He’s not a no-one; he’s president of the republic. I knew his father. I was like a son to Akhmat-khadzhi. We are from the same teip. How could he resort to such a thing? Such murders are very dangerous in Chechnya. And Ramzan knows this. And I think that many people knew this. They knew that we’ve had a conflict with Ramzan lately, knew that the murder of a person like Khalid would lead to nothing good. And those people killed Khalid in order to cause a clash between me and Ramzan. And you know why that thought occurred to me? The day after Khalid’s murder, I read a report on the Internet that I was at my brother’s funeral in Gudermes and said: ‘I will kill Ramzan after the end of Ramadan’. I couldn’t believe my eyes: I did not speak with journalists at all after Khalid’s death; my telephone was turned off; I can be reached only through my people. You are the first [journalist] I have spoken to. And I didn’t go to the funeral. These are the kind of lies that someone has deliberately planted ... After I read this information on the Internet, I thought that someone really wants to set me up, to set me against Kadyrov.” Yamadaev denied that he has declared a vendetta against Kadyrov.

Yamadaev denied that his brother could have been the target of relatives of victims of the Vostok battalion, and also denied that the battalion was involved in kidnappings for ransom. He confirmed that his brother had planned to attend a meeting in the Kremlin the day of his murder, but said he did not know whether his brother made it to the meeting or who the meeting was with. (Kommersant’s interviewer cited a rumor that Ruslan Yamadaev was supposed to meet on the day of his murder with Vladislav Surkov, first deputy head of the presidential administration.)

Asked about criminal charges that the Chechen authorities have brought against him, Sulim Yamadaev said: “I, of course, am not an angel and I’m not going to justify myself. But where will you find an angel in Chechnya? And why haven’t criminal cases been brought against those who shot Russian soldiers and blew up Russian [military] columns? Why have these people today become officials and deputies in Chechnya? If they are forgiven for everything, why aren’t we forgiven? And thus it turns out that all of those who were in the woods [fighting alongside the rebels] are now in power and all those who fought for Russia are on the wanted list. Do you know the situation that Vostok battalion fighters are in now in Chechnya? Criminal cases are constantly being brought against them, people are breaking into their homes and taking them away somewhere, and the ones who are taking them away are those who were with the Wahhabis, who were shooting at us. Only now they have shoulder boards.”

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<http://www.jamestown.org/terrorism/news/article.php?articleid=2374457>

## North Caucasus Weekly

Volume 9, Issue 37 (October 3, 2008)

### Ivan Sukhov: Rebel Activity in North Caucasus on the Rise

In a piece published in the October 2 edition of Vremya Novostei, North Caucasus correspondent Ivan Sukhov wrote that the region's insurgents are slowly but surely becoming more active.

"The militants are conducting their war to establish a Sharia order against local officials who long ago lost the trust of the population and against federal authorities and siloviki who are trying stamp out the [rebel] underground but who allow 'side effects' in the form of victims among the civilian population and in this way assist the growth of the underground," Sukhov wrote. "That underground will live on even if it is completely cut off from its sources of ideological and financial support abroad. The last ten years were enough for the idea to put down solid roots and money is easy enough to take from the [state] budget if you go to rural administration head with an automatic weapon and demand it on penalty of death."

Sukhov noted that while the local Federal Security Service (FSB) branch in Dagestan managed to kill two leading local rebel "emirs" last month (North Caucasus Weekly, September 19), "today the underground network already functions regardless of how well known the person who heads one or another of its nodes is. And the victory in this case was overshadowed by losses among the police, and those losses continue to grow."

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Volume 9, Issue 37 (October 3, 2008)

### Briefs

#### Law-Enforcement Official and His Son Killed in North Ossetia

The head of the first directorate of North Ossetia's criminal investigation department, Vitaly Cheldiev, was killed along with his 20-year-old son on October 1, Kavkazky Uzel reported. According to a spokesman for the Investigative Committee for North Ossetia, Chermen Zangiev, unidentified attackers fired automatic weapons at a car in which Cheldiev and his son were driving on the outskirts of the republic capital, Vladikavkaz. A car presumably used by Cheldiev's killers was later found burned out in the area where the attack took place. A law-enforcement source told RIA Novosti that Cheldiev had headed the anti-banditry department of the republic's anti-organized crime directorate (UBOP) up until two months ago. The head of North Ossetia's UBOP, Mark Metsaev, was shot to death in a similar attack in Vladikavkaz this past March (North Caucasus Weekly, March 13).

#### Serviceman Killed in Chechnya

A serviceman was killed by militants in Chechnya's Shali district on October 3. According to RIA Novosti, the soldier was killed shortly after midnight when gunmen opened fire on his Lada car using automatic rifles. The gunmen stole his Kalashnikov gun with a rifle-attached grenade launcher, along with his Makarov pistol and ammunition.

#### Kadyrov Poses for Fashion Magazine

Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov has posed for a glossy magazine wearing designer clothes from a number of leading fashion houses, RIA Novosti reported on October 3. Kadyrov is featured in the monthly Icons magazine in clothes designed by Giorgio Armani, Polo Ralf Lauren, Alexander McQueen and Baldessarini, as well as in sunglasses and shoes by Louis Vuitton. "It's very relaxed with Ramzan," the chief editor of the magazine, Svetlana Bondarchuk, told RIA Novosti. "It's amazing that a person who holds such an important post can chat so freely. All the photo shoot session staffers were charmed by him." The photo shoot took place this summer. A Chechen presidential spokesman was unable to say if Kadyrov would participate in any more photo sessions. As RIA Novosti noted, Kadyrov and his personal security service have been accused by human rights groups of involvement in kidnappings, torture and extortion.

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