

Ingushetia's Parliament Confirms New President

Ingushetia's parliament on October 31 confirmed Yunus-Bek Yevkurov as the republic's president, replacing Murat Zyazikov, who resigned the previous day (North Caucasus Weekly, October 31). According to Itar-Tass, 16 legislators out of the 18 who attended the session voted to confirm the 45-year-old colonel, while one voted against and one ballot was invalidated. The news agency reported that Yevkurov was born into an ethnic Ingush family in North Ossetia and graduated from the Ryazan Higher School of Airborne Troops in 1989. In 2004, he graduated from the Academy of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff, Russia's highest military education institution. In 1999, Yevkurov commanded a unit of Russian paratroopers that entered Kosovo and took control of the international airport ahead of the forces of other countries. As the Moscow Times wrote on November 1, Russian media reported that Yevkurov led the 200-man contingent that caught NATO off guard by racing from Bosnia to Kosovo to occupy the airport in Kosovo's capital of Pristina, an operation at the end of the Kosovo war that "risked a dangerous confrontation with NATO troops, who were also heading to the airport." According to the English-language newspaper, it was later revealed that an armed clash was only averted because the local NATO commander, British General Michael Jackson, refused to be involved in a conflict that could "start World War III." However, Itar-Tass, in its description of the incident, wrote that the Russian race to occupy the airport in Pristina "went down in the history of the Russian Airborne Troops as one of the most successful peacekeeping operations."



Yunus-Bek
Yevkurov

Yevkurov subsequently served in command positions within Russia's airborne troops and also held high-ranking positions in the Defense Ministry and in civilian organizations, Itar-Tass and Warheroes.ru reported. He was awarded the title of the Hero of Russia in 2000 for displaying exemplary courage while carrying out his professional duties in the North Caucasus, and then-President Vladimir Putin said during the ceremony at which Yevkurov received the award that the colonel had located and freed from captivity 12 federal soldiers while conducting reconnaissance missions. In 2004, Yevkurov was appointed deputy head of the Intelligence Directorate of the Volga-Urals Military District.

Kaloi Akhilgov, a lawyer for the opposition website Ingushetia.org, whose owner Magomed Yevloev was shot to death after being detained by police in Nazran last August, told the Rosbalt News Agency in an interview published in October 31 that the Kremlin had wanted to appoint Yevkurov as Ingushetia's president earlier. "This was the third time they asked him, but he had always refused," Akhilgov said. "He did not want to accept this time either, but they insisted and he probably got some concessions."

The Moscow Times on November 1 quoted Aleksei Malashenko of the Carnegie Moscow Center as saying of Yevkurov: "From what I hear, he is a tough guy, very tough." The newspaper quoted a source in Ingushetia's regional presidential administration as saying that the appointment of Yevkurov as the republic's president would not be a temporary one and that he "will be president for five years."

Interfax on November 4 quoted Ingush opposition lawyer Musa Pliev as saying that he and opposition leaders Magomed Khazbiev and Maksharip Aushev had met with Yevkurov since he was named to replace Murat Zyazikov. "The meeting lasted a long time and the president was asked very many questions," Pliev told Interfax of the meeting. "The head of the republic also asked many questions." Yevkurov "came across as an amiable person," Pliev said. "With regard to his actions in politics we cannot comment so far, we need to look at his deeds." Pliev said he and his fellow opposition leaders presented Yevkurov with "factual materials" and "documents" about instances of corruption and kidnapping in Ingushetia and that the new president said he had visited relatives of slain website founder Magomed Yevloev and offered condolences to Yevloev's parents. Pliev said that when they asked Yevkurov to ensure that there will be an objective investigation into Yevloev's death, he "promised to provide cooperation if necessary."

Meanwhile, lawyers for Magomed Yevloev's relatives have put in an official request to the Nazran District Court to question Murat Zyazikov as a witness in connection with Yevloev's death. Kommersant on November 6 quoted Musa Pliev as saying that the ultimate purpose of the move would be to turn the former president of Ingushetia from being simply a witness to Yevloev's shooting death to being a suspect. The opposition Ingushetia.org website has publicly accused 13 current and former top government and law-enforcement officials in Ingushetia, including Zyazikov and Interior Minister Musa Medov, of being behind Yevloev's killing.

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Will Yevkurov Follow the Chechen “Model” for Restoring Order?

In an article published in *Gazeta* on November 1, Sanobar Shermatova quoted an anonymous official who knows Yunus-Bek Yevkurov as saying that the colonel was appointed president of Ingushetia with the specific task of introducing order in the republic. The official also said that Ingushetia's new leader is expected to “follow the Chechen path of recovery” and may take pages from the playbook of Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov by presiding over the withdrawal of “excessive” federal troops from the republic and announcing an amnesty for rebel fighters.

Shermatova quoted the source as saying that the federal authorities have decided to allocate 140 billion rubles—more than \$5.1 billion—for socio-economic development in Ingushetia, and the article suggested that such funds would go toward creating new jobs for youths at risk of joining the rebel ranks. (It should be noted, however, that while significant federal funding has gone toward reconstruction efforts in Chechnya, unemployment there remains extremely high.) Shermatova wrote that Yevkurov will be focused mainly on “military operations” and may end up being assisted by “a strong figure capable of overseeing economic issues”—perhaps a prime minister who is a local official with experience in such matters—together with an “envoy from Moscow.”

In an article published in *Moskovskys Komsomolets* on November 3, correspondent Vadim Rechkalov wrote that Yevkurov's appointment as Ingushetia's president means that the unification of Ingushetia and Chechnya is unlikely to take place any time in the near future despite recent “spontaneous” pro-unification demonstrations along the administrative border between Chechnya and Ingushetia and in Grozny (North Caucasus Weekly, October 16). Rechkalov noted that Ramzan Kadyrov came out publicly against unification (indeed, the Chechen president said on October 29 that he was “absolutely against” merging the two republics and called the idea “senseless”) and added that while he did not doubt Kadyrov's sincerity, the fact that Kadyrov felt the need to comment on it publicly showed that it has been under active discussion inside the Kremlin. Yevkurov's elevation means that “those who tried to push through the republics' unification with an unseen hand have lost this round,” Rechkalov wrote.

According to Rechkalov, Yevkurov is an “associate” of Lieutenant General Vladimir Shamanov, the former commander of Russian forces in Chechnya who now heads the armed forces' Main Combat Training and Service Directorate, and Anatoly Kvashnin, the former chief of the armed forces' general staff who is now presidential envoy to the Siberian Federal District. This makes Yevkurov's elevation like “the arrival of a howitzer battery in a theater of war,” Rechkalov wrote. “Even if the howitzers are not fired, their presence alone drastically alters the balance of power,” he added.

Rechkalov also wrote that Yevkurov is a military man for whom orders from his superiors is more important than clan ties, and that while Yevkurov is an intelligence officer, his main ties are with the Defense Ministry's Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU), not the Federal Security Service (FSB).

Whatever the case, Yevkurov's accession as Ingushetia's president has not brought about an immediate end to rebel violence in the republic. On November 5, a traffic policeman was injured when a bomb went off as his car was standing at an intersection in the city of Malgobek. On November 2, two bombs went off near a private house in the town of Ordzhonikidzevskaya in Ingushetia's Sunzha district. Citing a local police source, RIA Novosti reported that a home-made bomb went off in the courtyard of a pensioner's home and while no one was injured in that blast, a second bomb exploded when a police squad arrived at the scene, injuring seven police officers.

On October 31, a local resident in the city of Karabulak was injured when a bomb went off under his car.

Yevkurov said on November 4 that the working conditions of employees of Ingushetia's Interior Ministry need to be improved, *Kavkazky Uzel* reported. Because police personnel have to work in a difficult environment, it is necessary to try and provide them with help in terms of uniforms, weapons and technical equipment, as well as providing them with “social support,” the new Ingush president said.

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Kadyrov and Qaddafi Profess Mutual Admiration

Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, who made an official visit to Moscow this past weekend, met in the Russian capital with Ramzan Kadyrov and accepted an invitation from the Chechen president to visit Chechnya in 2010, RIA Novosti reported. "President Ramzan Kadyrov invited the Libyan leader during their meeting in Moscow," Kadyrov's spokesman Lema Gudaev told RIA Novosti. "As Ramzan Akhmatovich said, Muammar Qaddafi celebrates the birth of the Prophet in a Muslim country each year, so Kadyrov invited the Libyan leader to such a celebration in the Chechen Republic in 2010. The invitation was accepted with gratitude." Kadyrov and Qaddafi held one-on-one talks "in a warm and friendly atmosphere," the Chechen presidential spokesman said, adding that during the meeting, the Libyan leader expressed support for the Chechen leadership and its work "to ensure peace and order as a part of the Russian Federation."

Gudaev quoted Qaddafi as telling Kadyrov that "being a part of Russia is in the interests, first and foremost, of Chechnya itself," and that this "was perfectly understood by the first president of the Chechen Republic"—a reference to Ramzan Kadyrov's father, Akhmad Kadyrov. The spokesman quoted Kadyrov as saying that "all the achievements in the peaceful building and rebirth of the Chechen Republic in a brotherly family with the peoples of Russia are a result of an understanding of the situation and attentiveness from the Russian leadership." According to Gudaev, Kadyrov added that the "Chechen Republic today is one of the most dynamically developing Russian regions, and now the republic has moved on from the stage of reconstruction to the stage of solid social-economic development."

The Prague Watchdog website on November 3 said that there are "striking" similarities between Kadyrov and Qaddafi, whose official biography refers to the Libyan leader's "passion for horses and hunting" as well as his interest "in various types of weapons and special communications." Prague Watchdog noted that Kadyrov, "like many Arab sheikhs, owns racehorses and a private zoo." Describing the meeting between Qaddafi and Kadyrov, Prague Watchdog wrote that "as is customary in the East, the two leaders did not stint lavish praise of each other" and that Kadyrov, with "his characteristic directness," said that Qaddafi was "one of the recognized leaders of the Muslim world and that therefore his opinions carry a great deal of weight with the Chechen Republic and its leadership."

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Briefs

Special Forces Members Targeted in Chechnya

Prague Watchdog reported on November 3 that a checkpoint on the road between Gudermes and Shuani manned by a company from the Vostok special battalion came under fire from unidentified gunmen traveling in a Zhiguli car on November 1. According to the website, the company's deputy commander was shot in the head and taken to the hospital. Prague Watchdog reported that according to "people in the know," the weapon used in the attack was a Makarov pistol—weapons that rebel fighters are increasingly using because they are easy to conceal and throw away. The website also reported that the body of a member of the Yug special forces battalion was discovered with gunshot wounds near the village of Neftyanoye, not far from the Vedeno district center, on October 31. Prague Watchdog quoted a Chechen Interior Ministry source as saying that the 28-year-old serviceman had fallen behind his group and was subsequently found dead in a wooded area. The website reported that 31 men have been arrested in Chechnya over the past month and charged with being members of "Ichkerian or Caucasus Emirate armed units." It also reported that Chechnya's rebels are stockpiling food and ammunition in anticipation of winter's arrival and that, in response, the authorities are targeting those suspected of assisting the rebels, including two youths arrested near the village of Goity in Chechnya's Urus-Martan district on October 29.

Weapons Seized, Suspected Rebels Arrested in Kabardino-Balkaria

RIA Novosti reported on November 3 that police had discovered an arms cache containing explosives and a home-made bomb during a special operation in Kabardino-Balkaria. A law enforcement source told the news agency that police retrieved a grenade, three 200-gram blocks of TNT, nearly 100 5.45-mm cartridges and a home-made bomb containing TNT, an electronic detonator, two batteries and wires from a "woodland hideout." On October 31, security forces in Kabardino-Balkaria discovered two arms caches with large quantities of ammunition and explosives, Kavkazky Uzel reported. On October 30, republican Interior Ministry and Federal Security Service (FSB) personnel arrested three men suspected of involvement in "illegal armed formations." The three, who were arrested separately in different areas of Kabardino-Balkaria, were wanted for various crimes, including attacks on law-enforcement personnel, Kavkazky Uzel reported.

Website on Russian-Circassian War Launched in Adygeya

The Circassian Congress in the Republic of Adygeya has launched a new website devoted to the Russian-Circassian war of 1763-1864 and its consequences. The website's address is www.CircassianGenocide.org.

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Death of Dagestan's Sharia Jamaat Leader Fails to Halt Rebel Attacks

By Mairbek Vatchagaev

The position of top commander in Dagestan's Sharia Jamaat has been vacant for a month now since the death of its former leader Abdul-Majid on September 8th near the Dagestan-Azeri border during a joint Russo-Azeri special forces operation that lasted over 10 days (www.azeri.ru/papers/echo-az_info/26465). Commenting on the event, the press service for the Dagestan front of the Caucasus Emirate Armed Forces (www.jamaatshariat.com) released a statement online clarifying the jamaat's position and reiterating its commitment to the unified chain of command led by Dokka Umarov. It is not quite clear why the rebel movement felt the need to provide an explanation during the time between the death of the former leader and the appointment of his successor, which is likely to be made in a matter of days. The statement may have been meant as a response to any potential dissenters within the jamaat or a reaction to an emerging internal discord. The fact that similar commentary has already been published on the jamaat's website in the last month may provide more indirect evidence of rival factions within the ranks of the Sharia Jamaat. In any event, the media so far has not reported any dissent, which may mean that these trends have not gained much ground within the movement or that they are limited to a particular unit or area in Dagestan.

As for the website of the Sharia Jamaat, its editors claim that it had one and a half million visits during the last eighteen months (www.jamaatshariat.com/content/view/889/34). If this claim is even half true, that would make the website the most popular mass media outlet in Dagestan. That conclusion rings true, as evidenced by young people's growing interest in the jamaat's activities and vigorous discussions in various internet forums that point to an increasing radicalization thanks to the influence of the armed opposition in the North Caucasus.

Despite the blows suffered by the Sharia Jamaat in southern Dagestan in early September 2008, the organization's activities are far from paralyzed. The loss of individual jamaat leaders today is not as devastating as it was in 1999-2001. Currently all small units of the jamaat operate essentially as autonomous cells, and coordinate only as necessary when certain military actions calls for the involvement of more than one unit (these typically include only a handful of people, numbering 5 to 15 members depending on the location). Therefore, a unit leader's death results in temporary interruptions in the unit's communications with other groups, including top commanders represented by Dokka Umarov, who maintains contacts with the jamaat's upper and middle ranks.

During the week of October 20-26, the Sharia Jamaat undertook several major raids against units of Dagestan's Interior Ministry. To name just one, around noon on October 21, a small unit of 15 jamaat fighters fired shots at a police unit, killing 38-year old Ruslan Muyidov, a police captain and deputy head of Sergokalinsky district Interior Ministry branch. Two other district employees were wounded (Itar-Tass, October 21). A three vehicle OMON (Special Purpose Police Squad) convoy that rushed to the rescue from the village of Gubden was ambushed near the village of Janga during a short shootout that left five policemen dead, including three officers and seven or eight wounded (Ekho Moskvoy Radio, October 21). The casualties included the chief of the Gubden village police district, two OMON fighters and a police intern (Interfax, October 21). No reports of casualties among the rebels were available. Efforts to block off the area where the attack took place in order to hunt down jamaat fighters were not successful.

There was an attempt on October 21 to assassinate Dagestan's sports affairs minister, Budun Budunov. His car was fired on in Makhachkala, the republic's capital. Later in the evening, a vehicle carrying policemen in the downtown area was blown up, wounding two policemen and shattering windows in the nearby buildings, and causing other minor damages (<http://www.rian.ru/incidents/20081022/153622391.html>).

The two incidents of October 21 prompted an extraordinary unscheduled meeting of Dagestan's Security Council chaired by Dagestan President Mukhu Aliev on the morning of October 22 to identify measures to improve the situation in the republic (www.rian.ru/society/20081022/153650484.html).

The following day, October 22, the police and jamaat members clashed in a shootout at a gas station on the Makhachkala-Derbent highway. The rebels fled in a vehicle and escaped the police who were in pursuit. There were no casualties and no reports available about any losses among the attackers (Interfax, October 22).

At 1 a.m. on October 23, an unidentified male threw a grenade at a police post in downtown Makhachkala. A policeman was wounded and the attacker escaped unharmed (www.echo.msk.ru/news/509593-echo.html).

On the evening of October 25, an unidentified man opened fire on the police station located in the central square of Makhachkala that houses the buildings of the city administration, the parliament and Dagestan's Interior Ministry. The attacker was shot dead while attempting to flee the scene of the attack (www.nr2.ru/incidents/192688.html).

Another high-profile operation in the Dagestan capital of Makhachkala took place late in the evening of October 26, when the chief of criminal police of Makhachkala's Sovietsky district, 48-year old police Lieutenant Colonel Gasan Kerimov, was killed when shots were fired at his vehicle (RIA Novosti, October 27).

Also on October 27, the government moved to quash the rebels and arrested 17 individuals suspected of participation in illegal armed groups (Kavkazky Uzel, October 27). However, it would be premature to label them as jamaat members, given that this would not be the first time the government conducted a high-profile operation to detain rebel fighters only to quietly let them go after thorough investigations failed to turn up any evidence.

On October 28, rebels in the Sergokalinsky district fired shots at the police forces, who this time managed to kill three of the attacking Sharia Jamaat fighters (www.lenta.ru, October 28).

On October 30, Mustapa Abdurrahmanov, a 37-year old member of the human rights organization "Dagestan's Mothers for Human Rights," was found dead (the government hastily declared the deceased an active member of the rebel army and denied his human rights defender status). If the government's version is true, then it is not clear why Abdurrahmanov had to be killed, or why—if the government was aware of his membership in the Sharia Jamaat—he was not arrested earlier. Moreover, the government announced that Abdurrahmanov was killed two days before his body was discovered—that is, during the special forces operation in the Sergokalinsky district of Dagestan. In all likelihood, to avoid a high-profile case involving the murder of a human rights activist combined with past murders of journalists, the government decided to blame the rebels, thus making it unnecessary to come up with a justification for his murder. That is a typical practice in the North Caucasus.

On the night of November 1, an explosion went off in downtown Makhachkala. According to the police, the attack targeted policemen who were driving down Imam Shamil Street at the time of the blast (Kavkazky Uzel, November 2).

Last week's events clearly demonstrate that assaults targeting policemen are not isolated incidents but rather a distinct policy of the armed opposition and specifically the Sharia Jamaat of Dagestan. The identity of their next top commander or the projected time of his appointment by Dokka Umarov does not seem to be affecting the jamaat's operations in Dagestan in any way, thus confirming that the death of the jamaat's leader no longer deals a crippling blow to its fighters.

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The Demise of Murat Zyazikov

By Mairbek Vatchagaev

Ingushetia is celebrating. People in the streets are participating in folk dances to commemorate the resignation of the president of Republic of Ingushetia, Murat Zyazikov. On October 30, the president of the Russian Federation, Dmitry Medvedev, signed a decree on the dismissal of the Ingush president, who was replaced by Yunus-bek Yevkurov. The new president of Ingushetia is well known in the world because he was in charge of the detachment of Russian paratroopers, who occupied Kosovo's airport in Prishtina in 1999 (www.grani.ru, October 30). The new president was born in 1963 in the village of Tarskoe in North Ossetia. The Ingush are prohibited to live in Tarskoe after the tragic events of 1992 in the Prigorodny District of North Ossetia. From his short biography it is possible to discern that he fought in the North Caucasus and, moreover, was decorated with the highest military reward—the Order of the Golden Star and the honorary title of Hero of Russia. While in the North Caucasus, the future Hero of Russia took advantage of his Ingush heritage and mediated between the militants and the Russian military in order to release the captured Russian soldiers. In a decree signed on April 13, 2000 by then-Russian President Vladimir Putin, it was specifically mentioned that Yevkurov had participated in securing the release of 12 prisoners of war (Ekho Moskv Radio, October 30). Holding the rank of lieutenant colonel, he was in charge of the headquarters of the 217th Guards Regiment of Airborne Paratroopers of the 2nd Degree Kutuzov Order Red Banner Svir Airborne Division. More recently, he held the position of the deputy chief of headquarters of the Volga-Ural Military District, which in the foreseeable future would have earned him the rank of general.

People waited for a long time for Murat Zyazikov to resign, but it became clear that he would be replaced after the assassination of Magomed Yevloev, the owner of the independent web portal Ingushetiya.ru. On October 30, Yevloev was killed at the airport after arriving in Ingushetia on the same plane with the Ingush president. After the murder, a source in the Kremlin made it clear that this sort of incident would not pass without consequences, which hinted at the possible dismissal of Zyazikov (www.polit.ru, October 3).

Following Yevkurov's appointment, the opposition website Ingushetia.org (formerly Ingushetiya.ru) congratulated the Ingush people on the arrival of "an honest and courageous person, for whom the interests of his people are not alien" and the hope that many things would change in the republic with his assumption of power. That day, according to the website, became a truly historic date for the republic (www.ingushetia.org, October 30). The leader of the so-called opposition, Magomed Khazbiev, stated that he was ready to cooperate with the new president for the benefit of the people and the republic. Khazbiev also said he believed that Yunus-bek Yevkurov would resolve all the republic's problems (www.lenta.ru, October 30).

The Ingush Senator Issa Kostoev said as he thinks that the republic's problems were not rooted in Zyazikov per se, but in the issues that have not been resolved by the federal center (RIA Novosti, October 30). Ruslan Aushev, Ingushetia's first president who was forced to resign prematurely in 2002 under pressure from Vladimir Putin because of his publicly expressed view that negotiations should be held with then Chechen rebel leader Aslan Maskhadov, also positively assessed the change of leadership in Ingushetia. Aushev said that Yevkurov represents "the best option for the republic" (Kommersant, October 31). Kommersant pointed out that the reason for Murat Zyazikov's dismissal was the Kremlin's dissatisfaction with his performance. The paper also noted that making it look like a "voluntary" resignation borrowed from Soviet-era tactics and that the best that Zyazikov can hope for now is to become a bureaucrat in one of the federal ministries or assume a position within the Russian presidential administration.

Another matter altogether is the fact that by replacing a Federal Security Service (FSB) general, Murat Zyazikov, with Yunus-bek Yevkurov, a military intelligence officer, Moscow is indirectly confirming that the security situation in Ingushetia is not an issue of individual "bandits," but quite literally entails combat operations. The large-scale attacks by members of Ingushetia's Shariat Jamaat, headed by Emir Magas (aka Akhmad Yevloev), have reached a catastrophic level for such a small republic. Daily explosions, attacks, sabotage in different settlements coupled with arson targeting gambling establishments and liquor stores have become part of everyday life in Ingushetia.

Yevkurov declared that he does not intend to radically reshuffle the leadership of the republic and that it is necessary first to listen to everyone about the situation in Ingushetia. The change of government is the most convenient method of getting rid of the second most hated figure in the republic (the first being Murat Zyazikov)—Interior Minister Musa Medov. The question now is whether Moscow will approve such an initiative, given that the head of the local Interior Ministry is beyond the prerogative of Ingushetia's president, as he is appointed directly by Moscow. This is true of other pivotal positions in the republic, including that of Prosecutor General, the head of the local FSB directorate, judges, etc. At the same time Yevkurov made an alarming statement when he noted, "I do not tend to dramatize the situation—there are problems as in other regions of the country and they need to be resolved" (<http://skvskaz.rfn.ru/news.html?id=156517&cid=4>). His predecessor adhered to the same position when he attempted to conceal from the public the real state of affairs in Ingushetia. On his first day as acting president, Yevkurov began by visiting the Nazran city mosque—where, after the evening prayer, he met with the elders and appealed to them for assistance in his efforts (Itar-Tass, October 31). This fact alone demonstrates how military officers, who have not lived among their people in the past couple of decades, still think through the prism of the "elders" hierarchy, which in the present situation represents social atavism.

The inauguration of Yunus-bek Yevkurov as president was overshadowed by a series of assaults by militants, including the explosion of a car carrying military personnel (www.ingushetia.org, October 31). Thus, the president is new but the problems are old. First of all, the new president will have to resolve the problem of frequent assaults on the law-enforcement authorities by the armed opposition represented by Emir Magas. Another equally serious problem is the refugee issue related to the Ingush, who were forced to leave the territory of North Ossetia-Alania. This problem is rather painful for a majority of the Ingush, who view the forced displacement of their brethren as a moral humiliation of the rights of the Ingush by the authorities. The Ingush consider the disputed territory of the Prigorodny District the historic cradle of the Ingush ethnos. Finally, the third problem will be to regain people's trust in the government, which plummeted to an absolute minimum during Zyazikov's reign thanks to his policy of ignoring the problems accumulated in the republic.

Meanwhile, a document signed on behalf of Emir Magas surfaced on the Internet for the first time in the past year and a half. The document is an order accordance to which "any official news report in the mass media issued on behalf of the leadership of the Vilayat Ğalġaj [Ingushetia in Ingush] and its structural subunits that has not been posted on the website hunafa.com or its mirror sites, is invalid and should be considered as a provocation and is subject to investigation by the subunits of the Muhabarat of Caucasus Emirate in the Vilayat Ğalġaj" (www.hunafa.com, October 31). The long absence of official statements and the lack of news about meetings with Chechen rebel leader Dokku Umarov infer that not all is as well within the Emirate as portrayed in the media outlets controlled by one of the main ideologues of the Islamic Party of Rebirth of Chechnya, Movladi Udugov.

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