



VAINAKHS



**CHARTE**  
der  
**LÄNDER AM CAUCASUS**  
*nach den besten vorhandenen  
Charten, Reisen, und astronomischen Ortsbestimmungen  
gezeichnet von*  
**I. C. M. REINECKE.**  
Weimar  
*Im Verlage der Industrie Compagnie*  
1802.

**DAS SCHWARZE MEER**

Geograph. Meilen  
Linien  
Werste

**THEIL DES**

**TURKISCHEN TURUBEKAN REICHS**

**ARMENIEN**

**B. Arschik**



Die Abtheilung dieser Karte giebt zwei  
Theil der politischen Grenzen an, wie  
bey dem Russen und Persen, wobei  
eine Linie die vormaligen, theils fester  
theils den Kaufmannen, griffen Boden  
mehr oder weniger unterworfen oder  
abgetheilt worden, die andern Abtheilung  
die des Russen, Persen, Larian. Die welche  
zusammenhängender Districte bezeichnen  
sind nicht vorher unterworfen, die Namen  
derfelben beytrafen Tatarischen Völthern  
schaffen sind, aber so wie auch  
die der Tatarischen, sind mit Russen unterworfen.  
Die Namen der Persen, sind  
durch kleine Quadrate angedeutet.

46  
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# *CAUCASUS – STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM*

## *THE VAINAKHS*





## *The Vainakhs*

*LITERA, 2011*

The Vainakhs are two closely related aboriginal peoples residing in the Central Caucasus. They speak Chechen and Ingush languages, belonging to the Nakh group of Ibero-Caucasian language family.

The Vainakhs are two Caucasian nations closely related to each other, who live in Chechen and Ingush republics bordering Georgia to the North.

## *Chechnya*

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**Chechen Republic Ichkeria** is a presidential state. The country gained its independence **in September 1991**. The constitution of the country entered into force **on March 12, 1991** and on **March 13, 1992** Georgia recognized Chechnya's independence.

**Grozny** (Rus. Грозный, Chechen **Sholzghala/Joharghala**) is the capital of Ichkeria. The main cities are - **Gudermes, Argun, Shali, Nadterechnaya, Kargalinskaya, Bamut, Urus-Martan, Achkhoy-Martan, Shatoi, Vedeno...**

Chechnya occupies 16,000 square kilometers. Before the start of the first Russian-Chechen war (**December 11, 1994**) 1,000,000 **Chechens**, 50,000 **Ingushs**, 14,500 **Armenians**, 12,000 **Ukrainians**, 1,000 **Georgians** (mainly **Kists**) and more than 100,000 **Russians** lived in the republic.

To the South Ichkeria borders **Georgia**, to the west – **Ingushetia**, to the east and north-east it is bordered by **Daghestan** and to the north and north-west – **the Russian Federation** (Stavropol Region).

Traditionally Chechens live in their own republic, Ichkeria. Outside the country, around 50,000 **Chechens** (mainly **Akkhians**) live in **Khasavyurt** District of neighboring Daghestan. At present, about 56,000 Chechen refugees live in Ingushetia. Chechens also reside in - **Kazakhstan, Central Asian republics, Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Germany, Poland, Austria** and **Norway**.

**Since September 1999 until now**, Chechnya has been occupied by the Russian Federation. The struggle against the Russian occupants is still continuing.



**The Republic of Ingushetia**, which is a part of the Russian Federation, is a presidential state. It is situated on the northern slope of the Caucasus Mountain Range. The country (apart from the right bank of the river Terek and Prigorodny District seized by Ossetia) occupies 4,300 square kilometers. To the north Ingushetia borders **the Russian Federation**, to the east – **Chechnya (Ichkeria)**, to the west – **Ossetia (Alania)**, to the north-west – **Kabardino-Balkaria** and to the south – **Georgia**.

The second republic of Ingushetia was created **in June 1992** as a result of the popular referendum. The status of the country is determined by the constitution: the President is the head of state, People's Assembly (Parliament) – the legislative body, the government of the republic – the executive body.

The new capital of Ingushetia is **Magas**. Other towns are: **Nazran, Malgobek, Karabulak** and **Sunja**.

Overall population accounts for more than 530,000 people, of which 435,000 are **Ingushs**, 56,000 – **Chechens**, 20,000 – **Russians**, 1,000 – **Georgians** and 9,000 – representatives of other ethnic groups.

Although officially since June 1992 the Republic of Ingushetia has been constituent part of Russia, the undeclared war of the Russian Federation against Ingushetia has been continuing from the day of its foundation up to the present and the genocide of the Ingush people has not ceased yet.



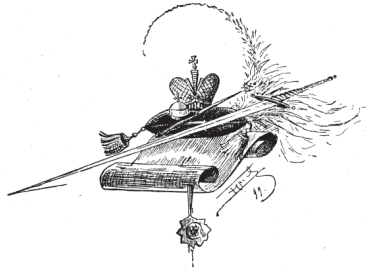


**Despite linguistic differences, peoples of the North Caucasus constitute a factually unified, interrelated population, which is confirmed by common historical processes and co-existence in such former state formations-political entities as the state of Sheikh Mansour (1780-1791), Shamil's Imamate (1834-1864) the North Caucasus Republic of Mountain Peoples (1918-1919) and the North Caucasus Emirate (1919-1920), as well as Soviet Autonomous Republic of Mountain Peoples (1920-1924).**

*Instead of a Foreword*

**A fragment from Lev Tolstoy's Hadji Murád. Tolstoy lived in Chechnya in 1851-1854 and was an eyewitness of the devastation "pogrom" of Chechen villages.**





THE aoul which had been destroyed was that in which Hadji Murád had spent the night before he went over to the Russians. Sado, with his family, had left the aoul on the approach of the Russian detachment; and when he returned he found his sákl̄ya in ruins - the roof fallen in, the door and the posts supporting the penthouse burned, and the interior filthy. His son, the handsome, bright-eyed boy who had gazed with such ecstasy at Hadji Murád, was brought dead to the mosque on a horse covered with a búr̄ka. He had been stabbed in the back with a bayonet. The dignified woman who had served Hadji Murád when he was at the house now stood over her son's body, her smock torn in front, her withered old breasts exposed, her hair down; and she dug her nails into her face till it bled, and wailed incessantly. Sado, with pickaxe and spade, had gone with his relatives to dig a grave for his son. The old grandfather sat by the wall of the ruined sákl̄ya, cutting a stick and gazing solidly in front of him. He had only just returned from the apiary. The two stacks of hay there had been burnt; the apricot and cherry trees he had planted and reared were broken

and scorched; and, worse still, all the beehives and bees were burnt. The wailing of the women and of the little children who cried with their mothers, mingled with the lowing of the hungry cattle, for whom there was no food. The bigger children did not play, but followed their elders with frightened eyes. The fountain was polluted, evidently on purpose, so that the water could not be used. The mosque was polluted in the same way, and the Mullah and his assistants were cleaning it out. No one spoke of hatred of the Russians. The feeling experienced by all the Chechens, from the youngest to the oldest, was stronger than hate. It was not hatred, for they did not regard those Russian dogs as human beings; but it was such repulsion, disgust, and perplexity at the senseless cruelty of these creatures, that the desire to exterminate them - like the desire to exterminate rats, poisonous spiders, or wolves - was as natural an instinct as that of self-preservation.

The inhabitants of the aoul were confronted by the choice of remaining there and restoring with frightful effort what had been produced with such labour and had been so lightly and senselessly destroyed, facing every moment the possibility of a repetition of what had happened, or - contrary to their religion and despite the repulsion and contempt they felt - to submit to the Russians. The old men prayed, and unanimously decided to send envoys to Shamil, asking him for help. Then they immediately set to work to restore what had been destroyed.

Translator Maude, Aylmer

## *The Beginning of Colonization*

**During the last two hundred years, the number of times Russia resorted to deportation of Vainakhs from their own land is astounding - 16. In one case (1944-1957) the entire nation was deported to Central Asia, Kazakhstan and Siberia.**



As early as 1722, Peter the Great made an attempt to subjugate the whole Caucasus by war of aggression, but his military expedition was a failure as he stumbled at stubborn resistance of north Caucasians.

In the 1780s, Catherine the Great, under the military leadership of A. Suvorov, started to fight for the expansion of Caucasus. Russian effort was met by a unified force of Chechens, Ingushs, Daghestanians, Adighes, Kabardians and Ossetians.

## Sheikh-Mansour Ushurma

(1760-1794)

The Chechen village of **Aldi** is known as a place of notorious atrocities committed by the Russian forces during the Russian-Chechen war (XX c.). Much earlier (XVIII c.), an outstanding religious and political figure **Sheikh Mansour Ushurma (1760-1794)** was born there. From the early age he went from village to village and preached social equality, condemned war, bloodshed, theft, alcoholism, and impiety. He recognized the idea of people's equality in the sight of God and led an ascetic life.

In 1785, Tsarist Russia assaulted Chechnya and burnt down the village Aldi. The Russian army was led by General de Pierry. Mansour's family members were slaughtered, to which he responded by his appeal for a holy war—Hazavat. In an ensuing battle the Russian colonizers were annihilated, among them de Pierry. Only one young man survived, though he was seriously wounded.

The Chechen fighters returned the captured officer to the Russians. In their turn, the occupants offered to pay the ransom. The response of Sheikh Mansour's spokespersons was irreconcilable: "The courage revealed in the battle is not sold." Unfortunately, this most courageous officer was a Georgian nobleman Prince **Petre Bagrationi**.



In his struggle against Russians Sheikh Mansour was joined by: **Circassians, Ingushs, Daghestanians, Ossetians ...**

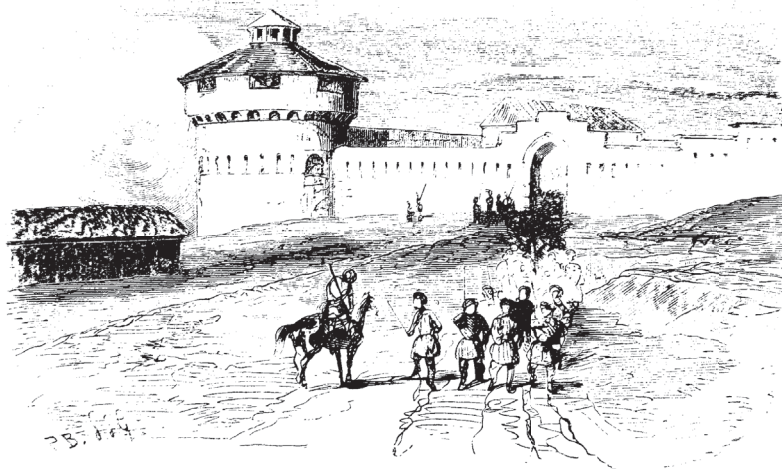
As a result of **1786-1787** military expedition, the villages situated on the banks of the river Sunja from Karabulakh to Aldi were leveled to the ground.



**In September 1787**, fighters for freedom brutally defeated **Potyomkin's** forces, but by October new troops, this time under the leadership of **General Tekel**, invaded Caucasus again. The front line spread across the huge territory— from Daghestan to Anapa. The locals fought selflessly, however, **In 1791** Sheikh Mansour was captured in **Sunjuk-Kale** (present-day Novorosiysk) and put to Slisselburg prison, where he died **in 1794** in shady circumstances. Yet history has preserved the name of this legendary military commander, which still inspires self-sacrificing Caucasian fighters.

The struggle of Caucasians against the Russian invaders did not end with Sheikh Mansour's capture. His movement was resumed by **Ghazi Mullah** and

**Hamzat Beg.** In 1834, the military achievements of the rebels successfully concluded by the establishment of **Shamil's Imam**, actually the independent state of North Caucasus.



Fort de Nazaran.

## **Nazran, Zlobny Okop, Vnezapnaya, Grozny**

The appointment of **General Alexei Ermolov** as commander of the Russian troops in the Caucasus turned into real disaster for Chechnya and Ingushetia. Russian fortresses popped up at the sites of devastated villages, among them were: **Nazran, Zlobny Okop, Vnezapnaya** and, finally, **in 1818 — Grozny**. Oddly, the settlements were given names in reference to the brutality with which this or that place was subjugated and also to intimidate the local population in the future. Often the natives were used as human shields, as cannon fodder.

## Dadi Yurt Tragedy

The brutality of the invaders grew with the resistance. **On September 15, 1819** Russians surrounded the village and opened artillery fire upon it. The entire male population of the village was killed on the battlefield. Children and women faced with the imminent threat of being captured. While crossing the bridge, 46 girls preferred to commit suicide and just before plunging into the Terek river, with all the might they had left, they grabbed the Russian oppressors and jumped into the ravine with them...

The only person who survived was a Chechen boy, who later became known to the world as a great portrait-painter **Petr Zakharov**.





## Unequal Battle at Germenchuk

Since the 1820s, the Russian army mercilessly annihilated Chechen-Ingush forests. In 1832, Ghazi-Mohammed's fighters crushingly defeated the troops of General Veliaminov at Nazran fortress. Later the opposing forces confronted each other near the village of Germenchuk.

At that time, Germenchuk was home to over 600 households. Russian aggressors, as a rule, used artillery and completely levelled the village at the very beginning of the clash. Despite this, unsubmitive Murids continued their resistance and fortified their positions in the forest on the edge of the village.

The Russians surrounded the territory and sent an ultimatum to the rebels. All the houses and about seventy warriors were on fire, but no one intended to surrender. Those who were bound by an oath preferred to die in the battle rather than live a shameful life in captivity.

In 1839, General **Grabbe** penetrated deep into mountainous villages of Chechnya and Daghestan. Fighting lasted three months, after which **Akhulgo** village was seized and all of its inhabitants were annihilated. **Jemal Ed Din**, Shamil's eldest son was captured during (in) the battle, Shamil's wife was killed and **Shamil's Pregnant sister - Fatimat** - refused to surrender and committed suicide by jumping off a cliff.



### **Baisangur of Beno**

After Akhulgo battles **Shamil** moved to Chechnya (**Beno**), where he was hosted by legendary fighters **Baisangur of Beno** and **Soltamurad**. Shamil awarded the authoritative commanders the title of Naib. They succeeded in stopping the forces of **General Grabbe**.

In 1845, the freedom fighters celebrated victory over **General Vorontsov's army**. More than 3,000 Russian military men were killed. However, it was Baisangur who had to pay the highest price for this victory. In the battles he lost his left arm, left leg and left eye.

Even so, half-man **Baisangur** fought fearlessly, successfully repulsing the enemy's attacks on village Shalto.

When the Cossack army was face to face with **Shamil's troops**, a **Cossack commander challenged the Murids to a duel**. **Baisangur** took up the glove and confronted the enemy. He returned to **Shamil slightly wounded in the chest**. **The Imam was hurt to see that the Naib had been wounded by a Russian and rebuked him: Why did you disgrace us, Naib! You are wounded, while he hasn't even moved on his horse.**

The Naib replied: - Not so fast, Imam! Wait till the horse falters.

Indeed, the horse had hardly made a step forward that the Cossack's head fell heavily to the ground.

**In 1859**, when Shamil's last fortress Ghunib was falling, Baisangur of Beno was seeking an honourable death. Shamil was yielding himself prisoner. When he was going towards Russians Baisangur called him:

- Shiema!

Shamil did not look back as he knew why Baisangur was calling him. He was also sure that a Caucasian knight would never dare to shoot anyone in the back. So he went on walking.

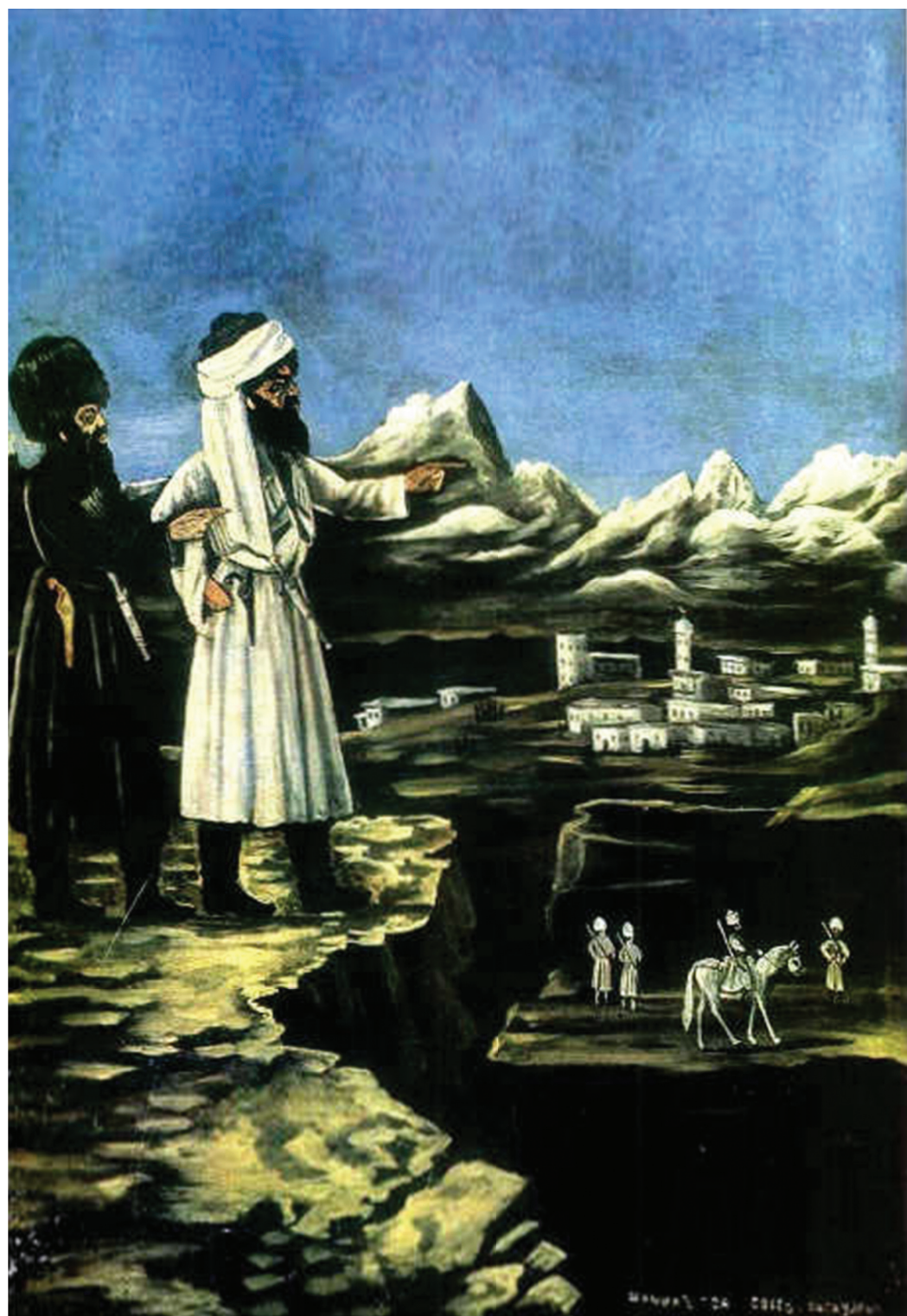
Baisangur groaned with frustration:

- "You preferred imprisonment and slavery to the war for freedom, while I am going to fight for the liberation of my people till the end of my life." With these words Baisangur made a desperate attempt to break through the encirclement with 500 men, of which only 30 survived.

**In 1860-1861**, Baisangur initiated a new wave of insurrection but he was defeated.

**On 17 February 1861**, the captured Baisangur was prepared to be hanged. A great many people were attending the execution but nobody dared to announce the sentence. At last when someone was about to say something people heard the sound of the falling chair. Baisangur did not wait for the judgement to be delivered and before someone dared to approach him, kicked the chair – the insubmissive warrior merged with eternity.

It was Baisangur's last protest against the lawlessness of Russians.



## Medal and Cross For the Subjugation of Chechnya



On July 15, 1860 by order of Alexander II was instituted a medal "For the subjugation of Chechnya and Daghestan". This medal was awarded to the participants of Caucasian expedition from ordinary soldiers to generals, including volunteers, military doctors, engineers and other officials.

In 1864, by order of the same Aleksander II, was instituted a cross "For the service in Caucasia". There existed gold, silver and bronze crosses of the same shape. Officers were awarded silver crosses.



## Umu and Dada of Zumso

The Russian conquest of the Caucasus was completed in 1864 with the crushing of independent Circassia.

Rebellions were not stopped with this, however. A new wave of insurrection broke out in Chechnya and Daghestan in 1877, which soon turned into a nationwide movement. The uprising was led by: **Umu and Dada of Zumso** and **Ali-Bek Haji (of Zandak)**.

In a year, in 1878, the revolt was suppressed in blood and its 28 leaders were hanged. One of the leaders, 70-year-old **Umu of Zumso**, pledged the Russians to be hanged before his son, but with the usual cynicism the Russians hanged them together, with one rope.







**Chechen village**

### **The Refusal of Makhketians**

**During the 1877-78** rebellion a Russian **General Smekalov** came up to a Chechen village Makhketa and demanded from the council of elders to yield the commander **Umu** who was taking shelter there.

The elders replied calmly, “You must know how hard it is to us to depart with our ancestors’ graves and with our land, but we still implicitly obey you. As for Umu, we can’t give you **Umu** – he is our guest. You must demand from people only possible things, general!”

**General Smekalov** destroyed the village and deported the whole population.

## *The Genocide*

**“I will not calm down until the last Chechen is physically exterminated... It is possible to conquer Caucasus only by subjugating the Chechens, more precisely, after their full extermination.”**

*General Ermolov*



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## General Ermolov

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### Commander of Russian Military Forces (1816-1827)

A wave of mass deportations was unleashed after the official completion of the Russian-Caucasian war (**May 21, 1864**), the majority of North Caucasian peoples were forced to leave their homeland. Russian statistics themselves speak of over **1 800,000** exiled (*Journal "Революция и горец", Ростов на дону, 1932, N 6-7, p.95*).

Out of one and a half million Vainakh population, only **400,000** managed to survive. In all, during the 80 years of the bloody war against Russian military forces almost one million people were injured, exiled or died (*"10 лет социалистической Чечни", Ростов на Дону, 1935, p.75*).

The Russian Empire did not spare the best units of its vast army during the conquest. According to official statistics, only **by the 1840s**, more than **200,000** Russian soldiers were mobilised. Within a decade, their number was increased by another one hundred thousand. (*М. Н. Покровский, Дипломатия и войны царской России в девятнадцатом столетии, М., 1923, pp.217-218*).

The Russian rule in Chechnya resulted in a catastrophic fall in the number of population. According to the official data issued by Russia, only **in 1847-1860** overall population of Chechnya dropped two-fold, and **in 1860-1917** – four-fold (*Энциклопедический словарь "Гранат", М., 1940, 7th ed., p.183*).

## *Forced Deportation of Peoples*

**The Russian Emperor Alexander II himself was at the head of expulsion policy of Caucasians. For the deportation of peoples Russian forces even resorted to burning down the entire villages (auls) in order to persuade peace-loving Caucasians to leave their homeland promptly.**



**Emperor Alexander II**

**Until 1859**, Caucasian peoples were not deported en masse. The Russian authorities would mainly issue pilgrimage permits to visit Mecca and Medina, first for the period of one year and then for six months.

**Starting from 1861**, for those who left for Turkey the authorities started issuing only exit permits without the indication of return dates. In case individuals who left the empire in the end returned, they would only be allowed to settle in the state-owned lands of Orenburg Uyezd. In short, Tsarist Russia was packaging the exile to Turkey as a **pilgrimage**, covering the true essence

of its annexationist policy in the face of European states.

With time, Russians exiled Caucasians by administrative order. The policy was implemented by Emperor **Alexander II** himself. Deportation of peoples involved the whole spectrum of methods starting from secret agitation and ending with burning down the entire villages (auls) in order to force freedom-loving Caucasians to leave their homeland as soon as possible.

Tsarist regime spared neither strength nor resources for the campaign to be successful. Only on the deportation of Chechens the state spent **130, 582** Russian roubles.

## A Plan for the Deportation of Mountain peoples and settlement of Cossacks

The grand strategy and plan for the deportation of Caucasian mountain peoples and settlement of Cossacks instead was authored by **Duke Evdokimov**.

As a result of Russian propaganda, major part of the population of Greater and **Minor Kabarda** were ready to leave their motherland. **In 1859-60**, despairing Kabardinian nobles demanded from the Tsarist authority not to allow depopulation of Kabarda.



Picket of the Kuban Line

Although a number of significant landlords were willing to emigrate to Turkey, in most cases Caucasians found it difficult to leave the land of their ancestors. One of them, a reputable noble, member of People's (National) Court, officer **Pshe-makho Jambotov** made several attempts to return, but the Russian government refused to let him enter the country.

## The Fulfillment of the Plan

The deportations did not bypass Ossetia either. Mainly they touched Muslim nobility such as **the Tuganovs** and **the Abisalovs**, as well as peasants from the villages of Islamic faith: **Zilgi, Shanaevo, Khumalagi, Zamankuli, Tulatovo, Koban, Tugnoskoe, Karagas, Karajaevskoe and Chikole**. People evicted from these areas mainly settled in the **Kars** region of Turkey, near **Kagizman**.

If the deportations were a true horror for most nationalities of the region, they became apocalypses for others, such as **Nogaians**. **Throughout the 1860s**, more than **70,000 Nogaians** were uprooted and expelled to Turkey, resulting in

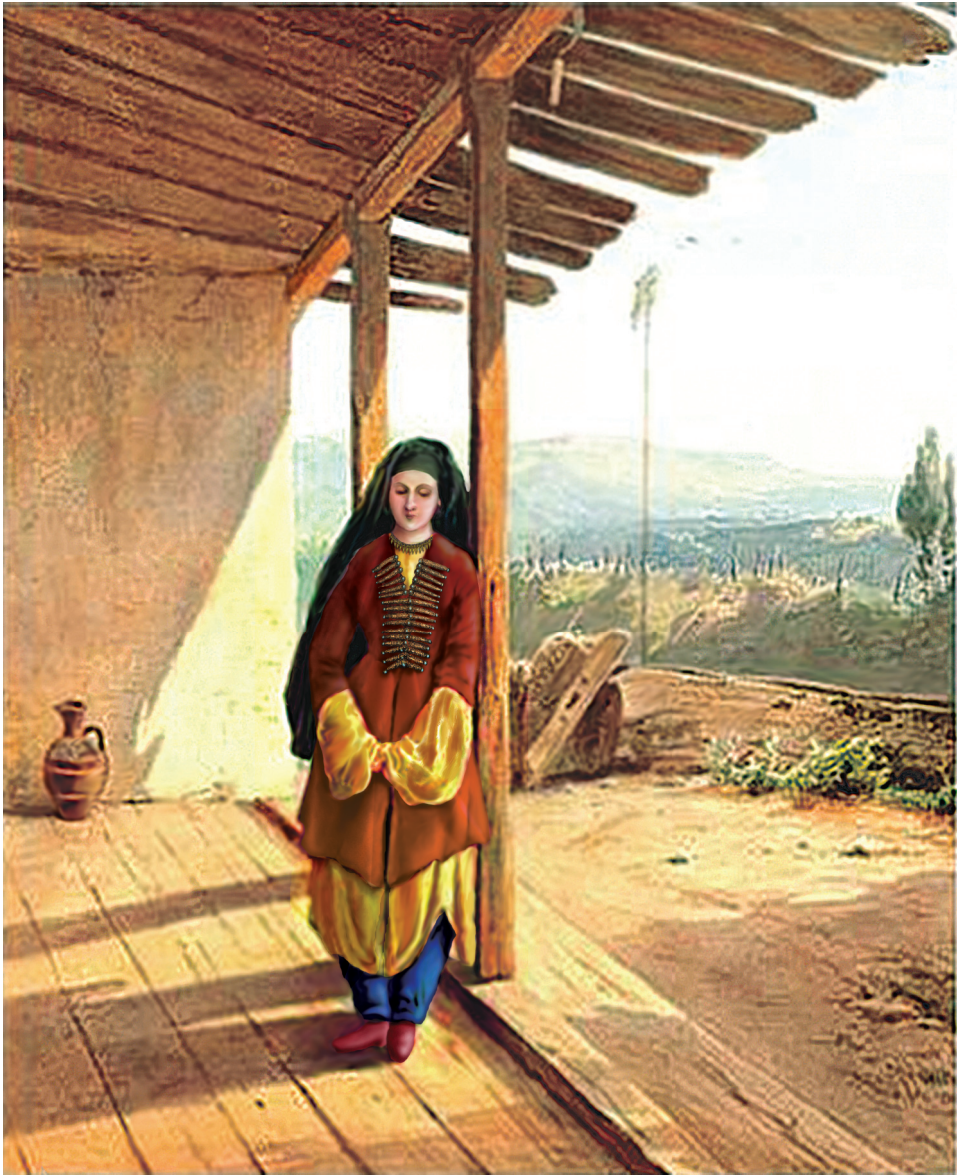


nothing less but a demographic catastrophe for this small ethnic group.

No less than **86 Nogaian villages** were erased from the face of the earth around the current city of **Minvody**.

The idea of voluntary emigration was largely unpopular amongst Chechens. **By 1865**, only **19,000** people were convinced to emigrate.





**Chechens are cheerful and quick-witted people...  
They are often called Caucasian Frenchmen.**

Ernest Chantre



### Nogaia

There were exceptions, however.

**Count Bariatinski**, a well-known Russian general went out of his way to remove **Karabulaks** from Ingushetia, which was successfully accomplished.

This Ingush tribe was wholly, without exception, deported to Turkey.

According to official data, **in 1865 alone**, 1 500 Ingush (Karabulak) and 3 502 Chechen families left their homeland and moved to Turkey.

Out of 80 000 deported from Terskaya region (oblast), 40 000 did not reach the destination. They died on their way to Turkey.

### Exchange between Turks and Russians

Notably, the Turkish government was quite keen to accept young, cultured and handsome Caucasians known to be hard workers and good warriors. It would enable the Ottoman government to change the unfavourable demographic situation. Conforming to authentic statistical data, between **1840 and 1860**, **Osmans**

were, in fact, a minority in their own empire. This was an important motive for adopting a special Law on Immigrants (**Muhajirs**) on **March 9, 1857** and attempting to make it as attractive as possible for the embattled folk of the North Caucasus. According to the newly adopted law, all the immigrants from the region automatically became subjects of the Sultan and were freed from all taxes, including military conscription. These exemptions would be in force for six years if the persons concerned settled in **Thrace**, and if they chose **Anatolia** as their new home – for eight years.

In parallel to squeezing Caucasians from the frontiers of the expanding empire, **Russia** encouraged settling **Armenians** and **Greeks** in the North Caucasus, on the “freed lands”. The Imperial Government too offered them lucrative incentives: freeing from military conscription for six years and from taxes for eight years. Every male would receive 15 desetinas (16.35 hectares) of land. This policy produced a significantly increased population of **Armenians** and **Greeks** in the region, on the lands freed from the more “troublesome” peoples. They were desirable residents for Russia, especially in place of rebellious Caucasians.



## Agitators

An ethnic Ossetian Major-General **Mussa-Pasha Alkhas Kundukhov** was known to be one of the most ardent agitators of the process of evicting the North Caucasian peoples. The Russian government sent him to Turkey on a special mission. On arriving Kundukhov claimed that he had met the Sultan in person, who promised that the Ottoman Empire would only receive representatives of Caucasian peoples with great honour. Having travelled to Turkey, Kundukhov campaigned and claimed that he had met the Sultan himself, who gave him exclusive authorization to arrange emigration flows. Those without Kundukhov's authorization would not benefit the blessings of the Porte's offer.

The General's propaganda bared fruits: Noblemen of North Caucasus hurriedly started preparations for moving to Turkey. In an attempt to give an example to others, **Kundukhov** himself sent his family to the Porte **on 25 May 1865**. What the fooled noblemen did not know was that St. Petersburg had granted **Kundukhov** a permit to go back and forth to Russia as many times as he wished, which was necessary for his activities, and paid him **82,000 + 5,000 roubles** for agitation – an unthinkable sum for the time.

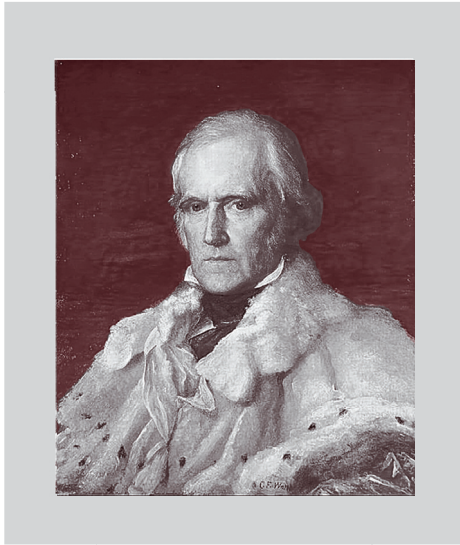




## Cossacks

Up to **100,000** Kossacks were settled in the newly “freed” lands. By doing this Russia created a buffer zone from **Vladikavkaz** to **Daghestan**, separating **Chechnya**, **Ingushetia** and **Daghestan** from one another. Russia managed to create a sort of buffer zone between **Chechnya** and **Ingushetia**, on the one hand, and **Daghestan**, on the other. The statistics of these campaigns are sour: because of forceful deportation and war, North Caucasus was left by more than **1,800,000** people, of which **800,000** settled in the Ottoman Empire (Turkey).

According to the law issued **in 1883**, mountain peoples (locals from mountainous Ingushetia) did not have a right to settle in towns and cities of the Terek Region if they were not in the military service of the Emperor. (Терский календарь на 1896 год, Владикавказ, 1895, p.279).



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**Sir Stratford de Redcliffe (Lord)**

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**British Ambassador to the  
Ottoman Empire**

## **The Protest of the Europeans**

Remarkably, the policy of mass re-settlement and deportation, or genocide, of Caucasian aboriginal peoples was opposed by western democracies. **On June 2, 1864** at the meeting in the House of Lords the English Lord **Stratford de Redcliffe** demanded from the Russian Government the information on the state of affairs with those deported to Turkey. In the opening speech made by Sir **Stratford de Redcliffe** at the meeting held in London the speaker announced that the rally was organized as a sign of humanity and support towards the Caucasian refugees who had been forced to leave their homeland. It seems an amazing fact from today's perspective that a rally in support of the deported took place in London the same year.

The British Government even dispatched ships loaded with aid to **Samsun and Trabzon**. **In May-June 1864**, the British Ambassador to Russia **Sir Francis Napier** blamed Russia for the forced deportation of aboriginal Caucasians.

**French** and especially **Italian** ambassadors spared no effort to return the exiled Caucasians to their territories, but in vain.

## *Folk Heroes*

**In Chechnya and Ingushetia sacrificing their lives in the struggle against the Russian invaders was a peculiar form characteristic of abreks. Among them were: in Ingushetya – Sulanbek of Sagopshy and Ahmed Khuchbarov, in Chechnya – Zelimkhan of Kharachoy and Hazukha Magomadov.**



## Sulanbek of Sagopshy

**Sulanbek of Sagopshy** fought against Tsarist Russia all his life. He became an inaccessible enemy for Russian invaders but managed to save his village in exchange for his own life.

One day his village **Sagopshy** was sieged by the Russian troops and an ultimatum of burning it down in case **Sulanbek** was not handed over was issued to the villagers. People were worried, everybody wanted to avoid the shame of a traitor, however, the danger was real. In such most complicated situation Sulanbek turned himself in with the only condition that he would be executed on the spot. To the last moment he believed that Russians would shoot him but when he realized that they were going to arrest him, the abrek miraculously snatched the rifle from the soldier in front and pierced him, then he broke the other soldier's head but on turning towards the bailiff (pristav ) for revenge, he got several bullets in his heart and fell down dead.





Chechen and Lezghian



## Ahmed Khuchbarov

**In 1929, Ahmed Khuchbarov** (1908-1955) from the famous Ingush mountain village of **Galashki** personally “declared” war against Bolshevik Russia. Ahmed had one rule, he only killed the Chekists who committed crimes. **After the 1944** deportation, he protected the abandoned historical monuments from vandals. Khuchbarov became so dangerous for the Russians that even the western European newspapers displayed a special interest in his personality.

**In 1944-1953** a folk hero Khuchbarov carried out thirty military operations against Chekists and annihilated over 100 sadists who had been accused of committing various violent crimes:

**On June 9, 1944** in **Malar** village (**Khamkha community**) lieutenant Golik’s group killed **Abukar Kachalov** and his little son, who had miraculously escaped expatriation. The sadists beheaded both victims in order to present the “trophy” to their commanders in evidence of the successful operation. They were about to leave when **Ahmed Khuchbarov’s** group arrived, shot all the six Chekists, gathered the parts of the victims’ bodies and buried them according to tradition.

Nevertheless, **in 1953** Chekists managed to commence negotiations with **Khuchbarov**. For his part, he swore on the Koran that he would not break his word and that he expected others to behave in the same way. People’s hero arrived in Tbilisi on foot, but **on 17 December 1955** he was sentenced to death. At

the trial **Ahmed Khuchbarov** confessed that he was a folk avenger, that he wished happiness to his native people, and that he did not repent anything. He took all the blame upon himself in an attempt to save his companions.

## Zelimkhan of Kharachoy

**Zelimkhan of Kharachoy** (Gushmazukaev) (1872-1913), another freedom-fighter, was from a well-off Chechen family. He was married with children. Due to a mishap (his brother accidentally killed a man) Zelimkhan was wrongfully convicted. He escaped from prison, embarked on the dangerous road of resistance already in times of the Tsar defending the interests of suppressed Chechens.

**During the 1905** reprisals, gendarmes killed **17** innocent Chechens at Grozny market. That same year, in response to this brutality Zelimkhan stopped a passenger train and shot dead **17** Russian officers.

When the Tsarist regime declared **18,000** roubles as a prize for his head. **In January 1910**, he stole exactly this sum of money from Grozny railway station and gave all of it to the poor.

He was in constant search for solutions. As is known, **in 1911**, Zelimkhan met Russian students from Rostov who elected him honorary anarchist and even gave him an appropriate seal. From them Zelimkhan learned that besides Chechens Russia oppressed other peoples too and executed the disobedient.

Zelimkhan warned his opponents in advance, giving them a chance to survive. **In 1911**, he notified the gendarmery about the place (Kizlar bank) and time (12:00) of the operation. Despite this, members of his group disguised as Cossacks still managed to rob the bank take away a large sum of money.

**Gushmazukaev** once even captured a famous Russian singer **Fiodor Shaliapin**. After hearing the Great maestro sing, tears came running down the abrek's cheeks, so he released **Shaliapin** immediately with the only request – not to tell anyone about the incident while Zelimkhan was alive.



## Hazukha Magomadov

**Hazukha Magomadov** (1905-1976) from the mountainous Chechen village **Gatin-Yurt (Shatoi)** turned out to be a very smart guy. He studied Arabic under the supervision of the village mullah and got acquainted with the Koran. When his father died Hazukha was eighteen, so he had to bear the family burden.

**In the 1930s**, during Stalin's campaign of terror, Hazukha's teacher (mullah) was killed and some of his friends were arrested. Due to this, he chose to fight against injustice saying "So far only Zelimkhan fought, now I will be the other one." He joined the ranks of resistance together with the famous rebels **Hassan Israilov** and **Mairbek Sheripov**. After the rebellion had been suppressed, **Magomadov** fought alone against the Russian occupants. **In 1944**, in the days of Chechen deportation he annihilated over **20** Chekists. He was one of the first witnesses of **Haibakh** tragedy when more than 700 charred bodies were found in a stable.

**In 1944-1957 Hazukha Magomadov** wandered in depopulated Chechen villages alone and defended the towers from being exploded. By devastating historical monuments Chekist Russia wished to wipe out Chechens' national memory.

**Magomadov's** war of revenge against Russian colonizers did not slow down till the end of his life.

**On March 28, 1976,** exhausted from winter frost, 72-year-old Hazukha was killed by militia troops. Although his body fell off the cliff, no one dared to approach it till late in the evening the next day.

Significantly, the "abrek" who fought against injustice at the end of his life only weighed thirty-six kilograms.

## Crackdown on the Clergy

**Russian colonialism was severely persecuting the religious figures who sympathized with their compatriots and who supported the idea of national identity.**

**Sheikh Kunta-Haji** (1830-1876), whose activity was perceived as hostility by the Tsarist Russia despite its extremely humane nature, had most of his followers in Ingushetia. **Kunta-Haji**, a great humanist and the author of teaching the ritual dance Zik(a)r, was arrested by gendarmery **in 1864**. Thousands of peaceful Murids gathered with hoisted white flags demanding his release. Russian colonizers opened fire on the protesters and killed over 500 followers on the spot.



**In November 1911**, the entire group of the **highest clerics**, such as **Sugaif Gaisumov, Bamat-Girei Mitaev, Abdul-Aziz Shaptukaev, Batil-Haji Belkhoroev, Kana-Haji, Chim-Mirza, Mola-Magoma** and others, were subjected to repression and deported from Chechnya and Ingushetia.

The persecution of clergy on a national basis continued in the Soviet period.

While the tragedy of Chechens and Ingushs is only a part of the great purges **of the 1930s** in which tens of millions perished, the scale of destruction for these small peoples meant nothing else but a demographic catastrophe.

**On March 8, 1924** Chechnya's Sheikh **Ali Mitaev** (1881-1925) was detained and sent to Rostov where he was executed a year later. By the way, as early as 1911 Sheikh's father **Bamat-Girei-Haji Mitaev**, together with other religious and national leaders, was exiled from Chechnya, where he died **in 1915**.

**In the 1920s**, Bolsheviks, unfolded large-scale anti-religious movement on the territory of Ingushetia

Followers of religious minorities such as **Kunta-Haji** community, belonging to the independent Murid and amounting more than 50,000 only in Ingushetia, suffered in particular.

**In 1926**, the newly-appointed head of the regional Communist Party I. **Chernoglaz** founded "**The Regional Union of the Godless**" in Vladikavkaz. He issued an order by which locals en masse, as well as religious figures, were forced to enroll in the organization.

Once **Chernoglaz** went to mountainous Ingushetia to conduct agitation. **Bekmurza**, one of those who were gathered on the square in the village of **Katar-Yurt**, addressed him with the words of warning: "Twenty-five years ago Mitkin, a representative of Tsarist regime was making a speech on this square, just like you. He wasn't a bad man, but Russian authorities made him do evil things. I killed him with this very sword. Take my advice and leave Ingushetia, Chernoglaz! The whole population is against you, begad, they will kill you."



**Illustration from Peter Simon Pallas's book**

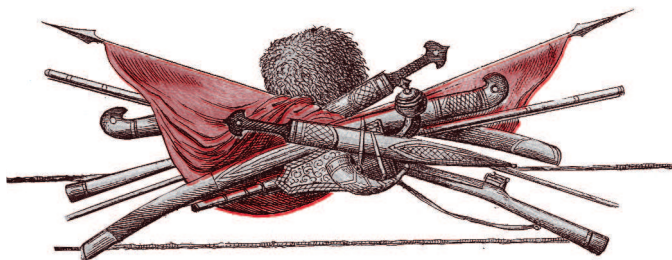
**“Travels Through The Southern Provinces Of The Russian Empire,  
In The Years 1793 And 1794 (Volume 1)”**

“ From their manner of pronunciation, a person would imagine their mouths were full of pebbles. They are said to be an honest and brave set of people, maintaining their independence, and subject only to their elders, by whom their religious sacrifices are performed. They are almost the only nation inhabiting the Caucasus among whom the shield has been preserved as a part of their accoutrements. Their bucklers are made of wood, covered with leather, and bound with iron hoops of an oval form. The short knotty pike which forms part of their armour, serves not only as a weapon of defence, but is likewise used for supporting the gun between its forked branches, by fixing the pointed end in the ground, which enables a person to take a more accurate aim. The Ingushians are excellent marks-men, but bestow little attention either to agriculture or the rearing of cattle, and are consequently in a state of poverty.

We are assured by a Roman catholic missionary, that these people possess an old church, which is built according to a model taken from the sepulchre of our Saviour. The Ingushians, though rather inclined to profess the Mahometan faith, keep this building in constant repair. It is held in such profound veneration that nobody ventures to enter it, and the natives, when viewing it at a distance, prostrate themselves in adoration. Their most sacred oaths are made the name of this church.”

Indeed, **Chernoglaz** was killed the same evening near the village of Galashki. The murder, unsurprisingly, was followed by mass executions. Hundreds of Ingush were arrested and exiled to Siberia which, in turn, sparked a large-scale Ingush revolt.

**In 1930**, head of the Nazran district, **M. Ivanov** was campaigning in the village of **Ekazhevo**. He summoned the entire population to the plenary session, with the village mullah among them, ordered them to convert the local mosque into a grain storage and banned the mullah from religious services. The reaction was momentary. The outraged villagers killed **Ivanov** before he managed to reach the edge of the village. In retaliation, 30 Ingushs were exiled to Siberia.





## *The Ingush Question*

**In the early 20th century a plan of deporting the Ingushs from the Caucasus was proposed by Gappa Baev, a Russian imperialist who later became mayor of Vladikavkaz. He demanded deportation of all the Ingushs to Siberia and sought to settle the disengaged land with Ossetians.**

**Gappa Baev bombarded the capital of the empire, St. Petersburg, with letters of complaint. Though he did not succeed in deporting the Ingushs, he still managed to provoke a punitive military expedition against them, which resulted in big losses among the peaceful population.**

Thus, **in 1910**, the authorities of Vladikavkaz made a decision not to distribute land among persons of Ingush nationality. They were also banned from leasing land. These restrictions were aimed at driving the Ingush population out of Vladikavkaz and settling the Ossetians in their land.

**In 1918**, joint units of Cossacks and Ossetians with the support of Denikin's army carried out ethnic cleansing of the Ingushs in Vladikavkaz. Those who did not manage to escape perished in the violence.

**In 1920-1924**, historical Ingushetia was included in the Soviet Autonomous Republic of Mountain Peoples.

Already **in 1924** separate Ingush and Ossetian autonomies were created with the administrative center for both in **Vladikavkaz**, whose dividing line, the eastern bank of the river Terek, was populated by the **Ingushs**.

A number of high-profile attempts to eject the Ingushs out of the town were undertaken between **1925** and **1932**. Although these failed, **in 1933**, according to the resolution issued by the Central Executive Committee Orjonikidze (the new name for **Vladikavkaz**) was transferred to the **Ossetian autonomy**. Just in a year, the Ingush autonomy was abolished and merged with the neighboring Chechnya. Ingush scientific research institutes, higher education institutions and schools were abolished. The main aim of these measures was driving the Ingushs away.

The Russian-Ossetian plan to seize the Ingush territories and expatriate the Ingush people was practically accomplished **on February 23, 1944** when the en-



the Ingush nation, together with the Chechens, was deported from the Caucasus and the territories of the north-west Ingushetia were merged with the **Ossetian Autonomy**.

The fact is that **Ossetians** were untouched by the deportation and their units (over 3000 in all), alongside the Chekists, actively assisted the campaign.

Later, the secretary of the regional committee, K. D. Kulov thanked the Communist Party for expanding the territory of the Ossetian autonomy by 50%. Surely, it was carried out at the expense of the national tragedy of Ingushs.

**On January 9, 1957** the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation annulled the earlier decree (**March 7, 1944**) on abolishing the Chechen-Ingush autonomy and restored it in pre-deportation limits, with the exception of **Prigorodny District** previously exclusively populated by the Ingushs and now unlawfully merged with North Ossetia. The Ingushs were in practical terms banned from settling or registering in this district. Those who disobeyed, due to the absence of registration

rights, were punished by law. With the use of Ossetians the empire implemented the policy of Ingush genocide and creeping annexation-occupation of the country.

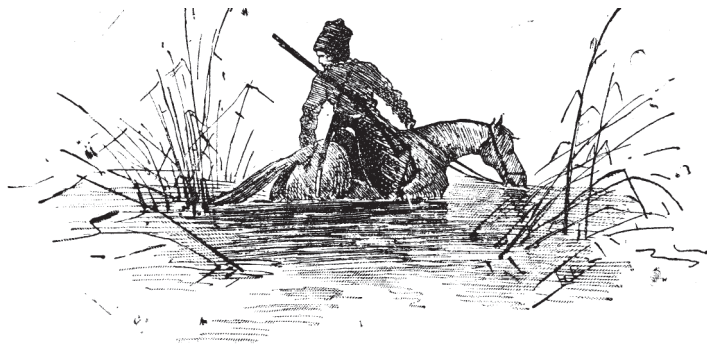
This whole animosity was fueled by the Kremlin betting—as in many other cases—on engineering and cultivating conflicts between various peoples. In fact, Ossetians did serve as a weapon in the hands of the empire.

**In 1973**, Ingush citizens staged a three-day mass rally in central Grozny demanding the return of Prigorodny District to the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Republic. Despite the cold winter, the rally was dispersed with water cannons and brutal force, resulting in an unknown number of deaths.

**By the end of the 1970s**, the number of people who desired to repatriate from Kazakhstan grew significantly. In response to this, **In 1982**, the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union passed an absolutely incredible, lawless resolution which banned new registration of residents in Prigorodny District and real estate sales. Thus, once again, this time legally, the Ingushs were prohibited to return to their homes.

**On September 14, 1990** the extraordinary session of the Supreme Council of North Ossetia passed a special resolution (par. 8) by which it once again announced the moratorium on registration and sales throughout the whole republic. This was one more punitive measure against the Ingushs, whose main purpose was persuading them to give up the idea of returning to their ancestral lands.





## The Struggle of Ingushs for the Return of their Homeland

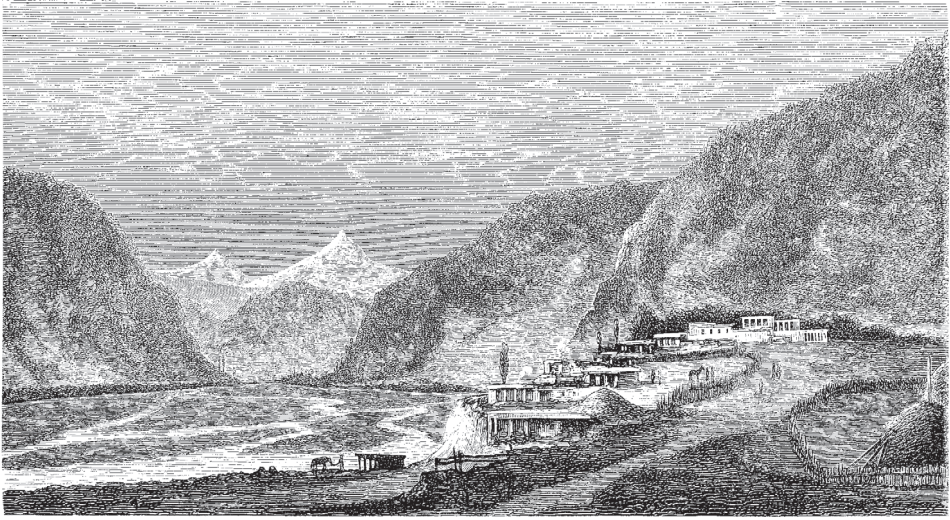
**In 1988**, the Ingush national organization **Niiskhuo (“Justice”)** called for the restoration of Ingush autonomy and return of **Prigorodny District, village Ezmi**, a two-kilometre section alongside **Vladikavkaz-Mozdok** road and a considerable part of **Malgobek** district, which had been seized by Ossetians with Kremlin’s support for the extension of Mozdok district.

**On September 9-10, 1989** the congress of Ingush People, which was attended by Ingush deputies of all levels, was held calling for the restoration of Ingush sovereignty and return of the seized (annexed) territories.

**On October 12, 1990**, just in a year, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Checheno-Ingushetia, under the pressure of national-liberating movement, officially appealed to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation to grant the republic sovereignty and return the lands in question.

Shortly before the break up of the Soviet Union, **on April 26, 1991**, the Russian Supreme Soviet passed the law “On the Rehabilitation of Repressed Peoples”.

Just before that, **on March 24, 1991**, at the meeting in Nazran **Boris Yeltsin** addressed a crowd of over **100,000** Ingushs - Салам-Алейкум, Ингуши! This resulted from his meeting with the newly-elected President **Zviad Gamsakhurdia** (in **Kazbegi, Georgia**) at which the two presidents managed to achieve an im-



### The Chechen village of Arghun

portant agreement on Caucasian problems. **Issa Kadzoev**, a well-known Ingush writer and leader of the national movement of Ingushetia was also present at that significant event.

**On June 4, 1992**, the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation passed the Law “On Formation of the Ingush Republic within the Russian Federation” which became the basis for the restoration of the Republic of Ingushetia.



## *Soviet-Bolshevik Genocide*

The writer F. Dostoyevski presumed that: "The idea of Communism will cost mankind one hundred million lives."  
In reality, due to the Bolshevik malice, the world lost ten million more, i.e. 110 million lives.

## Struggle for Independence

Already **in January 1918**, with the help of the Red Army and the sailors of the Caspian Flotilla the Bolsheviks expelled the Chechen National Council (All-National Congress of the Chechen people) from Grozny and declared soviet rule there.

**On May 11, 1918**, the independence of the Mountainous Republic of the Northern Caucasus was declared. **Chechnya, Ingushetia, Adighe, Karacha, Kabarda, Ossetia, Balkaria, Daghestan** made up the new state. The newly established independent state was headed by President **Tapa Chermoev**, chairman of the Parliament **Vassan-Girei Jabag**, Foreign Minister **Haidar Bammatt**; ministers: **Psh-emakho Kotsev, Abdul-Rashid Katkhanov, Akhmed Tsalikov, Alikhan Kantemir, Aitek Namitok** and others.

Already in **1918**, the independence of the Mountainous Republic of the Northern Caucasus was recognized by **Turkey and Georgia**, while **Germany and Austria** were ready to grant the recognition.

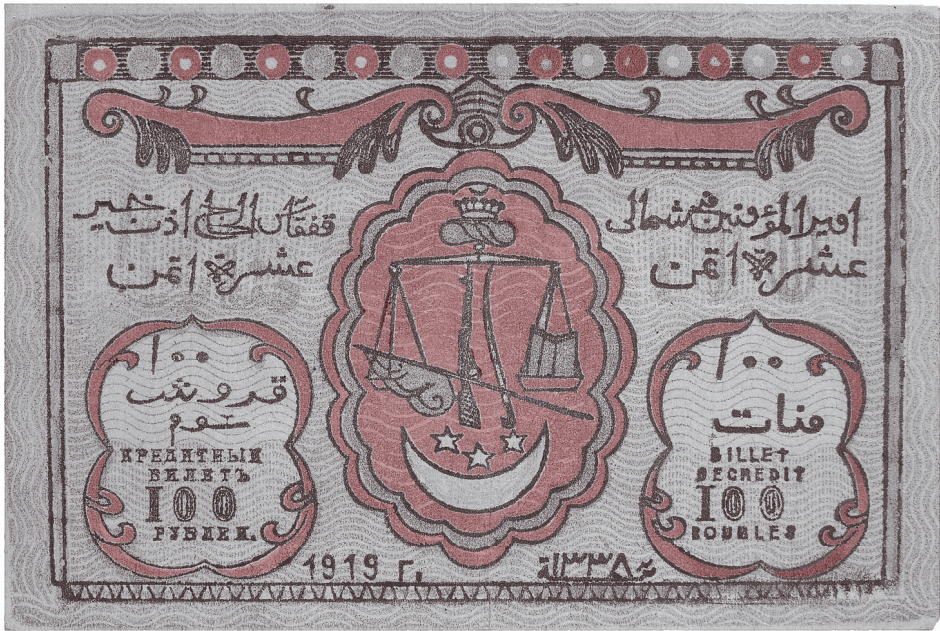


**In 1919**, a representative of Daghestan (ethnic Khundz) **Uzun-Haji** was elected head of the republic, now called **North Caucasian Emirates**.

The same year, the white Russian general **Denikin** managed to reinvade the Independent Republic of Northern Caucasus.

A Denikin's "volunteer army" met fierce resistance especially from the Ingush population. Bloody two-day battles took place near





**A banknote of North Caucasian Emirates**

**Surkhakhi** and **Ekazhevo**. Both villages were first looted and then burnt to the ground by the White Guardists. In **Surkhakhi** 97 people were killed, among them 4 women and 4 children; and in **Ekazhevo** 40 civilians were murdered.

In **October 1919**, Denikin faced disobedient Chechnya and looted, burnt down and annihilated many of its biggest settlements including: **Gudermes, Isti-Su, Engel-Yurt, Gerzel-Aul, Shama-Yurt, Chechen-Aul, Mesker-Yurt** and others. Survivors fled to the mountains joining the rebels of **Uzun-Haji**.

By **September 1919**, an armed revolt broke out under **Uzun-Haji's** leadership liberating **Daghestan, Chechnya, Ingushetia, Kabarda** and **Ossetia**.

**Uzun-Haji** re-claimed the independence of the Northern Caucasus and called the state **North Caucasian Emirates**. **Inaluk Arsanukaev of Dishni**, ethnic Chechen who became Prime Minister (head of the government) of the newly established republic, was later murdered by the Bolsheviks in Grozny in **1921**.



**A group photo of Caucasian Leaders, in 1921**

**At the end of 1920**, after the destruction of Denikin's troops, Bolshevik Russia occupied major strategic points of the North Caucasian state, sparking revolts in Chechnya and Daghestan. A grandson of the famous **Imam Shamil, Said-Bei**, who had just returned from Turkey, headed the rebellion.

**In January 1922**, in the midst of the revolt, the Constituent Assembly of the North Caucasus was called in **Vladikavkaz**, where **Ioseb Stalin** himself agreed to some sort of statehood of the region which would have a constitution founded on Sharia law.

However, already **in 1924**, most of the republic's leadership fell victim of purges. Soon after, the republic was abolished altogether.

A New wave of revolt broke out in Chechnya **in 1929**. The rebels dreamed of resurrecting **Shamil's Imamate** and expelling Russians from the Caucasus. The situation was analogous in **Daghestan, Kabarda, Balkaria, Ossetia and Karachay**.

The rebels relied on national-liberation ideology, called for Holy War and worshiped the names of great Caucasians – **Sheikh Mansour, Hamzat-Beg and Shamil**.

### **Shita and Hassan Istamulov**

The beginning of the new decade was marked with unprecedented repressive and bloody collectivization campaign all across the newly-created Soviet empire.

The policy of forced Sovietization was opposed by the brothers **Shita** and **Hassan Istamulov**. They managed to escape from a besieged house by fighting back the enemy. Soon after **Shita Istamulov** called Chechens for “Holy War”. The struggle for the restoration of “Shamil’s Imamath” was on the way.

Bolshevik Russia chose to start negotiations with Shita Istamulov; consequently, he was allowed to return to his native village (Shali).

**In autumn 1931, Shita Istamulov** was called to be handed over an amnesty



paper. Balkanov, a communist party officer from Moscow, shot him with a revolver, having been himself stabbed by the dying hero.

His brother, **Hassan** re-emerged as a popular hero and a staunch fighter against the occupants.

## Provocations

The series of provocations organized by the Chekists did not cease. **In 1930**, a “Japanese” provocateur, who earned trust of locals and started mobilizing activists for the liberation of the land, was planted in Ingushetia by the Cheka. Those who revealed their mind to the “liberator” were doomed. **21** public figures were executed and over **400** were exiled to the emerging Gulag system in Siberia with a life sentence.

**In the 1930s**, many famous Vainakh public figures fell victims of various provocations staged by the Cheka: member of Russian State Council **T. Eldarkhanov**, member of the Moscow Board **A. Mutushev**, engineer **M. Qurumov**, head of the Chechen National Council **Ibrahim Chulikov**, General **Saparbi Malsagov**, Rotmistr **Sozirko Malsagov**, lawyer **Mahomed Abdulkadirov**, engineer **Isa Kurbanov**, professor **Khalid Batukaev**, **Motsa-Haji Sotaev**, **Edil Sultan Beimurzaev**, financier **Khalid Shamilev**, engineer **Mustafa Dombaev** and many others.

Only **in the autumn of 1932**, more than **3,000** people were arrested and charged with “creation of a counter-revolutionary and nationalist centre for staging an armed rebellion.”

It is unknown to this day how many innocent people from this “group” were executed or lost their lives in the dark corners of the Gulag.

**In 1936** Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Oblast was transformed into an Autonomous Republic.



## Repressions

**July 31, 1937** marked the launch of Bolshevik's famous and bloody "Great Purges." Cheka started hunting down people - the so-called "anti-Soviet elements" - with lists prepared in advance. The Great Purges aimed at complete annihilation of the best representatives of the Chechen and Ingush nations.

The Great Purges lasted three years. Eventually, **in 1940**, specially made-up accusations were brought against "leaders of counter-revolutionary

Movement" – 120 people in all. No one confessed the crime, everybody denied the false accusations; only one person, a former mullah **Ahmad Tuchaev**, admitted the charge but was still executed with others.

**On August 1, 1937** the entire leadership of the republic was arrested, including party officials and Kolhoz chairmen. The entire class of Intelligentsia was eliminated including those who worked and lived outside the republic: **D. Tokaev** (in Azerbaijan), **Kh. Oshaev** (in Rostov), **I. Omarov** (in Minvodi), **A. Avtorkhanov** (in Moscow). A well-known public figure **Idris Ziazikov**, who was serving his term in exile, was returned to jail.

Many of the republic's leaders could not withstand the horrors of the purges and committed suicide. **D. Machukaev, M. Gisaev, I. Ziazikov, M. Islamov and M. Bektemirov** were a few amongst the many.

**In the 1930s**, outstanding writers - **Z. Raduev, A. Dudaev, Sh. Aiskhanov, M. Shadiev, Sh. Oshaev, A. Makakaev** and many others also fell victims to the repression.

In the peak of the purges, **during 1937**, the Cheka completely overtook the rule in Chechnya and Ingushetia. Not only the Chekists were obviously not familiar with either local customs or the language, but many of them considered all **Chechens and Ingushs** enemies of the state.

According to **Abdurakhman Avtorkhanov**, one Chekist is believed to have said, "An allegation can always be found, comrade. It just has to wear a Caucasian hood."

Only in one night of **July 1937**, **14,000** people were imprisoned in Chechnya - that is around 3% of the republic's entire population. (Авторханов А., Убийство чечено-ингушского народа. Народоубийство в СССР, Москва, 1991, р.3).

It was rather odd that in the Chechen society, known to be classless, in the 1920s the Bolsheviks all of a sudden "discovered" the whole stratum of Kulaks, allegedly 14,8% of the entire population (while the average figure for the Soviet Union did not exceed 5%).

As a result, this whole part of the society was swallowed by the enormous machine of **Soviet** terror. (Ефанов К. И. Классовая борьба в чечено-ингушском ауле в период социалистического строительства, Грозный, 1979, р.11).



## A New Uprising

**July In 1937-38** the purges, rather without surprise, sparked a new wave of anti-Soviet resistance. This time, the leaders were a writer **Hassan Israilov** and a lawyer **Mairbek Sheripov**, who operated in the mountains of Chechnya and Ingushetia. Having achieved total control of the mountains, in Galanchozh region the rebels called for a “Temporary People’s Revolutionary Government”, which was headed by **Hassan Israilov** himself.

**In the 1930s**, the anti-soviet guerilla movement was led by **Makalu Gazgireev**, who inflicted severe reprisals upon local traitors as well as Russian occupants.

Chechnya and Ingushetia suffered greatly under the Soviet Rule. But the repression was not cost-free for the occupiers, either: between **1918** and **1944**, more than **20,000** Russian soldiers (occupants) perished from the hands of the Chechens and Ingushs defending their homeland.



## Mistrust

When Germany invaded the Soviet Union **in 1941**, the Soviet Government did not enlist Chechens and Ingushs to the front. The reason for this was, of course, mistrust of the empire towards these peoples, but plans for deportation were already being brewed.

**Starting from the summer of 1942**, the Soviet air force, as if fighting against the Germans who were on the approaches of the Caucasus, mercilessly bombarded the Chechen and Ingush peaceful population, due to which in some regions the number of losses exceeded the number of those who had survived (Abdurakhman Avtorkhanov).



## *Deportation*

**History has preserved the crude exclamation of Iosip Broz Tito directed against the Kremlin: “Hey, you, degraded savages of the universe, where are the Chechen people?”**

The launch of the deportation operation codenamed “Chechevitsa” (lentil) was announced on the radio at 02:00 on February 23, 1944. The deportation of the entire people was unprecedented even for Stalin’s well-oiled repressive machine that had already claimed lives of millions.

In the course of the operation “Chechevitsa” 50 people were killed for an attempt to escape and 20,000 firearms were expropriated.



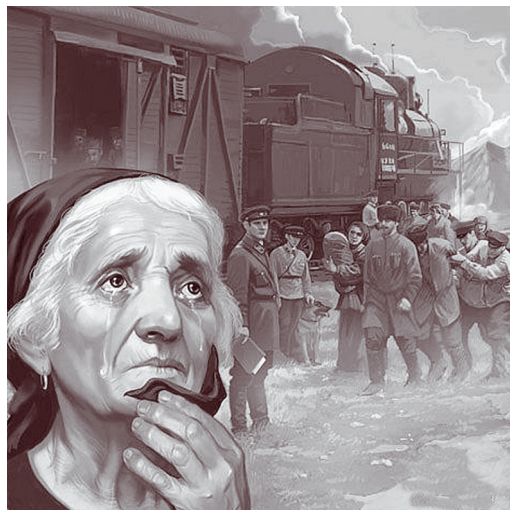
One year before the deportation, the Caucasus was home to about one million Chechens and Ingush. The republic stretched on 19,700 square kilometres. Oil exploitation had just started and had already reached a significant amount of 3-4 million tons a year.

### How were the Chechens and Ingush Deported?

**From the end of 1943**, over **120,000 NKVD** soldiers and **30,000** officers were deployed into the Chechen-Ingush Republic. This armada was split into small groups and spread into the mountains to study the terrain and the possibilities for maneuvering.

**On February 23, 1944**, on the very day of deportation, the troops organised public celebrations “in honour of the Soviet Army” gathering practically the entire villages.

In a moment, the troops arrested the unarmed male population and announced the ready verdict: deportation for high treason. Women and children were given two hours to prepare for a days-long trip. **Now literally two captive nations were massed into Grozny**, loaded into the infamous cargo railway cars (180 echelons in all) and sent off to Kazakhstan and other republics of Central Asia.



Many of the deserted villages were burnt down, so that no resistance groups that had miraculously survived could operate.

## Executions

As was the case with many other deportations in **Stalin's** times, those who could not withstand difficult transportation were eliminated. Such executions were most common in **Galanchozh** District where up to **8,000** people got a bullet in their head. The bodies were gathered and dumped into Galanchozh lake to cover the tracks.

Some, such as the patients of **Urus-Martan** hospital, were outright marked as “untransportable” and shot. The same happened in **Nazran, Achkhoi-Martan, Shali, Nashkha, Itumkale, Gudermes, Cheberlo, Nazhai-Yurt** and anywhere, where some sort of hospital was operational.

According to **Ziauddin Malsagov**, who happened to witness the atrocities, the situation in the villages of **Malkhesta** community was dreadful. He described the horrors of **1944**: bodies of murdered villagers lay on both sides of the village road, there was no family spared. The scene of execution of the villagers hiding in a nearby cave was out of a horror movie: among hundreds of dead one could even see a sitting mother hugging her children in a desperate attempt to save them.

Later, the identity of the “project” author became known. The fate of the “untransportables” was decided by a **KGB** commissar **Sergey Nikiforovich Kruglov**. When **in 1956** his guilt was confirmed, he committed suicide.

## Burning People Alive



**Haibakh tower**

In **Huli, Tsori, Targim** or other mountainous villages of Ingushetia a part of local elders, men and women who could not walk in the deep snow, were gathered. The **NKVD** decided to eliminate them on the spot not through shooting, but rather by burning. For instance, **several members of Ozdoev family, Ozdoev Isai, Ozdoev Toazo** and his son **Kaharma, Ozdoeva Shashi, Ozdoev Usman** as well as **Fugoeva Baighaz** and many others, were burnt alive in **Ali Miakiev's** house. The doomed to death screamed and begged for help, but in vain. These were few out of many that perished in flames set by the **NKVD** troops in charge of the deportations.



**Chechen children**

## **The Haibach Tragedy**

Of horror stories told by the survivors of the tragedy, the **Haibach tragedy** stands out. **On February 27, 1944** frost and snow reigned in the mountainous village **Haibach** of **Nachkhuo community**. Locals had already been rounded up for deportation, but due to snowstorms their transportation was impossible. It was decided to place the people in the newly built village stable, as if to protect them from the cold. The locals even brought hay to fill the holes in the walls and floor.

The children grew hungry, their parents asked, “What shall we do?”

The answer was, “We’ll feed everyone.”

At 11 pm the infamous General **Serov** called up and the people’s fate was determined...

By order of Major General **Gvishiani** the stable was surrounded, the doors were heavily barred and the building was set on fire. Rounds of machine guns made sure nobody could survive.

All of a sudden, it started to rain. However, it was too late - **705** villagers had burnt altogether.

***Ad notam:** in Khatin German Fascists burnt 150 people at a time. This terrible fact has been condemned by the whole world until now, while everyone has kept silent regarding the Haibach tragedy.*

*Even more ironically, when the entire village was burning in the stable, a hero of World War II from Haibach, Beksultan Gazojev sacrificed himself for the “soviet homeland” near Novgorod-Seversky in Ukraine.*

## Order

“The official order of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation on the abolition of Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic and Re-settlement of its population” to Central Asia and Kazakhstan was only published more than a year later, **in June 1946**.

### The Official Motive for the Deportation:

*“Many representatives of Chechens and Ingushs voluntarily joined various armed formations created by the Germans and together with the Germans fought against the Red Army. In response to German orders, they formed armed gangs to attack the soviet power from the rear. Since the majority of the population of Chechnya and Ingushetia did not resist this plan, Chechen-Ingush Republic is declared abolished and its population shall be re-settled.”*

The decree issued by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union **on March 7, 1944** orders:

*“To deport to other regions of the USSR all the Chechens and Ingushs living in the autonomous republics or in adjacent territories and to liquidate the Chechen – Ingush ASSR.”*



Tschetschene.

## The Deportation Years

(1944-1957)

During the deportation years - that is **between 1944 and 1957** - all of the deported were deprived of the right to possess a passport.

More than that, **in 1944-1957** any use of words describing national identity of Chechens and Ingushs was banned. The state formation **Chechen-Ingush ASSR** disappeared from the world and soviet maps.

According to the latest data the overall number of the deported people is believed to be around **650,000**, of which a significant part died during the transportation or in the years of exile.

It is noteworthy that during the first year of deportation, **in 1945**, only **2,230** people were born, while **44,652** died. Only in one year **42,422** people perished.

The decrease in the number of Vainakh population continued until **1949**.

The overall number of deported Chechens and Ingushs fell to **365,173 people** compared to **650,000 in 1944**. In all, during **13** years of deportation **50%** of Vainakh genofond were annihilated.

The number of Chechens deported from Daghestan amounted to **39,000**, of which **20,000** lives were lost. The number of Ingushs expatriated from Vladikavkaz, and other regions of Ossetia, still remains unknown.



**Chechen woman with a child, 1956, Kazakhstan**

**In 1944**, or at the beginning of deportation, **134,178** Ingushs were deported.

**In 1949**, i.e. after five years, almost half of the Ingushs were dead. Only **76,110** survived, which is close to genocide.

The process of deportation of the Vainakhs ended **on March 9, 1944**.

**Russian occupants inflicted savage reprisals on intelligentsia - progressive thinkers from Chechen-Ingushetia. In 1944-1957**, were shot prominent writers:

**S. Baduev, A. Dudaev, A. Aiskhanov** and others.

Ingush and Chechen writers (chroniclers) – **Khalid Oshaev, Idris Bazorkin, Arbi Mamakaev, Abdurahman Avtorkhanov...** – did not leave their people in exile.

## **60-year Delay**

**On February 26, 2004** the European Parliament recognized the genocide of the Chechen people committed by Russia **on February 23, 1944**. Article 15 of the document reads: The European Parliament “Believes that the deportation of the entire Chechen people to Central Asia on 23 February 1944 on the orders of Stalin constitutes an act of genocide within the meaning of the Fourth Hague Convention of 1907 and the Convention for the Prevention and Repression of the Crime of Genocide adopted by UN General Assembly on 9 December 1948.”

**Evaluation:** Even if we agree with the most understated figures of death rate amongst the deported Vainakhs, which amounts to **23.7%**, it still exceeds the **20%** “threshold” and is explicitly sufficient to qualify the scale of the deaths as “genocide”, in any definition of this term. (John B. Dunlop, – Russia Confronts Chechnya: Roots of a Separatist Conflict, CUP 1998).





American and Soviet soldiers on Elba

## Elba Island Meeting

Symbolically, in **April 1945**, after exactly one year from the deportation, a Chechen commander of the 28<sup>th</sup> regiment **Movlid Visaitov** was one of the first Soviet officers to have reached **Elba** and shake hands with an American general **Richard Bowling**. For outstanding heroism M. Visaitov was awarded by President Harry Truman the American order – “Legion of Honour”, a Purple Heart decoration.

Oddly enough, after 45 years, Americans decided to re-create the meeting at the Elba. The Russians quickly came up with their candidate, but **General Bowling** announced publicly: “ I shook hands with a different person then. He was non-Russian and blue-eyed!” It was only the fuss and the American insisted that **on May 5, 1990 Movlid Visaitov** was awarded the title “Hero of the Soviet Union” posthumously. So, only with the help of Americans it became possible to introduce the Chechen hero of **Elba** to the world.



## One Year after the Repatriation

The worthy sons of the **Vainakh** peoples – **Abdurahman Avtorkhanov, Khamid Ozbek, Salau-di Gugaev...** - spared no effort to return Chechens and Ingushs to their homeland.

In Grozny Russians had occupied the houses of the deported Chechens. It is noteworthy that they had done a similar thing before. Russians were not shy to move into the houses of the people deported from eastern Poland to Estonia. Grozny was not an ex-

ception. **The Russians** did not have any intention to return the property even after Khrushchev allowed **the Vainakhs** to return. Little is known about the fact that in **1958 Grozny** Russians staged a pogrom on the newly returned people demanding the return of Chechens and Ingushs to the places of exile, shouting “Death to the Chechens!” and other similar slogans.

The Soviet Authorities did not even bother to prevent the anti- Chechen atrocities.

### *New Genocide of the Ingushs*

**From October 30 to November 3, 1992 Russian-Ossetian gangs carried out ethnic cleansing and drove out of their own land about 80, 000 Ingushs. Over 800 died and almost 2,000 people are considered to be missing.**

The Ingushs who returned from exile could not reclaim their property in the city of **Vladikavkaz** and **Prigorodny** District, since this territory had been unjustly merged with the North Ossetian Autonomous Republic.

Some Ingushs, overcoming many hardships, were nevertheless able to return. **In April 1992**, pro-independence moods in Ingushetia were at peak. The main demands included the re-creation of the Ingush republic inside Russia as well as return of the right bank of **the Terek** river and **Prigorodny** District to Ingushetia.



For the **Kremlin** too many things were happening at once and having **Ingushs** in check through **Ossetians** was decided yet again.

The events unfolded in the following way:

**On October 23**, an armoured carrier of the Ossetian “guards” overran an Ingush girl “by mistake” in the village of Yuzhny. Outraged crowds gathered in the village center, upon which the local Ossetian police decided to use force. Indiscriminate shooting into air developed into a skirmish leaving three Ingushs and two Ossetian policemen dead.

The next day, **on October 24**, Ingushs of **Prigorodny** District started forming self-defence units.

**On October 25** Head of North Ossetia, **Akhsarbeg Galazov** appeared on TV and demanded either to disband the units or be ready for a crackdown.

Already **on October 29**, started pogroms of Ingush villages of **Yandievo (Dachnoye)**, **Gadaborshevo (Kurtat)**, **Bazorkino (Chermen)**, in which the so-called Ossetian **OMON** (special police unit) was most active. Ingushs disarmed a checkpoint in **Chermen**, seized 24 police officers and demanded to cease the bloodshed. Despite that, Russian-Ossetian raids continued and the Ingushs had to defend their houses barehanded.

**On October 30** Russian troops from Sputnik and Yuzhny moved towards Ingush villages followed by Ossetian paramilitary units. The Ingush population was left alone against the huge punitive machine, the Chechen Republic **Ichkeria** did not get involved in the conflict, making only oral statements.

A large scale ethnic cleansing was carried out until **November 3** expelling up to **80,000** Ingushs from their homes, while up to **800** were left dead and around **2,000** are still missing.



## Graves Dug in Advance



In October and November 1992, the ethnic cleansing and genocide of Ingushs was carried out by the following military units:

- Division “Don” - 8,000 people
- Military college - 1,500 people
- Vladikavkaz garrison - 8,000 people
- Pskov division - 8,000 people
- “Spetsnaz” - 3,000 people
- Armoured brigade “Iri” - 6,000 people
- Ossetian guard - 3,000 people
- Ossetian OMON - 4,500 people
- Two regiments of Cossacks - 4,000 people
- Ossetian volunteers - 10 - 12,000 people

The overall strength of the invading **armada** accounted for up to **60,000** men confronted by **80,000** Ingush civilians.

There are confirmed reports that graves had been dug before **November 3**, for inevitable civilian deaths and the traditional **KGB**-style crime cover-up. Lots of Ingushs were hastily buried in those common graves.

By the resolution adopted on 21 October 2010, the European Parliament recognized that in the autumn of 1992, in North Ossetia, was carried out the ethnic cleansing of Ingush population, the number of forcefully displaced persons was specified – 80,000 Ingushs.

*A New Russian Aggression*

**By the end of the 1980s, the Chechen-Ingush Republic topped the list of infant mortality, as well as various cancer diseases, in the Soviet Union.**



The life in the Chechen-Ingush Soviet Autonomous Republic was not flattering. **In the 1980s**, pro-independence moods especially spiralled after the events of **April 9, 1989** in Tbilisi, when the Soviet Army crashed a pro-independence demonstration leaving **20** people dead.

**On November 23-25, 1990** was convened the **Chechen I National Congress**, in which more than **1,000** delegates (from village soviets to members of parliament) took part. A new elective body, **the National Congress** was formed.

In response, President **Boris Yeltsin** declared “a state of emergency” **on May 17, 1991**, imposing a direct presidential rule of the republic.



## Jokhar Dudaev

**On June 8**, the **Chechen National Congress** elected an Air Force **General** of the soviet army **Jokhar Dudaev** as its speaker, marking a landmark in the struggle for freedom.

**Already on September 1**, the National Congress abolished **the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic**, with all the power going into the hands of **Dudaev's** National Guard. The same day Lenin's statue was brought down in the centre of Grozny and as a symbol of evil was thrown into the ravine.

**On October 5, 1991** Dudaev's National Guard seized the **KGB HQ**, sparking outrage in Moscow and demands to disarm the guard.

**On October 27, 1991** free and democratic universal **elections** were held in Chechnya electing **the Parliament** and **President** of the country. The elections were monitored by groups of observers from many countries including **Georgia**.

Already **on November 1, 1991** President **Jokhar Dudaev** declared the independence of the Chechen Republic.





From that day to the start of war **in 1994**, Moscow constantly resorted to various provocations against the small republic, including economic blockade, sabotage, blackmail, intimidation, bombing and burning of crops. By such actions the Russian Empire was trying to bring the Chechen people to their knees in order to force them give up the obtained freedom and independence.

In response, **on March 12, 1992**, the Chechen Republic **Ichkeria** adopted a new Constitution.

Meanwhile, a bloody **KGB-backed coup** had overthrown President **Zviad Gamsakhurdia** in Tbilisi. **Gamsakhurdia**, along with his parliament, was forced to leave the country and flee to Grozny recognizing Chechnya's independence at an emergency session **on March 13, 1992**.

**On March 31, 1992** an attempt of the **Kremlin-backed** alternative government, headed by a Moscow Chechen **Ruslan Khazbulatov**, to organize a **coup** failed.

Already **in May 1992**, an economic blockade was imposed: all bank accounts linked with Chechnya were frozen, roads and air links were blocked.

**In April 1993**, due to the severity of the situation, **Jokhar Dudaev** temporarily disbanded the parliament.

**In December 1993**, once again the opposition attempted to organize an armed coup, but in vain.

**In 1993**, Russian secret services committed a terrorist act against President Jokhar Dudaev's advisers (**brothers Utsiev**) while they were on a business trip to **Great Britain**. They intended to order national passports and currency for the Democratic Chechen Republic.

## **The First Russian-Chechen War**

**Since May 1994** the Russian Federation openly supported armed revolts of the pro-Moscow opposition, though without success.

**On December 11, 1994** Russian occupational military troops invaded Chechnya, **the First Russian-Chechen War** began.

It was one of the most devastating wars (**1994-1996**) in terms of the scale of destruction and death toll among the civilian population, **10%** i.e. **100,000** lives were lost, mostly children, women and old people who had nothing to do with the war.

## **An Attempt of Repeated Deportation**

It is noteworthy that exactly on the fiftieth anniversary of the deportation of Vainakhs the Russian Defence Minister, **Pavel Grachov**, acts according to President **Yeltsin's** order, giving the following instructions: `Осуществить МАССОВУЮ ДЕПОРТАЦИЮ местного населения... в другие районы Российской Федерации` (Conduct mass deportation of the local population... to other regions of the Russian Federation).

Already **on November 30, 1994**, a secret order **No 2137** issued by **Yeltsin** authorised the Russian army to use any weapon at their disposal.

Order No 2137 was operative for 11 days!



## The Condemned and Executed Pupils

**On December 19, 1994** started an artillery bombardment of **Grozny**, resulting in thousands of casualties. **180,000** locals fled the city.

Already **in December** the same year, aerial bombardment completely destroyed the National Museum, the Central Library, Grozny State University, many secondary schools, hospitals, kindergartens and other institutions.

**December 31, 1994** marked the infamous land assault on the city with massive use of tanks. Hundreds of Russian tanks were destroyed thanks to a skillfully organised defence, resulting in hundreds of Russian losses. Hundreds of soldiers were taken captive.

**On January 3, 1995** Russian Air Force bombarded the central market of **Shali**, as well as its central hospital and car market, causing thousands of civilian deaths.

**In February 1995**, Russians simultaneously attacked the Chechen towns: Argun, Shali and Gudermes.

**On March 27, 1995** a refugee camp was bombed in **Serzhen-Yurt** and the refugees were killed.

According to the **ICRC**, **by March 1995** more than **460,000** refugees fled the republic. Many of them, especially old people and children died before reaching the destination.

**On April 7-8, 1995** one of the most well-known massacres occurred in the village of **Samashki**. Using the banned vacuum, fragmentation and cluster bombs, the Russian command purposefully killed hundreds of local civilians. **370** houses were burnt down, while soldiers tried pupils in a village school and executed many adolescents. They threw hand grenades at the school basement where old people, women and children had been hiding.

## **Chirac's Protest**

Not always was the international community turning a deaf ear to the Chechen tragedy. **In May 1995**, the French President **Jacques Chirac** declined the Kremlin's invitation to the 9th of May festivities and chose not to travel to Moscow in protest at the Chechen tragedies.

## Marionettes

In November, Moscow decided to embark on yet another attempt of installing a pro-Russian leader in Chechnya. **On November 1, 1995** Boris Yeltsin appointed a Soviet “Apparatchik” **Doku Zavgayev** as the republic’s “president”.



Meanwhile, one of the heaviest battles of the war took place near **Gudermes** **on December 14-25, 1995.**

**On December 8, 1995** the puppet government of “imposter” president, **Zavgayev**, signed a treaty announcing Chechnya a subject of the Russian Federation.

**On December 17, 1995** Moscow hurriedly sponsored “elections” on the territory under its control, electing “president” and “parliament” assuring high (65%) support for the puppet leader.

## “Carry the Commenced cause to its Completion”

**January-February 1996** turned into the period of active battles.

**On April 21, 1996**, through using a radio-guided bomb and satellite technology, Russia managed to kill the first President of Chechnya, **Jokhar Dudaev**. The last phrase uttered by the selfless president as his last will was: “Carry the commenced cause to its completion...”

**On August 21, 1996** another convoy of refugees from Grozny was attacked from the air. Yet again, hundreds of dead.

## Unfulfilled Russian-Chechen Agreements

Overall, three peace agreements were signed during the first Russian-Chechen war: **in July 1995** and **in May and June of 1996**. All the three agreements on the cessation of hostilities were unilaterally breached by Russia.

Talks held **on May 27-28 of 1996** culminated into signing of a ceasefire by the new Chechen President **Zelimkhan Yandarbiev** and the Russian Prime Minister **Viktor Chernomyrdin**. In parallel, without any prior notice, **Yeltsin** flew to **Grozny** and claimed a victory in the war, announcing new illegal parliamentary elections together with **Zavgayev**.



The “elections” were indeed held **on June 11-16 of 1996** resulting in activation of Chechen rebels. **On August 6**, Chechen fighters encircled Russian occupants in Grozny. Russia again resorted to aerial bombardments despite the imminent danger of civilian deaths. Notably, together with the survivors, Russian soldiers started to flee the city.



Refugees

Russia only managed to avoid a total fiasco by signing a peace deal **on August 31, 1996** in **Khasavyurt** (Daghestan Autonomy). The document was prepared under the direct participation of **Tom Guildemann**, head of the **OSCE** mission in Grozny.

Known as the **Khasavyurt Treaty**, the new peace deal “On Founding Principles of Relations Between the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic” reached with the mediation of the OSCE office in Grozny, obliged the sides to “refrain from the use of force for solving disputes and

policy of bullying.” The treaty left the issue of the status of Chechnya open **until 2005**.

**On May 12, 1997** another intergovernmental treaty was signed in Moscow between the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic, Ichkeria, which implied that the relations between the two countries would be established according to the principles of peaceful co-existence – the preamble was the will to cease the centuries-long opposition.

On the same day, **May 12, 1997**, proceeding from the presidents’ agreement, the treaty Between the governments of the Russian Federation and Chechnya on Peace and Bilateral Relations was signed by the two presidents **Boris Yeltsin** and **Aslan Maskhadov**.

The treaty entailed three main principles:

The Parties refuse to use force while solving disputes;

Relations between parties are to be governed by universal principles and norms of international law;

The treaty is to become a basis for the whole complex of future relations, negotiations and treaties.







## *The Second Russian-Chechen War*

**“ I find it necessary to hold a military tribunal in order to give the adequate legal estimation to the events developed in Chechnya during the whole period of military operations.” – Rudolf Bindig, Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, member of the Committee on Legal affairs.**



**On September 5, 1999** the Russian army once again invaded Chechnya. The Second Russian-Chechen War, which continues up to the present, was launched. The emergence of **Vladimir Putin** to the Moscow political scene is widely and rightly believed to be the key reason for the decision of launching the Chechen bloodbath yet another time.

Launching of the invasion was preceded by the explosions of apartment blocks in **Moscow** and **Volgodonsk**, which the authorities were quick to blame on Chechens. Many observers, however, including the infamous **Vladimir Litvinenko** said the **FSB** was behind the terrorist acts to engineer the pre-text of the war and coming of Putin to power.

The Second Russian-Chechen War started with simultaneous aerial and artillery bombardment. One of the first missiles fell into Grozny market killing **167** people with another bomb hitting a hospital leaving **27** dead and many more wounded.

## Aerial Bombardments

**From September 21, 1999** the bombardment intensified and Russia asolated the air domain of Chechnya (Grozny). Huge oil refinery and reservoirs were set ablaze inflicting huge damage on the city.

**On October 6**, a bus carrying refugees was exploded near Grozny leaving **28** dead.

**On October 21**, Russian occupants hit a local maternity house, the central post office and the entire district of **“Olympijski”** killing thousands. During the bombardment the Russians used ground to ground missiles of **“Zemlya-Zemlya”** and **“SKAD”** type.

On the same day a mosque was hit in **Kalinina** killing more than a hundreds of worshipers .

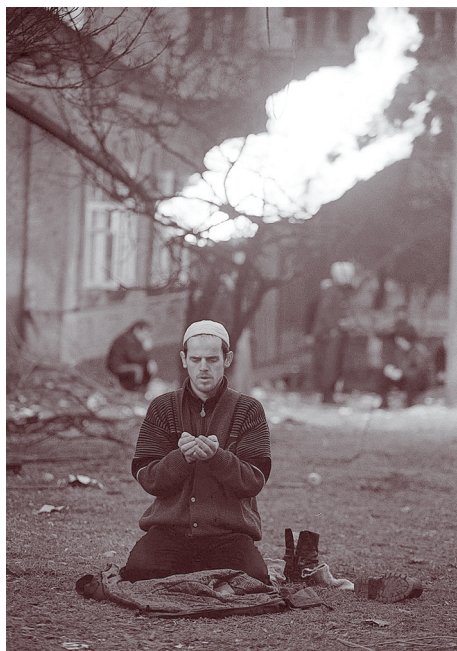
**On October 29**, Russia promised the civilians a humanitarian corridor, but many people fleeing through the Petropavlovsk road towards Daghestan and other convoys towards Ingushetia were hit with bombs.

An eyewitness of **October 29** bombings, **Lipkhan Bazaeva** of Russian civil rights group **“Memorial”**, remembered that **“Suddenly they started to bomb our column from the air and the road became full of bodies...”**.

**On November 9**, a large settlement of Bamut was completely destroyed.

**By November 1999**, the number of refugees who fled to Ingushetia is over **200,000** and to Daghestan – **100,000**. Some **7,000** people found safe haven in Pankisi district, Georgia.





## Escape from Grozny

**On February 1, 2000** President **Aslan Maskhadov** and his entourage, the Parliament of the country, the government and major part of the armed forces, retreated from Grozny in concord. During the withdrawal, up to 3,000 Chechen patriots lost lives in **Alkhan-Kala** minefield.

## Putin's Slaughterhouse

There is not enough information about the fact that **Vladimir Putin** is the author to the re-creation of concentration camps in the 21st century. Concentration – or as Russians would call them “filtration” – camps in **Khan-Kala**, **Chernokozovo**, **Pap-5** (near Grozny), **Urus Martan** boarding school, **Achkhoi Martan** poultry farm and **Guoch** became operational **in February 2000**.

The scale of atrocities committed in different parts of Chechnya during the second war is astounding. One would even think that different Russian units were part of an undeclared competition of brutality. Thus, **on February 5, 2000**, St. Petersburg special forces carried out a real mass murder in **Novye Aldi** killing many locals, including pregnant women, one of them was even in the ninth month of pregnancy. “Orders from above” would be the most common answer of the soldiers to the question of the locals “Why?”

**In March**, a rather large village of **Goichu** (Komsomolskoye), all the 1100 Chechen warriors who defended the village were annihilated. From that day onwards, the village previously home to **6,000** families ceased to exist.

**On November 28, 2000** Russian aviation bombarded Georgian villages in **Pankisi**, home to 7000 Chechen refugees.

**On November 30, 2002** **Malika Umajieva**, the Mayor of Alkhanyurt, was physically destroyed.

## Human Rights Protectors

*The Chechen Republic became a cemetery of moral values  
honoured by the Western world.*

*Zbigniew Brzezinski*



There were still a few people in the west willing to raise voice.

**Since June 21, 2000** three EU human rights experts took up their duties in Grozny.

**On July 26, 2000** a French philosopher **Andre Glucksmann** published his account of travel to Chechnya in a German newspaper “**Die Zeit**” warning the world that the biggest danger stems from Russia, as it is exasperated and unpredictable.

**On October 25, 2000** **Human Rights Watch** also published accounts of previously unknown atrocities in **Chernokozovo**.

**On February 25, 2001** experts from **Memorial** discovered a mass grave near **Khankala** military base. Bodies of 48 people, including three women, were ex-



homed. Virtually all the victims were civilians with clear signs of torture on their bodies, including burning, amputation, skinning, etc.

**On April 10, 2001** another mass grave was discovered near former Russian checkpoints. It was apparent that all the victims had been tortured when they were still alive.

Only in **Mesker-Yurt** bodies of more than **20** people were discovered. Signs of torture were rule rather than exception.

### **“Return to Russia”**

While even the limited presence of foreign eyes in Chechnya could not pose any challenge to the large-scale atrocities ordered by **Putin**, constrained missions such as that of the **OSCE** did pose significant inconvenience for the Kremlin. Their “problem” was solved gradually, but simply. For example, **on January 2, 2003** the Russian aggressors refused to extend the term for the **OSCE** mission which had to leave Chechnya.



Conveniently, a Moscow-backed referendum was organised in the blood-drained republic **on March 23, 2003**. Despite mass-boycott and international condemnation, the referendum was used as legitimating for “constitutional” return of Chechnya to Russia. As Putin Cinically declared, “ From now on Chechnya has become a part of Russia once again.”

## Presidents' Fate



**On April 21, 1996 Jokhar Dudaev**, the founder and the first President of the Independent Republic of Ichkeria, was murdered in a terrorist attack.

Putin’s hand stretched far. **On February 13, 2004** Russian intelligence was able to organize the assassination of Chechnya’s second president **Zelimkhan Yandarbiev** in **Katar**. Operatives of the Russian military intelligence were arrested by **Katar** authorities with incontrovertible evidence but later they were extradited to Russia and, naturally, all the traces were lost .

The third Chechen president **Aslan Maskhadov** was killed **on March 8, 2005** in **Tolstoi-Yurt** village. His body has not been given to the family for proper burial yet.

**aid-Khalim Saidulaev** was the last Chechen leader to be killed. Like that of **Maskhadov’s**, his dead body is still “property of the state”.



## People's Disappearance

**In January 2003, Vakhiti Dzhabrailov** was seized by armed men in his own house. Until now he is considered lost.

**In August 2004, Sultan Khatuev** was detained in the Ingush refugee camp, no one has seen him either alive or dead since then.

**In January 2004**, twenty-year-old **Louisa Mutaeva** was arrested by Russians when she was visiting her mother. Her subsequent fate is still unknown.

**On September 2, 2009** someone called on **Enisa Ibragimova's** mobile phone, after which she left home and never came back again. On that very day, the same thing happened to **Khava Abdulazizova**. **On September 2, 2009** Madina Arsamizueva disappeared. Several days later her body was returned to her family by security officials.

According to the latest verdict of the **European Court** of Human Rights, **Russia** was found guilty of disappearance of three residents of Chechnya - **Sultan Khatuev, Louisa Mutaeva** and **Vakhiti Dzhabrailov** – in 2003-2004, while the inquiry into these disappearances was found inefficient, and was charged 200,000 euros of compensation.

So far, the **European Court** of Human Rights has punished Russia fourty times for encroaching on people’s lives. However, a natural question which arises is – Who will take the responsibility for **300, 000** more deaths in Chechnya and In-gushetia?

Chechens are killed not only in the war, but also in Russian jails. It would be sufficient to enumerate several famous surnames of the Chechens who became victims of the regime: **Ruslan Alikhadzhiev** – speaker of the Chechen Parliament, killed by **FSB** agents in Lefortovo prison; **Turpal-Ali Atgeriev** – the former Deputy Prime Minister in Aslan Maskhadov’s government, killed in a Russian prison; **Sal-man Raduev** – Chechen field commander, killed in Solikamsk prison; **Lecha Is-lamov** - Chechen fighter, poisoned by **FSB** agents with radioactive thallium and tortured to death in the infamous White Swan prison in Solikamsk; **Vakhid Mur-dashev** – former head of Maskhadov’s cadre directorate, kidnapped on a helicop-ter by **FSB** agents from “Chernokozovo” isolation unit in Chechnya, after which he disappeared.

**Murad Gasaev** – Chechen refugee who was extradited to Russia by Spain where he applied for asylem. He is still missing.



## Political Assassinations

**On December 17, 1996** Russian KGB/FSB agents carried out one of the most terrifying campaigns against the Belgian, Norwegian and Swedish physicians working for International Red Cross Organization who were trying to aid the heroic Chechen people.

And the atrocities continued: **on April 20, 2003** human rights activist **Sura Betieva** was shot together with her family.

**On February 28, 2009** **Madina Ausheva, Ibrahim Evloev and Arkamat Ganaev** were killed in **Nazran** and their vandalised bodies were returned to the families.

**On October 25, 2009** an Ingush dissident, **Maksharip Aushev** was publicly riddled with bullets in his car, later his whole family was annihilated.

**On May 1, 2009**, at **Troitskaya** station, a well-regarded religious figure of Ingushetia, **Said-Ibrahim Kalimatov** was shot by Russian military men at the gate of his own house.

A Number of former or current officials whose loyalty was in question were not spared:

**On June 13, 2009** Russian soldiers shot

former Vice Premier of the republic **Bashir Aushev**.

**On June 13, 2009** **Abdurakhman Kartoev** (85 years of age), an Ingush religious figure who had been kidnapped by Russians **on June 6**, was found dead right at his own doorstep.

**On July 15, 2009** **Natalia Estemirova**, a human rights activist, was brutally killed by Russian occupants. In a month after Natalia Estemirova's murder, on August 10, law enforcement officers kidnapped **Zarema Sadulaeva**, head of a humanitarian organization "Let us Save this Generation", and her husband **Alik Dzhabrailov**. They were shot to death on that same night and found on the outskirts of the town.

**On August 12, 2009** the Construction Minister **Ruslan Amerkhanov** was shot in his own office in the capital of Ingushetia, **Magas**.

Russia made it a tradition to terrorise anyone who dared to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. In fact, there are many cases where victims who sued Russia in the court were simply killed.



For example, **Umar Israilov**, a Chechen refugee who was suing Russia in the European Court of Human Rights, was killed in Austria **on January 13, 2009**.

Then comes the list of murdered human rights defenders and journalists.

**In 1994-2009**, only in Russia itself, KGB/FSB liquidated hundreds of dissidents and public figures: **Dmitriy Kholodov, Galina Starovoitova, Sergei Yushchenko, Yuri Shchekochikhin, Ivan Khutorskoy, Daniil Sisoiev, Sergei Magnitsky, Anna Polytkovskaya, Stanislav Markelov, Anastasia Baburova, Aleksei Beliaev, Aleksandr Antonov, Sheikh Murtaz-Ali** (Daghestan)...

270 outstanding personalities in all. Outrageous murders are still continuing.

The exact number of people who have disappeared or have been kidnapped is depressing. Their exact number is unknown although the count is surely in tens of thousands.

Many of those cases were appealed in the **European Court of Human Rights**, in Strasbourg but Russia refuses to comply with any of those decisions calling the court “politicised”. In fact, the largest caseload for the court comes from Russia. Over 130 rulings are still awaiting their implementation.

If a world ranking of political killings in the history of any given country was put together, Russia would surely top the list.



## Ecocide

**In 1992-2010**, international experts qualified the acts committed by the Russian Federation in Chechnya and Ingushetia as most violent crime against humanity – a real genocide of the Vainakh peoples.

On the basis of factual materials an American expert **Ken Alibek** was able to prove that the Russian forces systematically tested the effect of various chemicals linked with biological and chemical weapons on the civilian population of Chechnya.

With active support of Russian secret services was planned the purposeful spread of the previously unknown, extremely rare diseases for Chechnya: **Drug addiction, alcoholism, prostitution and different venereal infections.**

The epidemic of AIDS, which had not been recorded in Ichkeria before the beginning of war, has reached dangerous proportions.

The ecology of Chechnya has been seriously damaged, due to which the country confronts the looming threat of eco-catastrophe: the overall number of diseases, as well as of sick people, is constantly increasing.

The continuing anti-Chechen war resulted in the contamination of an estimated 30% of Chechen territory, while 40% of the territory does not meet environmental standards for life.

Major environmental problems include radioactive waste and radiation, oil leaks into the ground from bombarded plants and refineries, and pollution of soil and surface water.

As a result of the massive use of all sorts of explosives and bombs, a major part of Chechnya's land has become unusable for agriculture.

Chechnya faces an outbreak of dangerous diseases. The Chechen gene pool is being destroyed gradually and steadily.

## The Effects of the Russian Occupation

Specialists believe that it may take fifty years of painstaking, continuous work to repair the damage inflicted on the flora and fauna of Chechnya.

During both Russian-Chechen wars more than 80% of historical monuments were either completely or partially destroyed.

Up to the present, the occupants conduct mass "cleansings" in Chechnya and Ingushetia, distinguished by enormous brutality. Such campaigns are usually accompanied by rapes, muggings, captures and liquidation of thousands of people.

The catastrophic results of the two bloody wars cannot be overestimated. The overall number of the civilian death toll has never been accurately verified but even the most conservative estimates are terrifying.

It is believed that **since 1994**, up to a third of the entire civilian population – that is up to **300,000** people – died or were seriously injured as a result of the two wars. Among them:

1. Up to **42,000** children under the age of **15** are believed to have been killed;
2. **30,000** children became disabled;
3. **40,000** children lost their parents;





4. More than **20,000** people are still missing;
5. **20,000** are still suffering in Russia's inhumane prisons (concentration camps), **500** of them are women.

It is remarkable that not always was the Russian fire targeted at the Chechens. According to a Russian film director and politician **Stanislav Govorukhin**, over **35,000** ethnic Russians died during the endless bombardments of **Grozny**.

The two wars completely destroyed **Chechnya's** infrastructure. Virtually all the cities, and especially the capital **Jokhar** ( former **Grozny**), were completely destroyed.

Today, all males between the ages of 11 and 65 are regarded as potential "bandits", while any housewife can easily be accused of being a "supporter of the bandits" or even a sniper.

During the war, trading with dead bodies has become common practice amongst the Russian authorities.

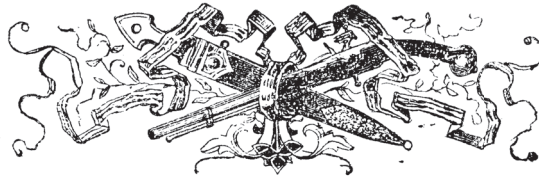
**Beginning from 1994** up to the present, the legal successor of Tsarist Russia – **The Russian Federation** – has been conducting the policy of repeated colonization of sovereign states – **Chechnya** and **Ingushetia**, which is accompanied by ethnic cleansings and destruction of gene pool of the Vainakh peoples.



*Instead of an Afterward*

**A Fragment from Aleksandre Kazbegi's story "Memoirs of a Former Shepherd" (1883)**





*OUR entire trip in the plains dragged slowly and with a touch of boredom. At every Cossack station, nagging Cossacks always eager for a fistfight were a common encountering. With the help of prompt shepherds, we would fight our way that ought to have been free for the honest people like us. Only then I understood why they would exclaim at once "God, save us from the Russians' nagging!" Cossacks would rarely let us make a step without a trouble of some sort. But so great was the difference between them and the villages of the Chechens, whose merciless and deceitful image had been entrenched into our minds from childhood!*

*Whenever a Chechen would meet us at the outskirts of a village, he would greet us like old pals and walk us through the village, always joyfully asking about our harvest, peace and matters of Georgia, which they were always curious to learn.*

*A feeling of neighbourness was observed amongst these people. The locals looked at Georgians as at some sort of dynamic force whose fate was directly linked with their life.*

*In Chechen villages you would never see drunk and fallen people like Cossacks spending days in taverns wasting their life, selling their own clothes and even wives to fill their beastly stomachs. You would not see women amongst Chechens who would invite you to a house with a smile of*

*debauchery; you would not only not see a drunken woman, but even a tipsy one, while Russian women, often aged, would stand at the door of a tavern vomiting excessive vodka, being without conscience, mumbling.*

*Often, Cossacks would stand next to them watching this terrifying, shameful picture with indifference or even a smile of delight as they expect some pleasure out of it.*

*The women even swear and drag each other with hair, but this at all does not impress the Cossacks, as if this is the way it should be, as if this kind of life is not deprived of dignity and self-respect. I often encountered the following picture: when a Chechen would bypass a Cossack tavern and run into a picture of loss of honesty and humanity by a woman, - the rude Chechen, as we think of him, would look away, spit out, look into the sky and say "Allah." But you should have heard the voice with which that "Allah" was uttered and how the Chechen was troubled by seeing this decadent scene.*

*You cannot imagine how joyful we were having reached Grozna, where in those times, a Georgian nobleman N. Eristavi was in charge. It was only him who caringly regarded Chechens as humans. For others, being Chechen equalled to being a bandit, outright faulty and deserving a penalty, a lash or two and, in the end, gallows or a one-way ticket to Siberia.*

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