

Thursday 4 september 2008

## RUSSIA

### WEBSITE OWNER'S LAST WORDS TO HIS EDITOR: "ROZA, THEY ARE TAKING ME AWAY"

---

- 1957 When Stalin creates the Chechen-Ingush Republic, Ingushetia fails to recover the 40 per cent of its territory it had lost to North Ossetia during the deportation of Ingushetians and Chechens in 1944. The lost territory includes Prigorodny, a district populated by Ingushetians on the outskirts of Vladikavkaz.
- 1991 Chechnya declares its independence. In a referendum, Ingush districts vote to form a Republic of Ingushetia that is part of the Russian Federation.
- 1992 Fighting breaks out between Ossetians and Ingushetians over Prigorodny. The Russians intervene on the side of the Ossetians.
- 1993 Ruslan Aushev is elected president of Ingushetia.
- 1994 - 1996 First Chechen war as a result of Russian intervention.
- 1997 – 1999 Chechnya's pseudo-independence following a cease-fire and Aslam Maskhadov's election as president.
- 1998 Ruslan Aushev is re-elected president of Ingushetia.
- 1999 – 2000 Second Chechen war. Russia launches an "anti-terrorist" campaign and refuses to recognise Chechnya's independence.
- As a result of the fighting, an influx of 150,000 to 250,000 Chechen refugees almost doubles Ingushetia's population to 490,000. Aushev welcomes the refugees and urges Moscow to negotiate with Maskhadov.
- 2001 Creation of *Ingushetiya.ru* with the help of Murat Zyazikov, a former KGB general.
- 2002 Zyazikov takes over as president of Ingushetia after Aushev has been pushed into resigning.
- The refugees are gradually expelled back to Chechnya. There is growing hostility in Ingushetia towards Chechen and Ingush combatants.
- 2003 First disappearances of Ingush civilians (June).
- 2004 Many Ingush police posts are attacked by Chechen and Ingush rebels, leaving a toll of 98 dead and 104 injured. Shamil Basayev claims responsibility.
- 2007 Terrorist raid on the village of Aliyurt. The scant information available about the raid is published by *Ingushetiya.ru*. The Ingush opposition calls for Zyazikov's replacement, accusing him of failing to take any action in the face of a surge in disappearances (July).
- 2008 The local authorities announce an anti-terrorist operation in Nazran, the former Ingush capital. Journalists find it very difficult to get information and are systematically

deported to neighbouring North Ossetia. The authorities crack down on demonstrations calling for the resignation of Zyazikov, who is widely suspected of actively condoning the system of force disappearances and ransom demands.

*Ingushetiya.ru* owner Magomed Yevloyev is murdered (August).