

Vladimir Putin

The Kremlin, Moscow
Born: 7 October 1952

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

President



Training/education

1975: Law degree from Leningrad University. Joins KGB.

Professional experience

2006: Makes no progress in investigation of murders of at least 17 journalists and disappearance of two others since he came to power.

September 2004: Imposes harsh censorship when he orders attack on school in Beslan, where kidnappers are holding hundreds of children. More than 300 people killed, including many children.

March 2004: Re-elected president with 72.2% of votes.

26 October 2002: Orders attack on Moscow theatre where Chechen commandos are holding hundreds of theatre-goers hostage. More than 100 people killed.

2002: Shuts down *TV6*, station owned by oligarch Boris Berezovsky and critical of government, leaving only one independent TV station in the country.

2001: Has Grigory Pasko, a reporter for Navy newspaper *Boyevaya Vakhta*, sentenced to four years in prison for high treason. Takes control of station *NTV* through purchase by state-controlled conglomerate Gazprom. Efforts to stamp out independent media begin.

26 March 2000: Elected president.

January 2000: Orders arrest of Andrei Babitsky, correspondent for US-funded *Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty* in Daghestan. Held in a camp then freed in exchange for release of several Russian soldiers.

31 December 1999: Becomes president after Boris Yeltsin resigns.

September 1999: Orders resumption of army attacks in Chechnya. French photographer Brice Fleutiaux kidnapped on assignment there.

August 1999: Appointed prime minister by President Yeltsin, who decides to make him his successor.

July 1998: Becomes head of FSB (formerly KGB).

1985: Works for KGB political and military intelligence in Dresden (East Germany).

Hobbies/interests

Lutte russe (sambo) et judo, tennis, ski,

Russian wrestling (sambo), judo, tennis, skiing, hunting Chechens.