VIOLENCE IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS
2009: A Bloody Year

Human Rights and Security Initiative
http://www.csis.org/hrs/
2009: An Uptick in Lethal Force

CSIS staff track, on a daily basis, incidents of violence occurring in the North Caucasus. Our previous reports have focused on four month periods, the last of which illustrated the region’s violent summer months.

In this report, we present our data from the entire year 2009, a year of escalating violence, and we provide a comparison with data from 2008.
Definition of Terms

“Incidents of Violence”:
Incidents of violence include abductions of military personnel and civilians, bombings*, assassinations of key civilian and military leaders**, rebel attacks, police or military operations against suspected militants, destruction of property by militants, and the discovery of weapons.

“North Caucasus”:
The database primarily tracks incidents occurring in Chechnya, Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, North Ossetia, and Dagestan.

* Includes failed detonations
** Includes unsuccessful assassination attempts
Main Findings

In 2009:

• There were more than 1100 incidents of violence compared to 795 the previous year;

• Many of these incidents were deadly, with over 900 fatalities compared to 586 in 2008;

• One third of all incidents in the North Caucasus occurred in the Nazranovskii and Sunzhenskii districts of Ingushetia;

• The number of suicide bombings in the North Caucasus nearly quadrupled from 2008, with the majority occurring in Chechnya.
Incidents of Violence in the North Caucasus
2008 and 2009
Incidents of Violence in the North Caucasus
2008 compared with 2009

Month

- Incidents
- 2009
- 2008

Jan  Feb  Mar  Apr  May  Jun  Jul  Aug  Sep  Oct  Nov  Dec

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Incidents of Violence in the North Caucasus
Totals for 2008 and 2009

- 2008: 795 incidents
- 2009: 1101 incidents

Month

[Graph showing incidents per month for 2008 and 2009]
Incidents of Violence in the North Caucasus by Republic 2008 and 2009

- Ingushetia
- Chechnya
- Dagestan
- Kabardino-Balkaria
- North Ossetia

2009
2008

Incidents
Incidents of Violence by District in Ingushetia, Chechnya, and Dagestan

2009

**Incidents**

- **Nazran, 133 incidents**
- **Nazranovskii District, 92 incidents**
- **Grozny, 64 incidents**
- **Sunzhenskii District, 150 incidents**
- **Khasavyurtovskii District, 79 incidents**
- **Makhachkala, 104 incidents**

**Districts and Incidences**

- Ingushetia
  - Nazran, 133 incidents
  - Nazranovskii District, 92 incidents
  - Grozny, 64 incidents
  - Sunzhenskii District, 150 incidents
- Chechnya
  - Khasavyurtovskii District, 79 incidents
  - Makhachkala, 104 incidents
- Dagestan

**Color Legend**

- 50+ incidents
- 30-49 incidents
- 10-29 incidents
- 1-9 incidents
- 0 incidents
Deaths due to Incidents of Violence in the North Caucasus
2008 and 2009

- North Caucasus
- Ingushetia
- Chechnya
- Dagestan
- Kabardino-Balkaria
- North Ossetia

Month
Deaths due to Incidents of Violence in the North Caucasus
Totals for 2008 and 2009

Year

Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr 2008
May
Jun
Jul
Aug 2009
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec

Deaths

160
140
120
100
800
600
400
200
0

2008
2009

586
916

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Deaths due to Incidents of Violence in the North Caucasus by Republic 2008 and 2009
Suicide Bombings in the North Caucasus
2008 and 2009

“Suicide bombings” include all suicide bombing attempts in which the individual detonated their explosive device, resulting in at least their death.

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Suicide Bombings in the North Caucasus
2009

Here the color gradient is reflective of all incidents of violence in each district. Each suicide bombing is represented by .
CSIS is tracking the level of violence in the North Caucasus and the price of crude oil. Here we offer a comparison of incidents of violence and the price of crude. Although it is too soon to offer any conclusions, we will continue to track the data and present our findings in future reports.

Average Cost of Crude Oil Compared to Incidents of Violence in the North Caucasus 2008 and 2009
Sources

Main:
• Caucasian Knot (http://kavkaz-uzel.ru/)
• Ria Novosti (http://en.rian.ru/)

Additional:
• ITAR-TASS (http://www.itar-tass.com/eng/)
• North Caucasus Weekly, The Jamestown Foundation (http://www.jamestown.org/programs/ncw/)
• RFE/RL (http://www.rferl.org/)
• The Moscow Times (http://www.themoscowtimes.com/index.htm)
• The New York Times (http://www.nytimes.com)
• Maps: http://www.unhcr.org/3ae6baeb10.html;
  http://map-site.narod.ru/dagestan-1.jpg;
Further Reading:

• For more on the impact that this mounting violence has had on Russia’s human rights community and what the international community ought to be doing about it, see Sarah Mendelson’s August 12th *Foreign Policy* article “(Un)civil Society in the North Caucasus.”


• For recommendations on ways in which the international community can address issues facing the North Caucasus, see “49 Steps To Improve Human Rights and Security in the North Caucasus,” a 2007 report by the CSIS Human Rights and Security Initiative and the Robert Bosch Stiftung.
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