

FROM THE CONFLICT ZONE

BULLETIN OF HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER “MEMORIAL”

JULY 2004

(the issue prepared by HRC “Memorial” in Nazran)

Dear colleagues,

Human Rights Center “Memorial” in Nazran offers its ensuing information bulletin based on the results of monitoring the human rights situation in the Chechen Republic.

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The Situation in the Chechen Republic and Republic Ingushetia: July 2004

I. Statistics

According to the data of HRC “Memorial” (We are able to carry out monitoring over a limited territory, 25-30 % of Chechnya, thus, the data below is incomplete) in July 2004 in Chechnya:

1. *Killed:* 19
2. *Kidnapped:* 48

Subsequently set free or released for ransom – 16
Went missing – 16

NB! Due to the specificity of human rights monitoring in the Chechen Republic, it is important to take into consideration the fact that data for the two most recent months are usually incomplete and then updated the following months. Therefore, unfortunately, the figures for murdered and disappeared in June 2004 are likely to grow.

In Ingushetia:

Killed – 2 civilians

II. From the “Chronicle of Violence”

Ingushetia after the Insurgency of June 21/22

After the armed insurgency of fighters to Ingushetia a wave of human rights abuse spilled over to this republic. In July “Memorial” registered several cases of illegal detainment, torture and summary executions of civilians by representatives of power agencies.

*On July 20 in Galashki village, Sunzhensky district of Ingushetia the representatives of federal power agencies killed the resident of Ingushetia **Beslan Arapkhanov**, born 1966, the father of seven small*

children, aged 4 -12. Probably, the servicemen murdered Arapkhanov by mistake, having taken him for another man. Below we quote the text of the application filed to "Memorial" by the wife of the victim, Arapkhanova Rimma:

«At about 4 a.m. I was woken up by a loud knock on the door. I opened the door and armed military persons broke into the room. They pushed me to a wall and one of them immediately hit my husband who was still in bed with a gun butt, another man put hand cuffs on his hands and threw him on the floor, face down. Beating him severely by gun butts and kicking him with boots, they screamed "Where's weapon, where are fighters?" Having checked his passport, the military men threw it on the floor; then I was pushed to another room.

While the search was carried out, Beslan was lying on the floor undressed, in handcuffs and the servicemen continued to beat them. The children were scared to death, hearing their father being beaten and shouted at; they were crying loudly.

From the couch in another room the military servicemen pulled out an uncharged machine gun, there were bugles lying in a separate bag. In 1999 near the checkpoint at Nesterovskaia village bordering Chechnya, the younger brother of my husband, Mukharbek, was killed by guerilla fighters. Mukharbek had 4 children, and Beslan took care of them. According to the Ingush law, my husband had vendetta obligations for his brother; therefore from the scarce family budget he bought this machine gun. He never used it. Nobody knew about it. I was trying to explain this to the military servicemen.

Some time later, my husband was taken out to the yard, bare feet in slippers, and taken back into the house. The military servicemen crashed and overthrew everything in the house, ripped clothes and bed sheets. Then Beslan was taken out for the second time, still in handcuffs, and immediately we heard a machinegun volley. Later it turned out that he was cruelly murdered, without a chance to say a word in his defense. My husband never understood what the matter was and why he was executed.

*After that three men entered the house: an officer, who presented himself as **Kostenko K.**, an investigator of Department of FSB for Republic Ingushetia from Zheleznovodsk and two «witnesses» (Gavrilov Alexander and Ershov Andrej). The chief of the group showed an order for carrying out search in the house of Khuchbarov Ruslan. We did not know Ruslan Khuchbarov personally, but from the neighbors we knew that he used to live at Partizanskaja street, 11, however, he left this village 10 years ago. We have lived in this street since 5 years ago only. The military servicemen would not listen to my explanations that Khuchbarov was not living here and that we were not Khuchbarovs but Arapkhanov's. "Who is Arapkhanov?! Which Arapkhanov?! Shut up, bitch!" - they screamed at me. In the meantime there was search in the house and in the yard. Swearing and calling me bitch and other disgraceful names, pushing me or throwing me on the floor they dragged me around the house with them. Then they forced me to sign a protocol.*

Afterwards, having closed the children in the room they brought me to the garden and ordered to dig, but I had no nerve, I refused. This nightmare continued from four to eight o'clock.

*The neighbors saw everything that happened. They were forbidden to get outside. The military servicemen were everywhere. One of the neighbors, **Arapkhanov Zelimkhan**, was strongly beaten by gun butts and kicked with boots. Afterwards he was delivered to the local hospital with numerous injuries.*

My children are afraid to return to the house, from where their father in handcuffs and all in blood was taken out and then shot dead behind the corner straight in front of their eyes".

On July 21 the Office of Prosecutor of Sunzhensky district of Republic Ingushetia instigated a criminal case ¹ 04600044 article 105 part 2 of the Criminal Code of RF on the fact of murder of Arapkhanov B. As part of investigation procedure the corpse of Arapkhanov B. was exhumed and a second forensic expertise was carried out. Unlike the first expertise, which was done formally to confirm the fact of

death, the second expertise registered the marks of torture, a knife cut on the neck, marks from handcuffs on the wrists, and bruises and numerous bullet injuries all over the body.

*On July 20, in the village of Barsuki, Nazran municipal district of Republic Ingushetia, the representatives of power agencies detained two brothers **Velkhiev: Bashir** born 1963, and **Bekhan**, born 1965. On the premises of UBOP¹, MVD² of the Republic of Ingushetia they were subjected to physical violence, which resulted in Bashir Velkhiev's death. Bekhan Velkhiev, who received numerous heavy injuries, was released the next day.*

According to Bekhan Velkhiev, at 9 a.m. armed persons in masks broke into the yard of their family house. The senior of the group ordered to arrest Bashir. When Bashir asked to present the order for arrest, he was told that "everything will be explained and presented at the department". On the premises of UBOP brothers Velkhiev were searched, all Bekhan's money was taken. Then they were interrogated. At some point the UBOP officers decided that Bashir was responding slowly, so they hit him with his head on the wall and ordered to respond quickly. Then Bashir replied that he would be responding "according to the procedure, as is stipulated by law". When he was hit several more times, Bashir stopped answering questions. One of the UBOP officers said "This guy is experienced; we should show him the full program". After that Bashir was taken to another room.

Bekhan was blindfolded; handcuffs were replaced by another device, which left no marks. The militiamen joked "made especially for you". Then they interrogated him on his whereabouts on June 21/22. Bekhan said that he was at home, which could be validated by his neighbors. Then the militiamen said they found some paper, which he allegedly wrote. Bekhan responded that it was very easy to check: the militiamen had to free his hands, give him a pen and paper and compare the handwriting. For this he was hit with his head over the wall, kicked with boots in the area between the legs and by fists on the ears "so that he would come to senses and stop being smart". They warned him that they were not joking, and "in good will" offered "to cooperate". You will have a car and money, - they said.

Having got a negative response, the militiamen took Velkhiev to another room and cruelly beat with sticks. "These are still flowers," - they said and advised not to "worsen his condition", since he would already get 10-15 years in prison. Then they took him yet to another room where he was thrown on the floor, kicked with boots and sticks, then poured with cold water and connected to electric wire. Several times Bekhan lost consciousness.

In the evening the younger Velkhiev was taken outside, put in a car and driven in the unknown direction. After awhile the car stopped and he was released. In the morning it turned out that Bekhan's brother Bashir died in RUBOP.

On July 30, 2004 the Office of Prosecutor of Nazran town instigated a criminal case, according to article 286 part 3 CC of the RF (exceeding professional duties). The document says: "On July 20 2004 at about 8: 30 a.m. in the municipal area Barsukinsky, the town of Nazran unidentified representatives of MVD RF and UBOP at MVD RF illegally detained and delivered to UBOP MVD Velkhiev Bashir Ulanovich, where, obviously exceeding their professional duties, subjected him to physical violence. As a result of the received injuries Velkhiev B.U. died in room 17 of the Department for Combat of Organized Crime at MVD of the Republic of Ingushetia". At the same time in the militia Velkhiev family were issued a document, which stated Bashir Velkhiev died of "heart attack". The relatives took the body of Bashir Velkhiev to Vladikavkaz for independent forensic expertise. This expertise established that Bashir died of beatings.

*In the end of June, **Lolokhoev Bekhan**, aged 24, a resident of *Ekazhevo village, Republic of Ingushetia* turned to "Memorial" for help. On June 26, he was kidnapped from his house and for two weeks remained on the premises of one of the power agencies.*

¹ UBOP-department for combat of organized crime

² Ministry of internal affairs

In the detainment the young man was tortured: beaten with gun butts and kicked with boots, beaten with sticks, tortured by electricity, with wire connected to his nostrils, ears, gentiles, and tongue, a compressing helmet was put on his head. He was offered to “voluntarily” take on himself “some crimes, for which he would get three, maximum four years in prison”, otherwise threatened to kill him. Bekhan was told that his entire family was shot dead, so there was no one who could invest effort in trying to find him. He was not fed for the first five days. Subsequently, once in two days he was given water and bread.

He was released on July 10. Before release the military servicemen warned him that no one should know of what had happened to him. They said bluntly: “We’ll find you and kill. Do not forget that you have brothers”. Bekhan’s passport was not returned to him.

A week later Bekhan turned to the hospital for medical aid. He was told to come back in the morning for clinical tests. However, at 5 a.m. armed military servicemen arrived at the house of Lolokhoves, and took away Bekhan and his younger brother. For three days they were kept in GUVVD of Nazran. The young men were not beaten or interrogated. Probably, this was an attempt to exert psychological pressure. After the second detainment the young man is afraid to turn up to prosecution or medical institutions. The representatives of “Memorial” can testify that the young man had marks of torture and beatings on his body.

Chechnya

On July 2 at dawn in the village of *Roshni-chu*, *Urus-Martan district of Chechnya*, the personnel of Russian power agencies detained two local residents, **Khamzatov Arbi**, born 1986, and **Pinchuev Said-Akhmed**, born 1982.

According to the head of local government of Roshni-chu, the detainment was carried out by representatives of an unidentified power agency, who arrived by cars YAZ and NIVA. The servicemen did not inform the relatives of the young men about the reasons for their detainment or of the future whereabouts of the detained. On July 6, Khamzatov and Pinchuev were released. In the meantime, they remained in the building of former boarding school in the center of Urus-Martan. According to the head of administration of Roshni-chu, both men were severely tortured, but they never turned to prosecution or medical institutions, being afraid of reprisals.

On July 4, at 5 a.m. in *the village Novye Atagi*, the military servicemen of federal power agency kidnapped three young men: **Tazurkaev Aslan**, born 1981, and two brothers-**Mudaev, Deni**, born 1981 and **Dalkha**, born 1985.

According to Aijdamirova Ruman, the aunt of Aslan Tazurkaev, at dawn military servicemen broke into their house. Having raised their men from beds the servicemen forced them on the floor. Then two brothers, Aslan and Rizvan were taken outside to the street, where the military cars had been parked. In one of the cars was an unknown man, who pointed to Aslan. Rizvan was released and his brother was put in a minibus “Gazel”. Ruman and her sister tried to find out, where Aslan was taken to, but when they came up to the military servicemen one of them hit Ruman with the machine gun butt. The minibus drove in the unknown direction, escorted by APCs. Simultaneously another group of servicemen detained brothers Mudaevs in a similar fashion.

Supposing that the young men could have been detained by the servicemen of the military unit dislocated at the outskirts of Starye Atagi, the relatives of the detained accompanied by other residents of the village set out for the building of the former flour mill, where the units of Internal Forces of MVD RF and special units of Intelligence Group and FSB had their quarters.

At 10 a.m. the relatives noticed that a column of military vehicles drove into the base. This was the same column as the one which visited their village. The people demanded the military servicemen to release their young men. A military officer came out and without presenting himself said: “each of you brings a machine gun and your children will be back home”. Indignant women told him that they had no weapon and demanded that the senior of the base talked to them. Then a colonel of internal forced Alexander Palaz’ev came out. He denied the fact that the young men were delivered to the territory of the base.

Only on the third day the whereabouts of the young men were confirmed by one of the military servicemen. He told the women: "As a Muslim, I am sorry for you. I saw them here." The residents of Starye Atagi picketed the building of the flower mill notwithstanding the fact that several times the military men tried to oust them under the threat of using the guns.

In the meantime, the relatives filed complaints to the administration of the village, to the prosecutor's office of Shalinsky district, and of the Chechen Republic. In FSB of Shalinsky district they were told that no data existed on the detainment of the young men.

On July 10, two brothers Mudaev, Dalkha and Deni were released. They were both in bad physical condition: they had been heavily beaten in the detainment. Mudaevs prefer not to speak about their experience at the mill. The fate of Tazurkaev Aslan remains unknown.

On July 17, at around midnight, in the village Starye Atagi, Groznensky district of Chechnya was killed **Khambiev Islam**, born 1980.

According to the residents of the village, Khambiev was killed in the street on the way home from the mosque. Probably, Khambiev bumped on a night military guard. The witnesses heard unaccented Russian, a command "Stop" and then the sounds of shooting. No one dared to get out. The corpse of Islam was found next morning. He had two injuries- in his leg and an aperture in the head.

At night on July 18, at 3 a.m. in the village of Sernovodsk, Sunzhensky district of Chechnya, the personnel of unidentified power agency, who arrived by APC kidnapped 7 local residents:

1. **Inderbiev Tair, born 1950**
2. **Inderbiev Pasha, born 1959**
3. **Vagapov Adam, born 1974**
4. **Lukaev Aizar, 1977**
5. **Dzantamirov Shadit**
6. **Dzantamirov Shamsudin**
7. **Dzantamirov Shirvani.**

When the military servicemen finished their operation and tried to leave the village, the local militiamen and the relatives of the detained blocked their way. The APCs made a u - turn and headed in the direction of Sunzhensky mounts. The relatives immediately started the search. Soon they found out that the brothers Inderbiev were at the Russian military base Khankala.

Inderbiev Tair, a semi-colonel of militia resigned one year ago. The local residents and the former colleagues characterize him as a person of honor and principle. According to them, he was not involved in any shady activity. Lukaev Anzor at some point also worked for the local militia in Sernovodsk.

Two days later were released **Inderbiev Pasha, Vagapov Adam** and two brothers **Dzhantemirov** (Shamsudin and Shirvani). They did not know who kidnapped them or where they had been kept, they refused to talk to human rights defenders. "Memorial" monitors managed to find out that one of the nights they spend in a trench. During the detainment they were beaten with the gun butts and tortured by electric shock, they were also given some kind of shots. We also found out that all of the released were forced to sign a document that they had no complaints about the treatment. Under the threat of another detainment and consequent "disappearance", they had to keep quiet.

On July 22, in the city of Grozny disappeared **Amadov Tima**, the resident of Chernorech'e. Two other locals disappeared together with him. On July 22, the young men went to a local pond near Chernorech'e. They never returned back. According to the uncle of Amadov, the relatives searched the area around the pond and found a piece of soap wrapped in handkerchief. They identified the kerchief. From the local militiamen the relatives found out that shortly before the disappearance of the young men, another local resident was injured at the same site. The federal servicemen captured him, but later handed him over to his mother. As of August 2, the whereabouts of T. Amadov and the other two young men are unknown.

Assaults on representatives of authorities and power agencies

On July 10 in the village *Goyty*, *Urus-Martan district of Chechnya* **Aizan Khamidova**, born 1969, was killed in a blast caused by an unidentified object. Aizan Khamidova was the wife of Yusup Khamidov, an inspector of village police station.

The explosion happened at the moment when Ajzan was trying to pick up a portable radio transmitter from the gates of her house. The local residents believe that the surprise-transmitter was prepared for the husband of Ajzan.

On July 13, in *Leninsky district of Grozny* an attempt on the life of the executive president of the Chechen republic, **Abramov**, was undertaken. Abramov was not injured.

At night of July 21 unidentified persons threw two grenades at the building of local government in *Chechen-aul*. The building was damaged.

On July 23, in the center of *Grozny*, at around 3 p.m. a Ziguli-99 car was blown up, which belonged to the fighters of battalion "West". According to the eye-witnesses a servicemen got out of the mosque after the Friday prayer. When they tried to get into their car, it exploded, as a result, two men were killed and one was heavily injured.

On July 24, in *Oktyabrsky district of Grozny* as a result of explosion of a YAZ-2106 car was killed a senior executive for especially important cases of the 1st department of ORB. Semi-colonel of militia, **Nikaev Mukhmat-Yaragi**. The working hypothesis of the investigation is that the explosive was installed in the bottom of the automobile.

At night of July 24, in the village of *Starye Atagi*, *Groznensky district of Chechnya* unidentified persons subjected to fire the house of the head of local administration, Gadaev Vakhi. Gadaev called for help. After federal servicemen arrived, the unidentified persons retrieved.

Armed Clashes between the Warring Parties

At night on July 12/13 Chechen combatants entered the village *Avtury*, *Shalinsky district of Chechnya*. According to the local residents, the fighters first blocked all entrances to the village and then attacked the buildings of local power agencies (Security Service of Akhmad Kadyrov), located on the premises of the secondary schools # 1 and 2; in the building of the former kindergarten. Simultaneously all the three objects were subjected to intense fire.

Officially 18 persons were killed in the night fight, however, possibly the actual figures are higher. The most intense fights between the combatants and the *kadyrovtsy* at school #2. At some point the combatants offered *kadyrovtsy* to put down arms and to go home, however, the latter refused. The fight continued until *kadyrovtsy* ran out of ammunition. 12 of them, who remained alive, were captured by the combatants. The school burnt down almost completely. 6 or 7 *kadyrovtsy* cars were burnt down as well. At least one combatant was killed; the fighters buried him in the yard of one local resident.

"Memorial" monitors found out that at night the besieged *kadyrovtsy* called for help. From the direction of Shali their colleagues set out for Avtury. This car was caught in ambush. All the *kadyrovtsy* in the car were shot dead by the fighters.

On July 13 at 11 a.m. the fighters left the settlement unobstructed, taking 12 captured *kadyrovtsy* with them. The federal forces did not interfere in the fight and made no attempt to stop the fighters when they were retreating. Sometime after the retreat two military helicopters started to circle around the village. Later the personnel of all power agencies arrived at Avtury. They dug out the corpse of the killed combatant, discharged their pistol in him and then took the corpse to the Kurchaloy Department of Internal Affairs.

As a result of night fights two civilians received injuries: an 70 year-old- man, **Yandarbi**, the resident of *Gagarina street*, and a 40-year old **Khajtykaev Khadzi-Mirza**, resident of *Lenina street*. Several houses were damaged.

On July 28 armed clashes between the Chechen fighters and the Federal military servicemen took place in the town of Argun.

According to the local residents, the fighters arrived at the town in the evening of July 27. The witnesses saw them stop a cyclist and jokingly asked him to present identification documents. In the morning of July 28 the military units started to arrive from the military base at Khankala. At 11 a.m. a residential 8 flat building, located at *Gagarina street* was blocked by federal military vehicles. A few minutes later the servicemen opened indiscriminate fire on the house.

According to the witnesses, at 11 a.m. most families were at home. The fire was so intense that soon they realized that there was no chance to get out through the doorways alive. Staying inside was likewise dangerous. In despair women started to throw their children down from the second floor of the building on the side, where the fire was less intense. One of the residents of the house, **Khizriev Khamzat**, 20 years old was injured in his leg. Afterwards he was delivered to the local hospital. Having finished their business, the military servicemen arrived at the hospital. They filmed the young man and took him with them. Subsequently, the NTV channel showed reportage where Khizriev was presented as a captured fighter. However, he was not detained. Having left the territory of the hospital the federal servicemen soon dropped him out of the car.

As a result of the grenade fire the house at *Gagarina street* almost fully burnt down. When the shooting was ceased, elderly men tried to approach the house to find out what happened with their families. The military servicemen did not let them come close to the building, forced them on the ground faces down. One of the servicemen pulled money out of a civilian's pocket and took them. An elderly man from the group, **Said Khasen Dzabrailov**, lying on the floor asked the military servicemen "why did you do so"? The military men replied very coarsely "there were fighters there". The villagers, however, did not notice any corpses of fighters being taken out of the house. Possibly the corpses burnt down together with the building.

A few militiamen were injured in the street fights that day. At some point the local militiamen called for help, asking to send them an APC so that wounded militiamen could be evacuated. Instead, a Zhiguli car was sent to Argun with four local policemen inside. When the car was approaching the place of fighting, the Chechen combatants opened fire at the car, killing two militiamen. The same day at 5 p.m. in *Melnichmaya street* was blown up an APC of the federal forces. Several houses were damaged.

Most likely on July 12/13 in Argun was revealed a group of fighters, who subsequently dispersed in the town. When retreating the fighters opened fire, the military men followed, shooting back. Neither side was concerned with the security of the civilian population. As a result of "the operation" carried out at Gagarina street 5 families, who occupied the 8-flat building N 26 were left without home, identification documents or clothes.

For full version of the "Chronicle of Violence" for July 2004 in Russian, please, consult our web site at <http://www.memo.ru/hr/hotpoints/caucas1/rubr/2/index.htm>

III. Chechen Forced Migrants in Ingushetia: Forced Closure of Compact Settlements

After the raid of armed guerilla fighters to Ingushetia on June 21/22 drastically worsened the situation of the forced migrants from Chechnya, who still reside in this republic. In some IDP compact settlements the pressure to return back to Chechnya has intensified to such an extent that it can be classified as forced resettlement.

Thus, in late June the Ingush Migration Services demanded that all residents of IDP settlement "Uchkhoz" (village Yandare), who still lived in tents, were resettled to the nearby byre. Interestingly, earlier some IDP families wanted to set up rooms inside this cowshed, but were prevented from doing so. At the time the authorities claimed that the cattle, which used to be kept on these premises was ill with brucellosis, therefore the byre could not be used as human shelter.

Top officials of the migration service were present at the liquidation of tents; they promised to provide IDPs with construction materials for assembling rooms inside the shed and other necessary assistance in resettlement in the shortest possible time. Indeed, the next day construction materials were brought to “Uchkhoz”. However, two days later these construction materials ‘disappeared’; the same people who brought them, loaded all items back on trucks and drove in the unknown direction. Since then, for over a month now, the IDPs have lived virtually in the open air. The roof of the shed is leaking. In the daytime the people sit outside and guard their belongings, and at night they go to sleep to their relatives’ or friends’.

The settlement was cut off electricity and gas. The gates of the camp are being closed 24 hours. If in the daytime it is possible to find the owner of the territory (who lives in another part of the village) with the key when is needed, at night this is difficult. Thus, in early August an elderly woman had blood pressure increase, and her relatives were unable to find keys from the gates. In order to take the woman to the hospital, they had to hurdle over the fence and drag her over, then to catch a taxi on the highway.

Moreover, psychological pressure is exerted on IDPs. New deadlines for return are being regularly announced. Ali Chasygov, the owner of the land, where the settlement is located, warned the migrants that they had to leave the camp very soon, since otherwise, he would have problems with the authorities.

According to “Memorial” social workers the IDPs are on the edge of nervous breakdown. Families who have young men are double stressed, and expect mop-ups and illegal detainments every night. Parents of schoolchildren are concerned about the approaching school year: in early August CPCD dismantled the wooden school of “Uchkhoz”.

V. Situation of Forced Migrants in Chechnya: “Special Operations” in Temporary Residence Centers (TRC) in Grozny

On July 8, in Temporary residence centers located in *Chaikovskogo street, Leninsky district of Grozny*, the federal military servicemen of the RF carried out special operation for checking the passport regime.

The check up started at 5 a.m. According to Aktemirov Adam (who lives in TRC and works as a storekeeper) in the temporary residence facility at Chaikovskogo street, 24) at dawn the military servicemen entered the territory of TRCs, leaping through the fence. The military servicemen did not present themselves, but explained that the reason for their visit was “a special operation for checking-up the passport regime”; which was to be carried out jointly with the Chechen militia. However, the IDPs assert that they did not notice a single representative of Chechen militia in the group.

Only after the security guards of the TRC called for help, the Chechen militiamen arrived. The latter managed to control the process of the operation. The military servicemen did not check the rooms, but examined the identification documents and the domicile registration of all IDPs. The men who looked suspicious to the servicemen were taken to the yard and checked through the computer database. By 9 a.m. the check-up operation was completed in TRC at Chaikovskogo-24. Similar check-ups were simultaneously carried out at TRCs Chaikovskogo-26, and 28. By 10 a.m. the military servicemen left.

On July 14, the federal military servicemen carried out a large-scale mop-up operation in the TRC at *Malgobekskaya street of Grozny*.

At 4 a.m. the TRC was blocked by military vehicles, numbering 15-20 units. The military servicemen controlled all entrances and had their snipers placed all around the building. The armed servicemen in masks tried to kick the iron entrance door out. The security guards of the TRC decided to open the door. Very quickly, the military servicemen without disclosing their identity or explaining the reasons for their visit occupied all the five floors of the building and started to check identification documents of the IDPs. The military servicemen behaved differently: some of them were polite and excused themselves after checking the documents; others were rude and searched the rooms after checking the passports. Usually they collected the passports of male residents and checked them through the computer database.

Next day the threatened residents of TRC at *Malgobekskaya street* went to the republican TV, trying to appeal to the republican authorities. However, the reportage was not broadcast and there was no official reaction on IDPs plea. The IDPs are very fearful about new mop-ups.

On July 17, in the TRC located in *Vyborgskaya street in Grozny* the federal military servicemen carried out a special operation.

According to the commandant of the TRC, *Khakimov Abdulla*, a large number of APC and other military vehicles blocked the center. The license numbers on the cars were missing or masked. The administration of the TRC tried to call the local militia for help; however, they were told that militia got the order not to interfere, since the operation was carried out by FSB. The military servicemen checked the documents of all IDPs and searched the rooms. If women said there were no men in the room, they dragged the blankets from the sleeping children, checking. Many men were taken outside the TRC, where they were checked through computer base, photographed, their fingerprints were taken. Even handicapped people were subjected to this procedure. All the detained were released by the lunchtime in the presence of the TRC commandant.

Many IDPs were scared and wanted to leave the TRC, but most of them had nowhere to go. The IDPs are anxious about new mop-ups.