

Chechen Interior Ministry claims fall in abductions in republic

Text of report by The Caucasus Times website on 19 May

Chechnya, 19 May: People in Chechnya are being abducted for various reasons. Deputy Chechen Interior Minister Col Akhmed Dakayev spoke about this during parliamentary hearings in the Chechen People's Assembly. He said that an analysis of the circumstances of registered abductions shows that abductions are being carried out for all kinds of reasons and in different circumstances. "Among the most widespread are detention by unknown power-wielding structures of persons suspected of being implicated in the activities of bandit formations; abductions with the purpose of later extracting a bribe; abductions for the purpose of reprisals on grounds of vengeance; staged or false abductions with the purpose of uncovering a person joining the bandit formations and the abduction of girls for the purpose of marriage," Dakayev explained.

He pointed out that whereas in the past camouflage and cars without number plates or with false ones were widely used during abductions, today the situation has changed. The factors which have had a positive effect on crime in this area are as follows: the destruction of a considerable number of bandit formations operating in the republic; effective preventive work in stopping young people joining these groups; the liquidation in the Chechen Republic of provisional units of the power-wielding structures made up of local people in the period when the crisis was being settled (for example, the Gortsy detachment in Pobedinskoye village in the Grozny rural district and others); the stage-by-stage withdrawal from the Chechen Republic of units of the federal power-wielding structures stationed in Chechnya on a temporary basis and measures taken to ensure strict compliance with the law by members of the Internal Affairs bodies of the Chechen Republic.

He also said that in order to prevent violations of the law during special investigations and other measures, the Interior Minister for the Chechen Republic has issued instructions banning members of the police from wearing masks, unofficial uniforms without insignia of rank and travelling in official or private transport without number plates.

Summing up, Akhmed Dakayev said that as a result of this work the number of abductions registered in the Chechen Republic in 2006 was reduced by 63.7 per cent (from 168 to 61). In fact, in that period 26 abductions were committed, which was 68 per cent fewer than in 2005. The number of abducted people was reduced from 100 to 32.

This year the special investigative and preventive measures which have been taken have helped to reduce the number of abductions recorded by 19 per cent (from 21 to 17). In actual fact, in the first four months of 2007 there was only one case of abduction (a senior inspector of the Audit Chamber of the Chechen Republic, L.A.Yusupov). Earlier, a case brought on the abduction of an adolescent, Matsayeva, in Shelkovskoy District, was closed because the abducted person was found and returned home, and the accused, Ediyeva, sent for compulsory treatment at an out-patients psychiatric centre. "The remaining abductions registered in the current year

are crimes committed in previous years and work on them is continuing," he stressed.

Source: Caucasus Times, Prague, in Russian 19 May 07