

Ichkeria The Road to Independence



*All nations shall have the right to self-determination.
On the basis of that right they shall freely determine their
political status and freely ensure their own economic,
social and cultural development.*

Article 1. International Pact of Civil and Political Rights



Nookhchi is the way the Chechens refer to themselves. This is a nation of Caucasian origin which traces its roots to the ancient Palaeo-Asiatic tribe.

Chechen Republic of Ichkeria, is the name of a state in the Northern Caucasus, adopted after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Chechen nation's declaration of independence.

It covers an area of some 16,500 square kilometres and a population of about 600,000. Its capital is Grozny on the River Sunza. It borders on the Russian Federation and Georgia.

Most of the inhabitants of Chechnya are Sunnite Muslims. Since 1999 Chechnya's territory has been occupied by Russian troops.

27 November 1990 - Chechen National Congress proclaimed "A Declaration About Proclaiming the independence of the Chechen republic "Nochci – Czo". On the same day The Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Socialist Republic also announced separate "Declaration of Chechen-Ingush sovereignty" and began writing the new constitution.

27 October 1991 – First democratic presidential and parliamentary elections are held in Chechnya. Djohar Dudayev receives 90.1% of votes. Voter turnout is 72%. Foreign observers, notably from Georgia and Estonia did not find any "significant violations of the voting process which could influence the elections results".

1 November 1991 – President Djohar Dudayev declares Chechnya's independence.

26 May 1992 – An agreement on troop withdrawal and the division of arsenals is signed with Russia.

7 July 1992 – Russian troops leave Chechnya.

25 November 1994 – Mercenaries recruited by Russian intelligence attempt to overthrow Djohar Dudayev.





Before our eyes, there occurred an obvious, yet hard to believe, betrayal of universal human values. It is clear that the Declaration of Human Rights, which lasted a little over half a century, fell during the second Chechen war.

The late Anna Politkovskaya



PHOTOS:

■ The tank taken from the enemy in the street of Grozny.

■ Defenders of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria

■ The hospital in the cellars of the Presidential Palace in Grozny

■ President Dzhochar Dudajew among the defenders of Grozny



If you are not strong enough to resist your enemy – show him your hatred. [...] In this war there are only two sides fighting – the Chechen people defending their Homeland and the Russian invaders. There is no third party. There are traitors only.

Dzhochar Dudajew



On 31 August 1996 r. in Chasaw-Jurt General Alexander Lebedev and the Chief of Staff of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria Army Aslan Maschadow signed a treaty which practically concluded the Russian-Chechen war. Both parties rejected the use of force and the threat to use force in order to solve the matters of argument, they confirmed their respect for the nations' self-determination rights and equality of nations, their respect for human and civilian rights regardless of one' nationality, religion, membership etc..

The provisions were included in the document entitled „The Principles to Determine the Foundations of Mutual Relationships between the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria“. The most important principle stated that the agreement concerning the mutual relations between the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria based on the international law norms would be concluded by 31 December 2001. Thus, the Russian Federation practically recognised the Chechen Republic as a subject of international law.



On 27 January 1997 r. in the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria the presidential and parliamentary elections were held in which 79,3 % of the electorate voted. General Aslan Maschadow, who won the support of 59,3 % of voters, became the president. The elections were monitored by 72 observers of Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and according to them the elections met the European standards.



On 12 May in the Kremlin, The Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the President of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria signed a peace treaty by which they decided to base "permanent, mutually beneficial relationships of equality" on the international law norms and to reject forever the use of force or the threat to use force. By this act the independence of Chechnya was de facto recognised. The peace treaty had no references to the Constitution of the Russian Federation.

PEACE TREATY AND PRINCIPLES OF RELATIONSHIP

Between the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic
of Ichkeria

The High Contracting Parties, desiring to put an end to their centuries- long opposition, and endeavouring to establish sound, equitable and mutually advantageous relations, have agreed as follows:

1. That they renounce for ever the use or the threat of force in the resolution of any disputes between them.
2. That they will build their relations on the basis of generally recognised principles and standards of international law and that the parties will co-operate in spheres to be specified in detailed agreements.
3. That the Treaty will be the basis for the conclusion of further treaties and agreements on all aspects of the relationship.
4. The Treaty has been drawn up in two copies, with both copies having identical legal force.
5. The present Treaty enters into force as soon as it is signed.

The President
of the Russian Federation
Yeltsin

The President
of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria
A. Maschadov

Moscow 12th May 1997



During the two wars in the period of 1994-1996 and since 1999 the Russian Federation occupation army killed about 45 000 Chechen children, tens of thousands were maimed and tens of thousands became orphans.



During the two wars in the period of 1994-1996 and since 1999 in the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria war crimes and crimes against humanity were committed. Out of 1 million people nation 250 000 were killed. Such a great number of victims resulted from the Russian tactics and the policy of the Russian occupation army towards civilians and prisoners of war. There were massive wild air bombings and artillery and rocket shelling of residential areas and settlements inhabited by the civilians, illegal arrests, extremely cruel treatment of the arrested people, tortures, illegal executions without court sanctions and murders, rapes, kidnapping people, evictions of the civilian population or – quite the opposite – the civilians were not allowed to leave the war endangered areas, lootings, illegal confiscations of property, hostages taking and using hostages as a human shield.

There is no regular war but there is a guerrilla warfare going on there. Russia wants to keep the occupied territory under their control at any price. Terror reigns there and the number of Chechen victims is becoming higher and higher. The world does not react.



The President of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria Aslan Maschadow together with his soldiers prays for peace and independence for his Homeland.

8 March 2005 – Aslan Maskhadov is killed in a special operation by Russian troops in the village of Tolstoy-Yurt.

Partisan warfare continues in Chechnya.

Should I stop our resistance, I would expose the Chechen people to eternal suffering, because freedom and independence are the greatest values in our life. The Chechen people will never live on their knees.

We shall never sacrifice independence in return for peace because independence is the condition of peace. [...] We want independence in order not to allow Russia to kill us any longer.

Aslan Maschadow