



VIOLENCE IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS

TRENDS SINCE 2004

Human Rights and Security Initiative

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Since January 2004, CSIS staff have been compiling, almost daily, a database that tracks violent incidents occurring in the North Caucasus. The following figures draw on this database, through August 31, 2008.

Due to the nature of these incidents and the difficulty in finding trusted reporting, we are not in a position to verify all of them. We will, however, continue to update our database as information is made available to us.

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“Violent Incidents”:

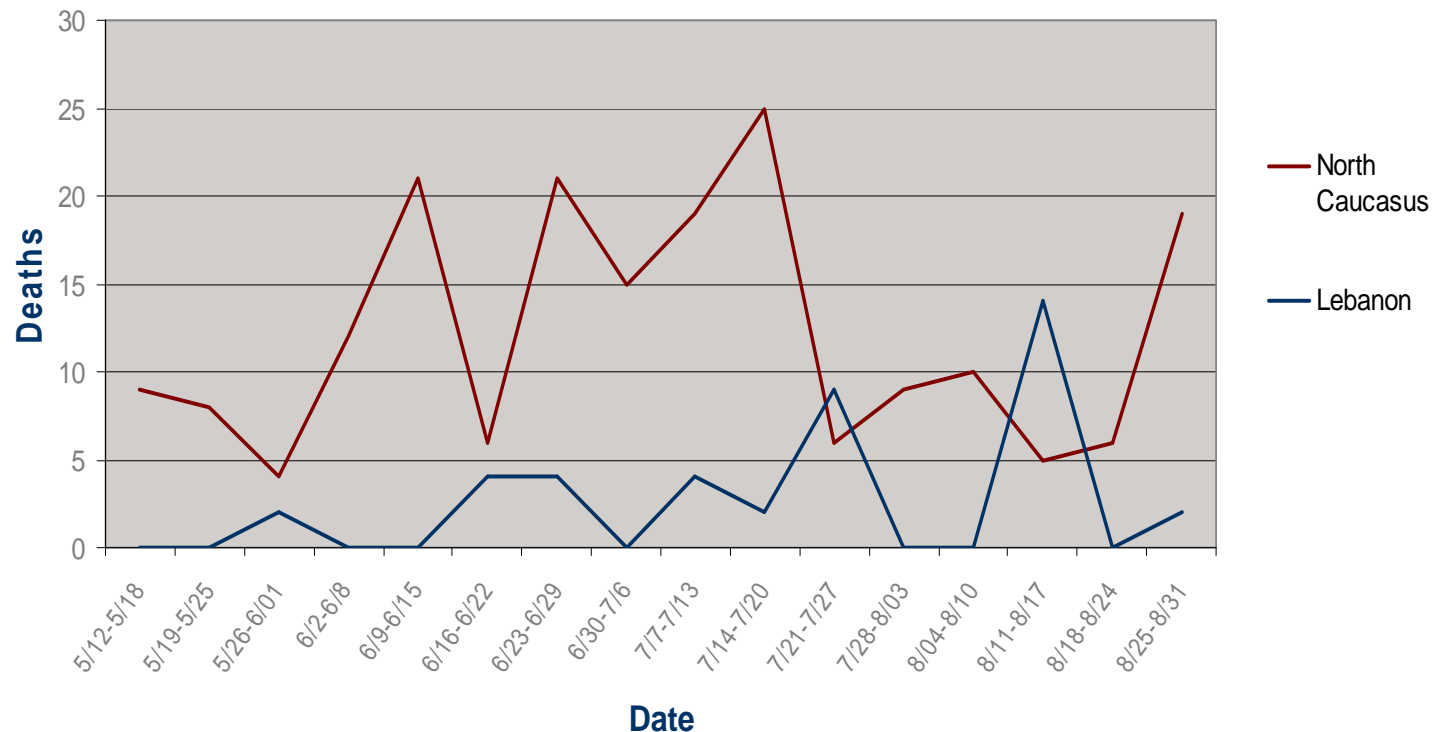
Violent incidents include abductions of military personnel and civilians, bombings, assassinations of key civilian and military leaders, rebel attacks, police or military operations against suspected militants, destruction of property by militants, and the discovery of weapons.

“North Caucasus”:

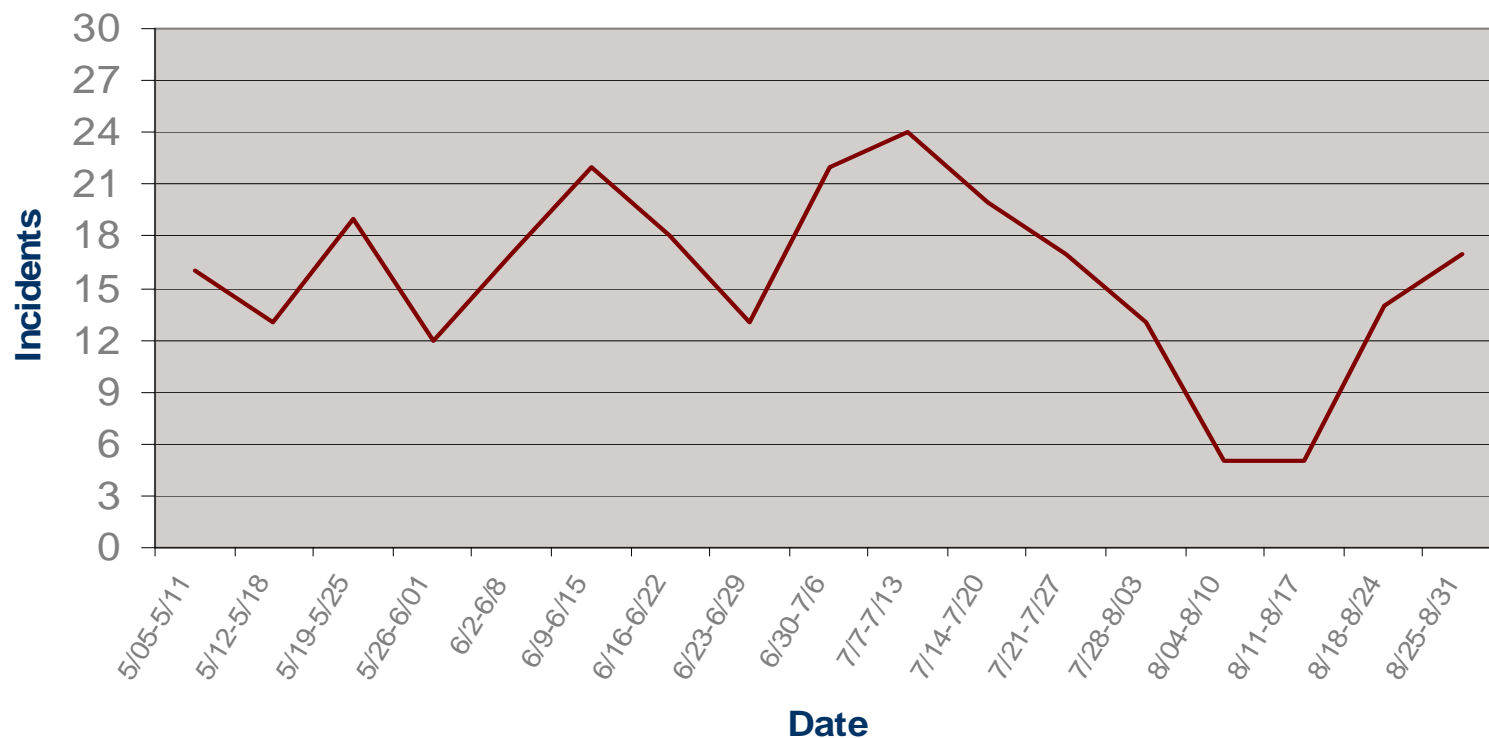
The database tracks incidents in nine republics in Russia including Chechnya, Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, North Ossetia, Dagestan, Adygeya, Stavropol, Krasnodar, and Rostov.

Deaths from Violent Incidents in the North Caucasus and Lebanon Summer 2008

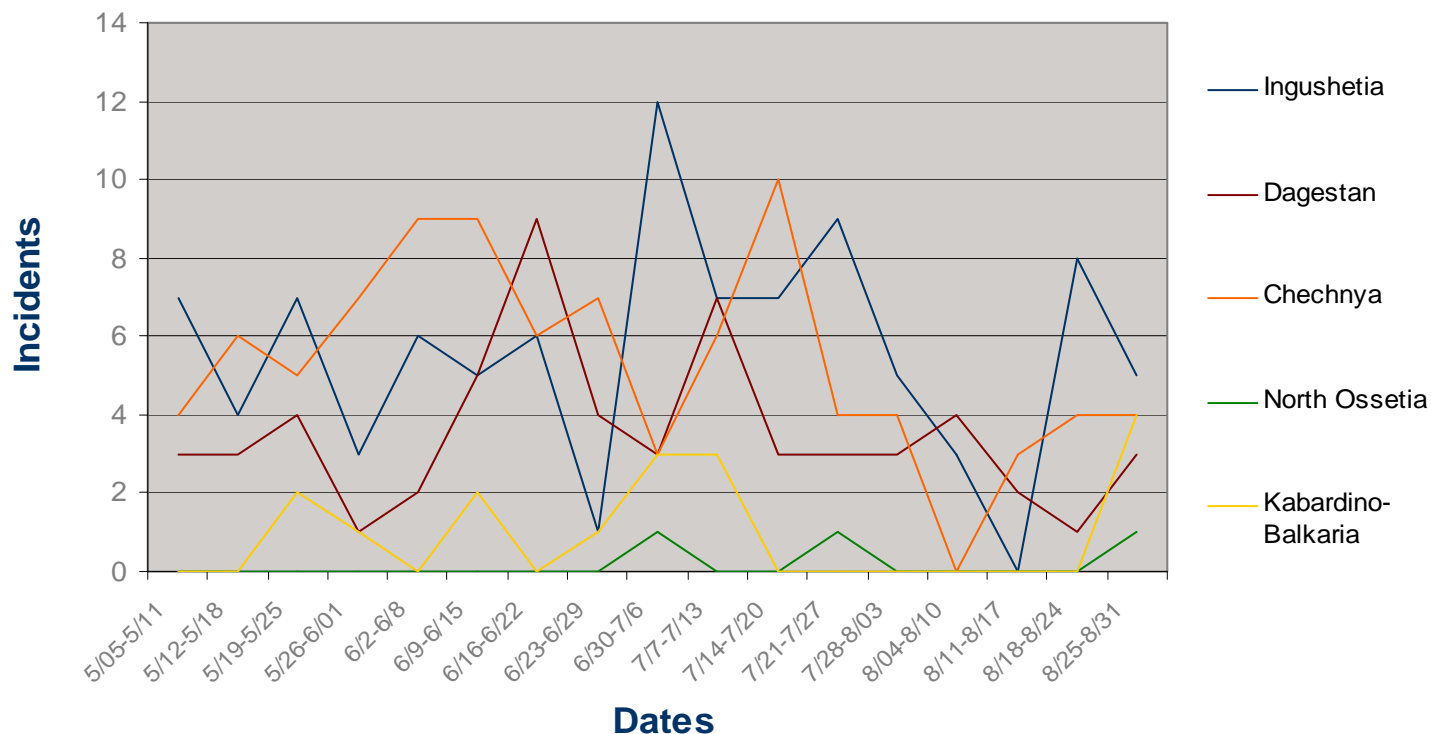
CSIS staff have been following events in the North Caucasus for years, but the region's escalating violence has received little international media attention. This figure contextualizes the death toll in the North Caucasus through a comparison to Lebanon in summer 2008.



Violent Incidents in the North Caucasus Summer 2008



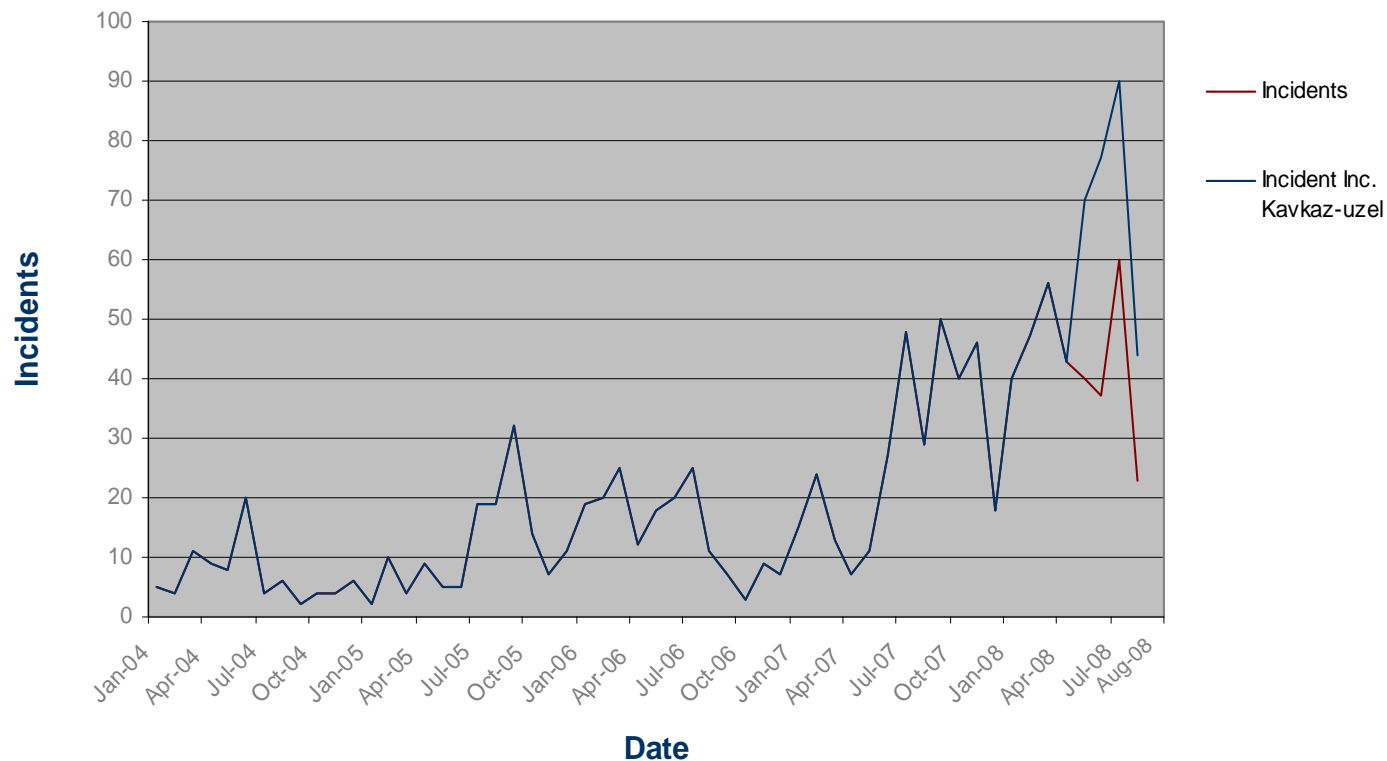
Violent Incidents in the North Caucasus by Republic Summer 2008



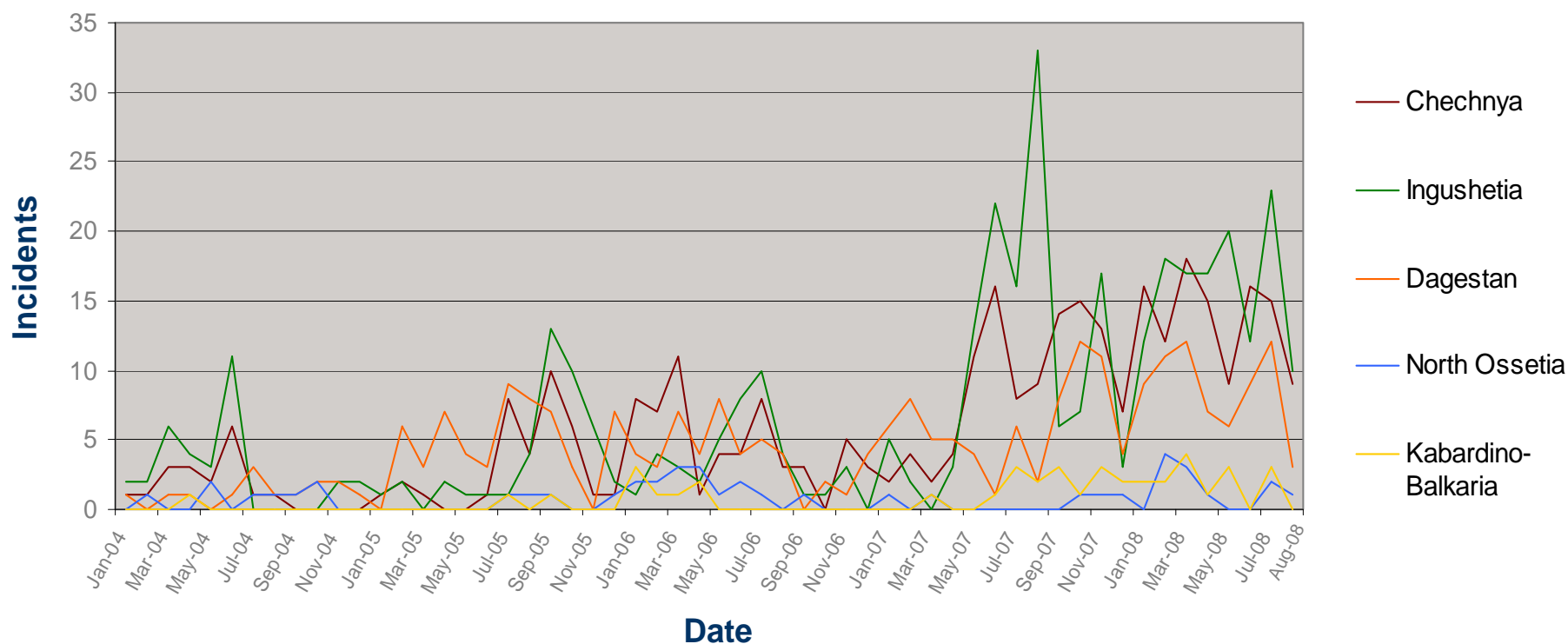
As this graph demonstrates, the North Caucasus is an extremely varied region. While North Ossetia and Kabardino-Balkaria remained relatively calm this summer, Chechnya and Ingushetia experienced spikes in violence.

The majority of incidents in our database were reported by mainstream news media. However, we have found that these sources are less thorough in their coverage of regional violence, particularly in comparison to Kavkaz-uzel.ru (Caucasian Knot). CSIS staff have consulted numerous independent experts, all of whom separately agreed on the importance and reliability of Kavkaz-uzel's reporting. In turn, we have included in our data those incidents reported only in Kavkaz-uzel, but because we increased our usage of this source beginning in May 2008 we present our findings (right) both including and excluding events reported by this source.

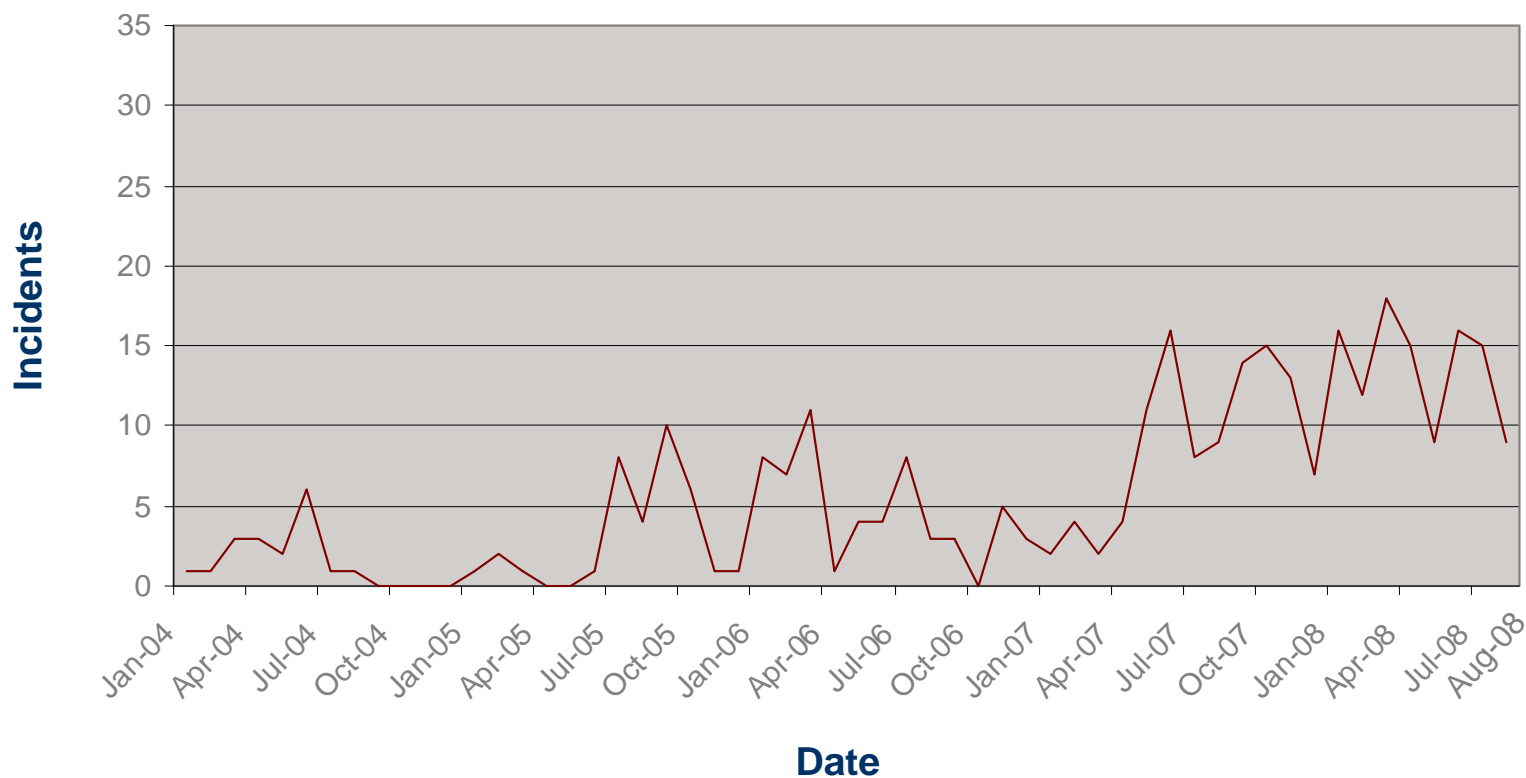
Violent Incidents in the North Caucasus January 2004 – August 2008



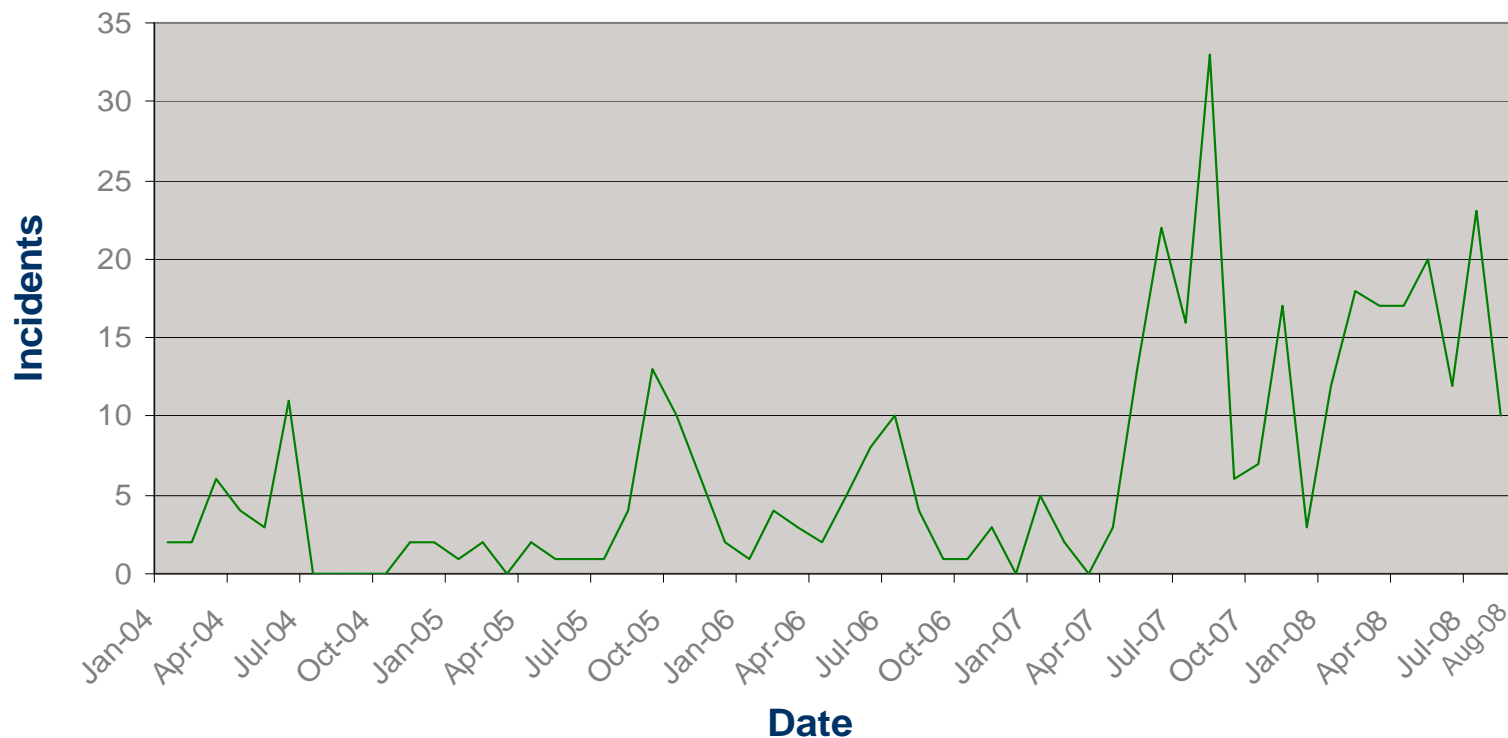
Violent Incidents in the North Caucasus by Republic January 2004 – August 2008



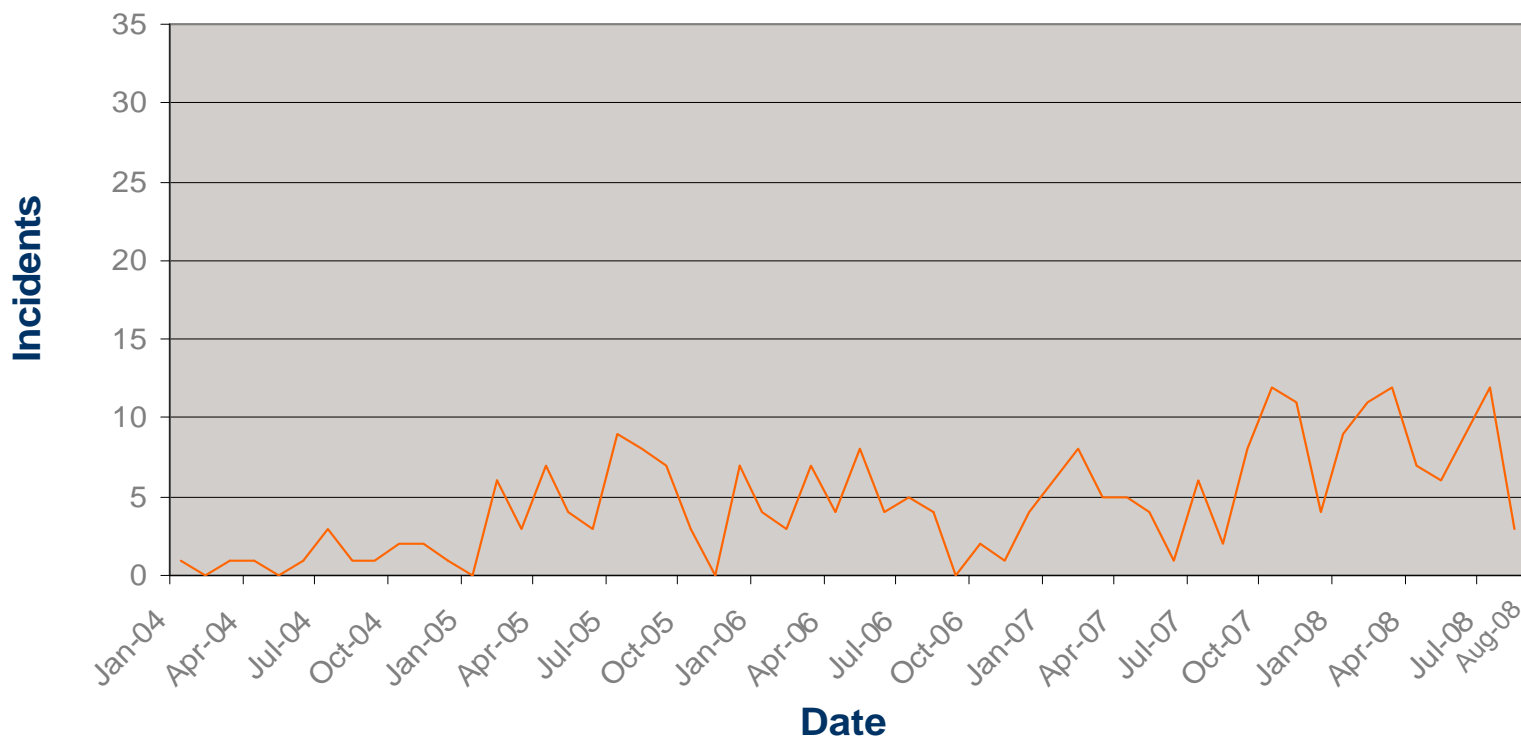
Violent Incidents in Chechnya January 2004 – August 2008



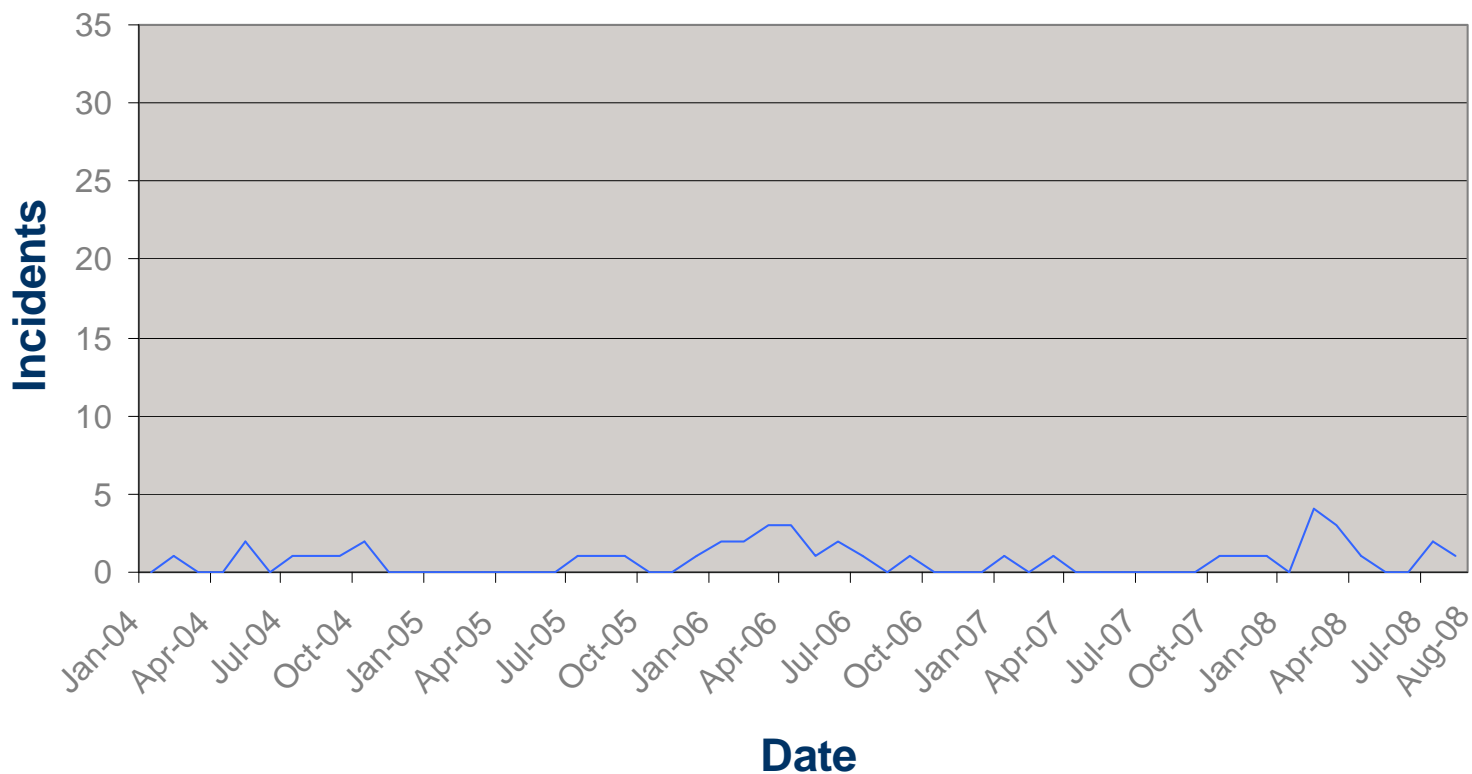
Violent Incidents in Ingushetia January 2004 – August 2008



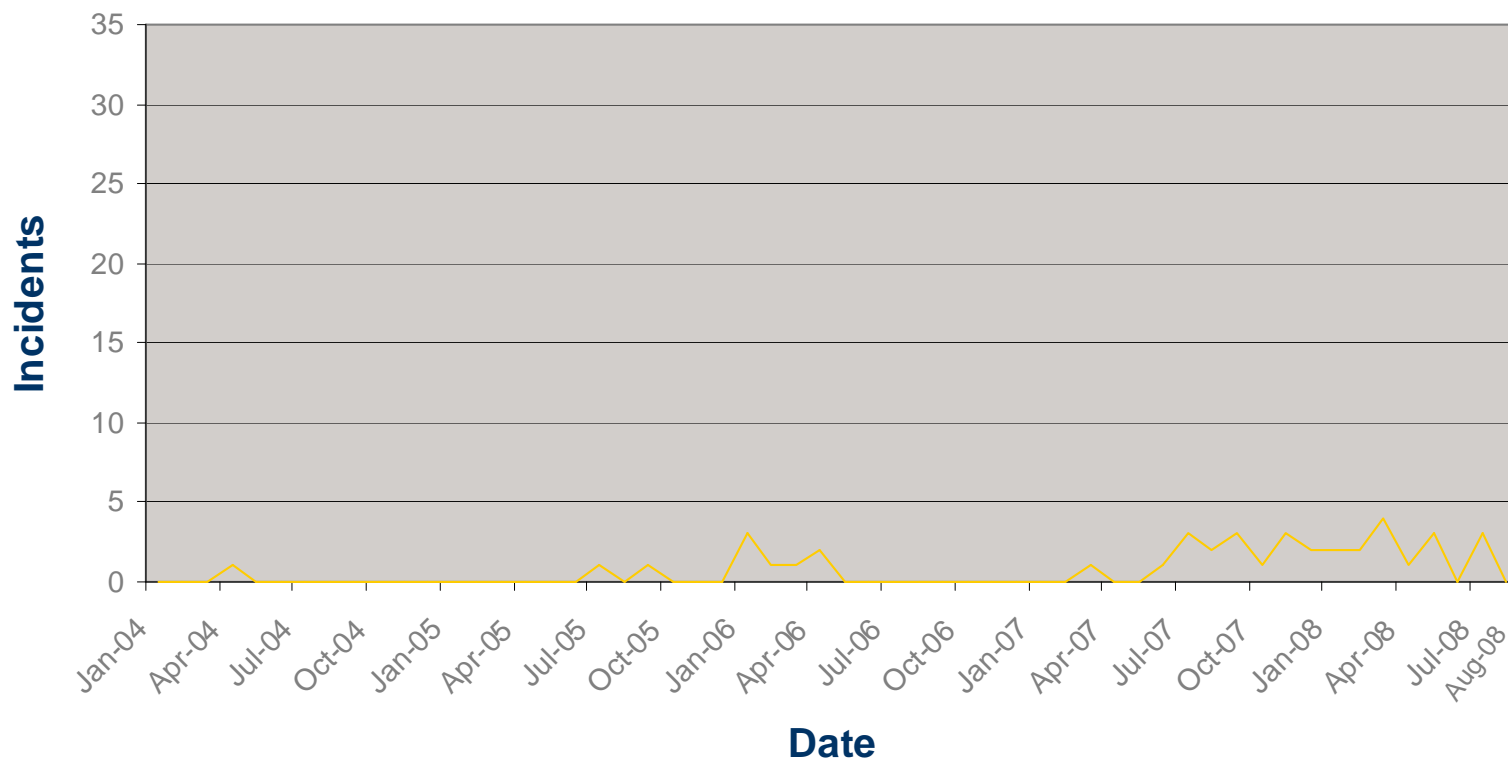
Violent Incidents in Dagestan January 2004 – August 2008



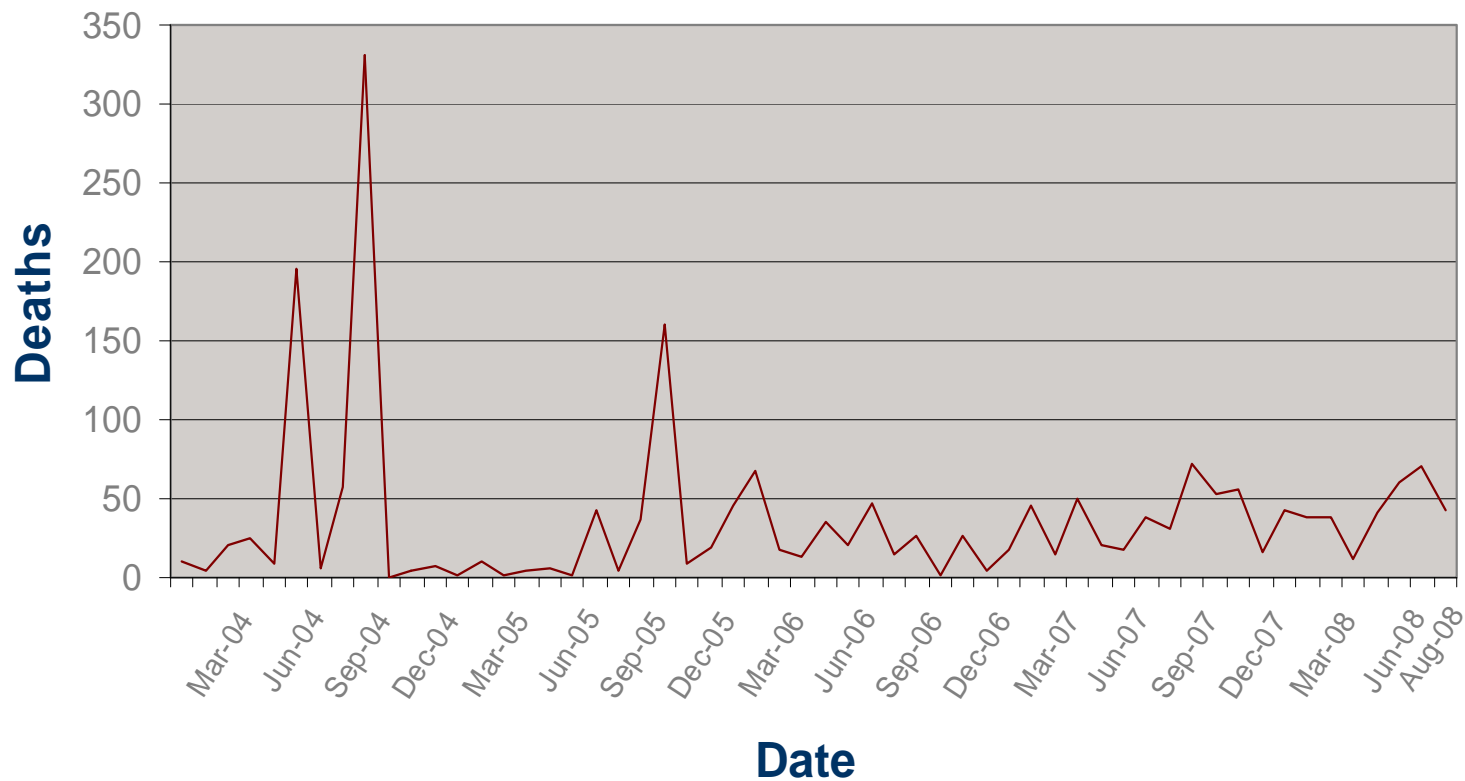
Violent Incidents in North Ossetia January 2004 – August 2008



Violent Incidents in Kabardino-Balkaria January 2004 – August 2008



Deaths from Violent Incidents in the North Caucasus January 2004 – August 2008



Sources:

- Ria Novosti (<http://en.rian.ru/>)
- Caucasian Knot (<http://kavkaz-uzel.ru/>)
- ITAR-TASS (<http://www.itar-tass.com/eng/>)
- Chechnya Weekly, The Jamestown Foundation (http://www.jamestown.org/chechnya_weekly/archives.php)
- RFE/RL (<http://www.rferl.org/>)
- The Moscow Times (<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/index.htm>)
- The New York Times (<http://www.nytimes.com>)
- Reuters (<http://www.reuters.com>)
- USA Today (<http://www.usatoday.com>)
- International Institute for Strategic Studies (<http://www.iiss.org>)

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 report of the CSIS Human Rights and Security Initiative and the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

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