



VIOLENCE IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS

FOCUS: WINTER/SPRING 2009

Human Rights and Security Initiative

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Since January 2004, CSIS staff have been compiling, almost daily, a database that tracks incidents of violence occurring in the North Caucasus. This report highlights data for the period January 5, 2009 through May 3, 2009.

“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”:

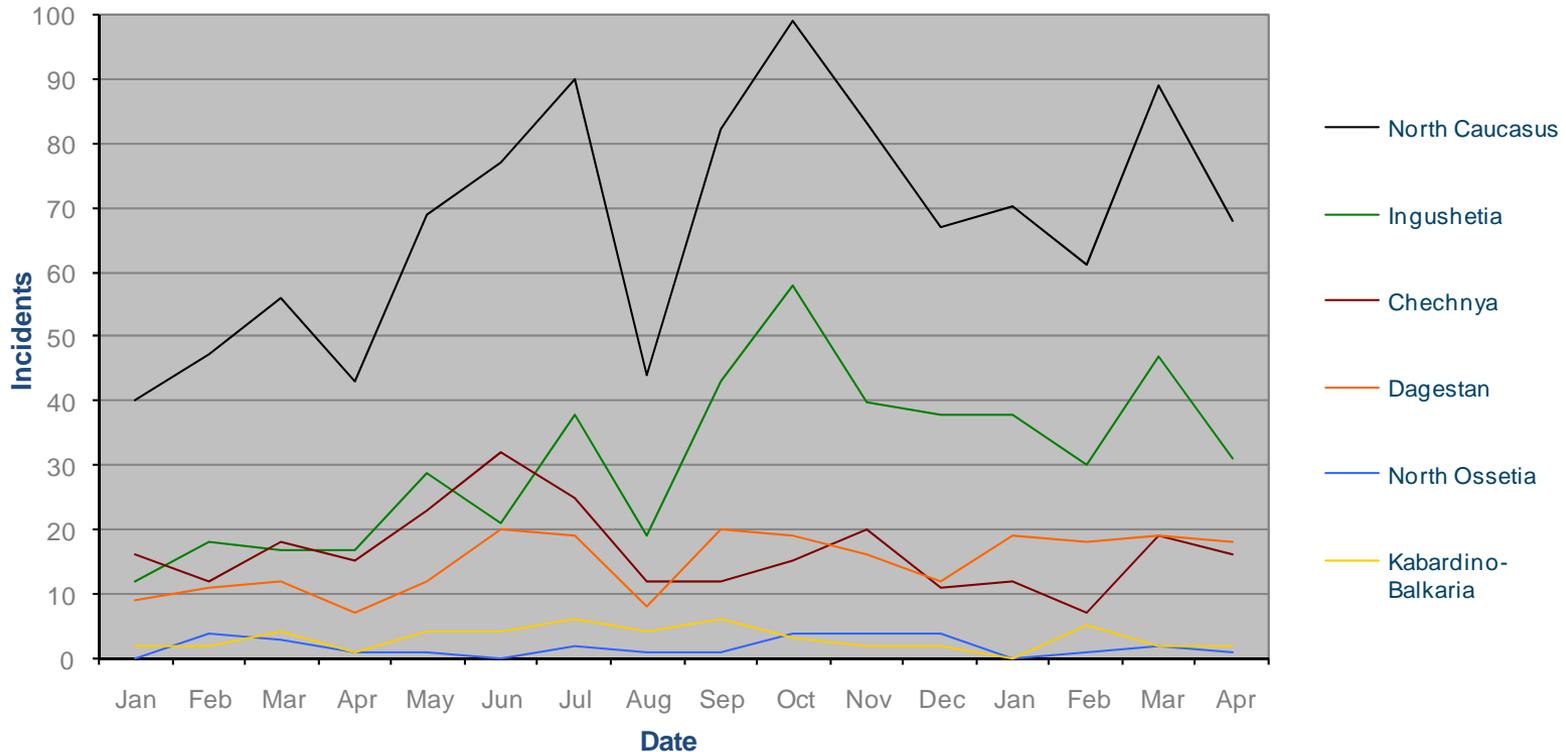
The database primarily tracks incidents occurring in Chechnya, Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, North Ossetia, and Dagestan.

* Includes failed detonations

** Includes unsuccessful assassination attempts

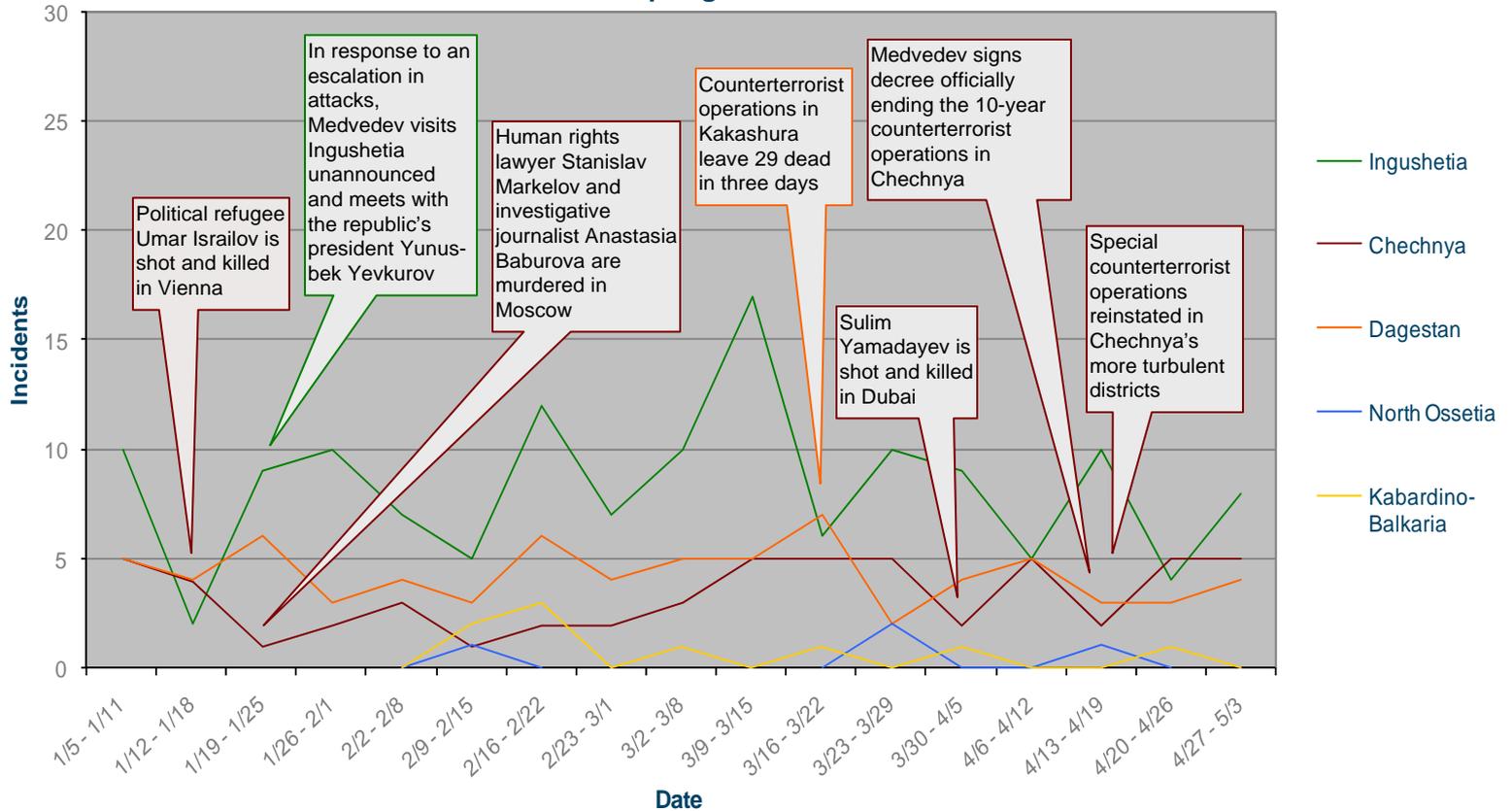
Violent Incidents in the North Caucasus January 2008 – March 2009

As this graph demonstrates, the North Caucasus is an extremely varied region. While North Ossetia and Kabardino-Balkaria have remained relatively calm, Ingushetia experienced an upsurge in violence in Fall 2008 and has yet to see any significant return to stability.

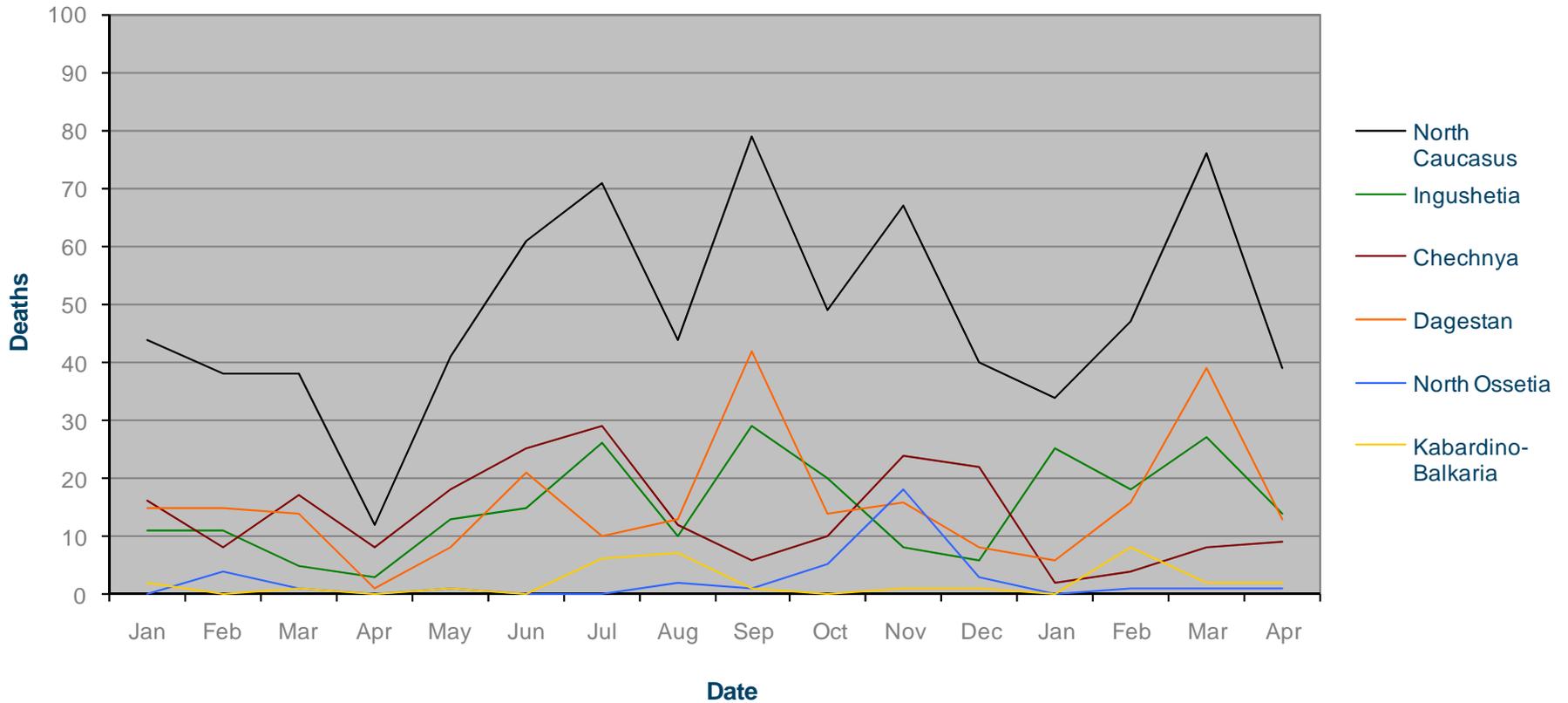


Violent Incidents and Notable Events North Caucasus Spring 2009

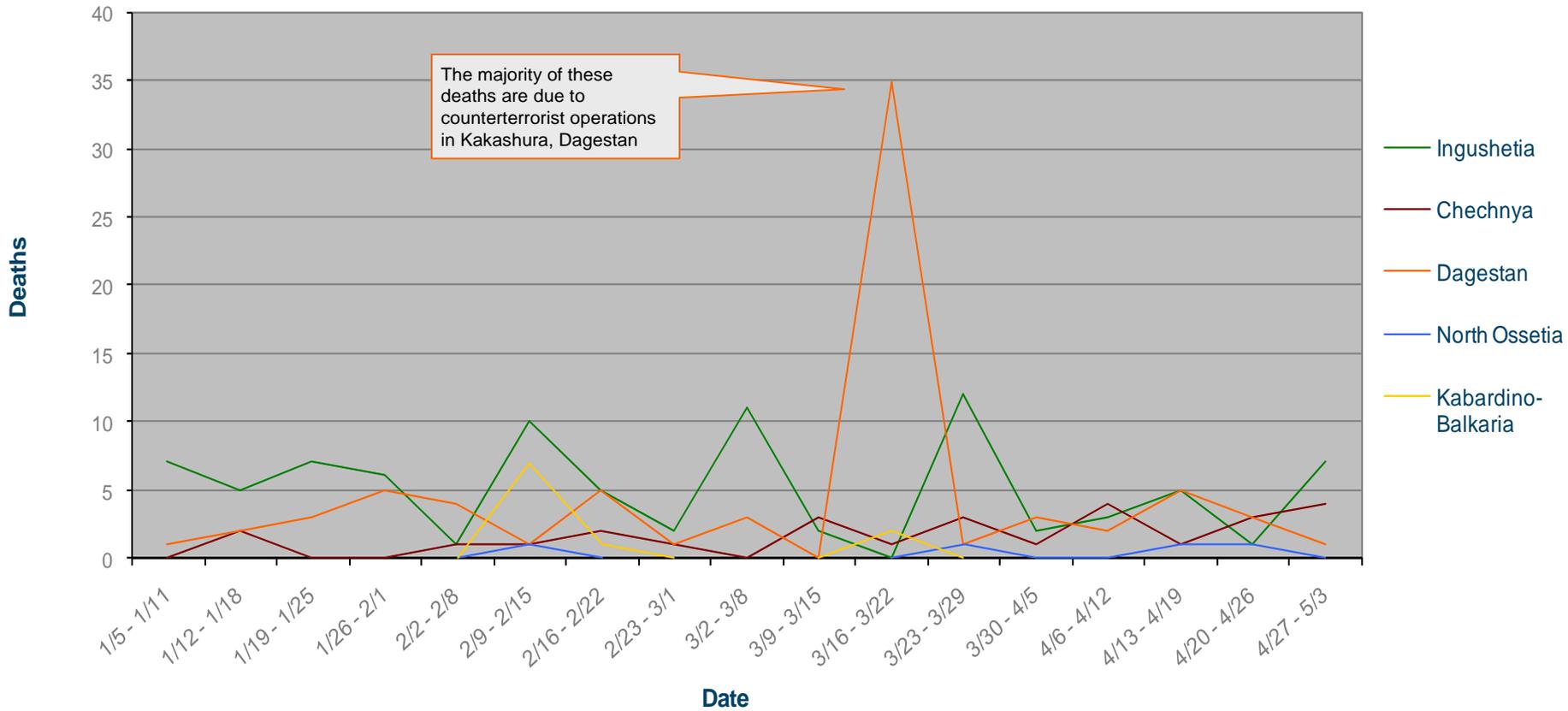
These notable events are meant to contextualize the violence in the region, not to suggest that the subsequent trends explicitly relate to the respective event.



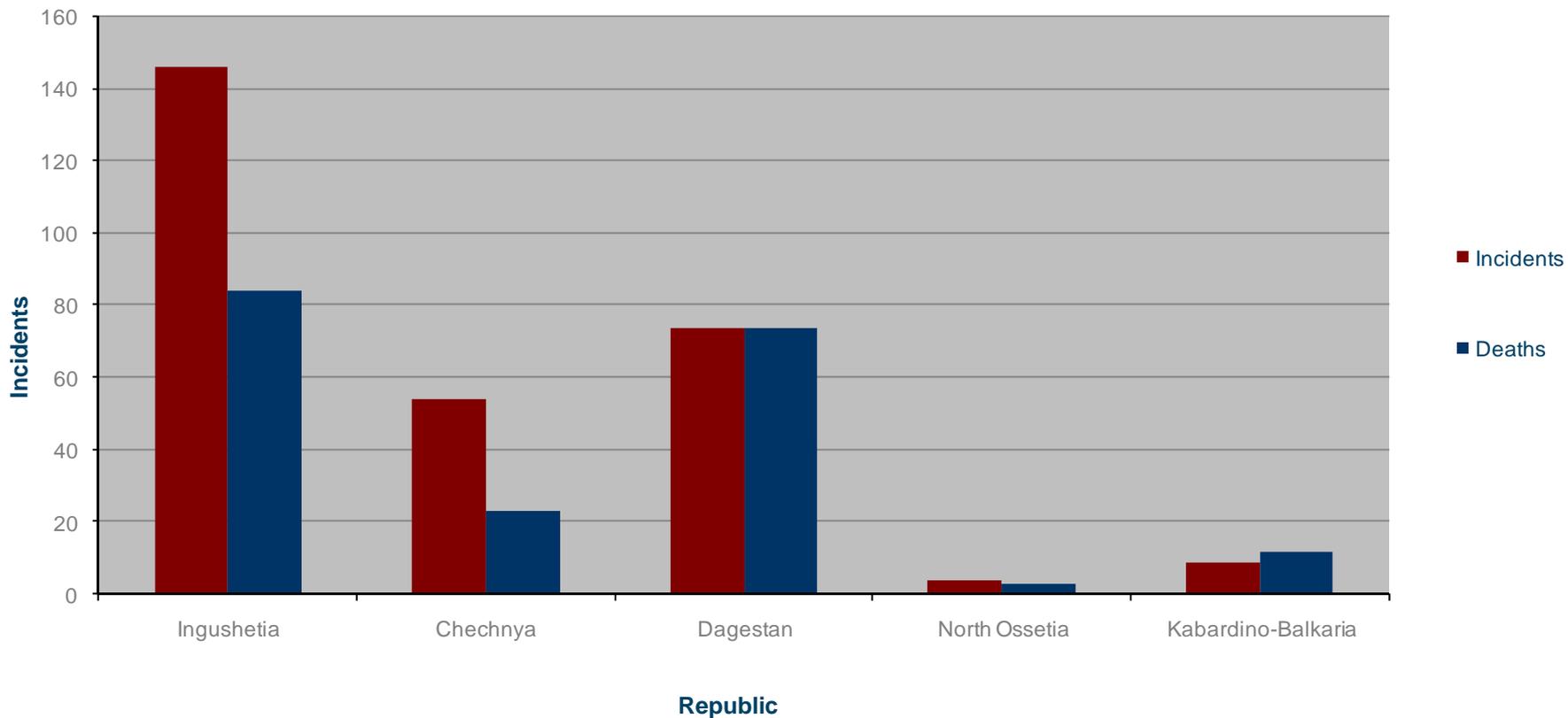
Deaths due to Violent Incidents in the North Caucasus January 2008 – April 2009



Deaths due to Violent Incidents in the North Caucasus Spring 2009



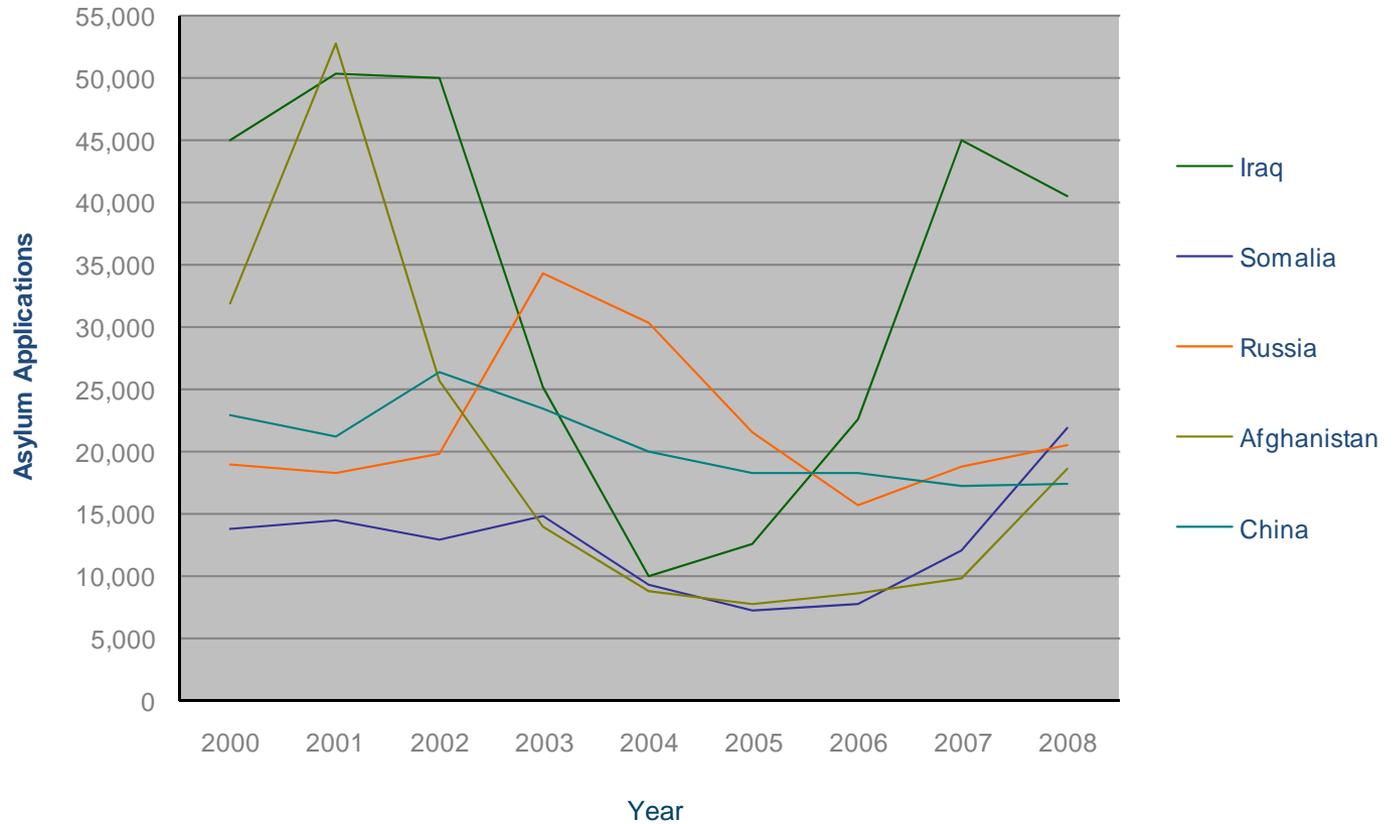
Violent Incidents and Related Deaths Spring 2009



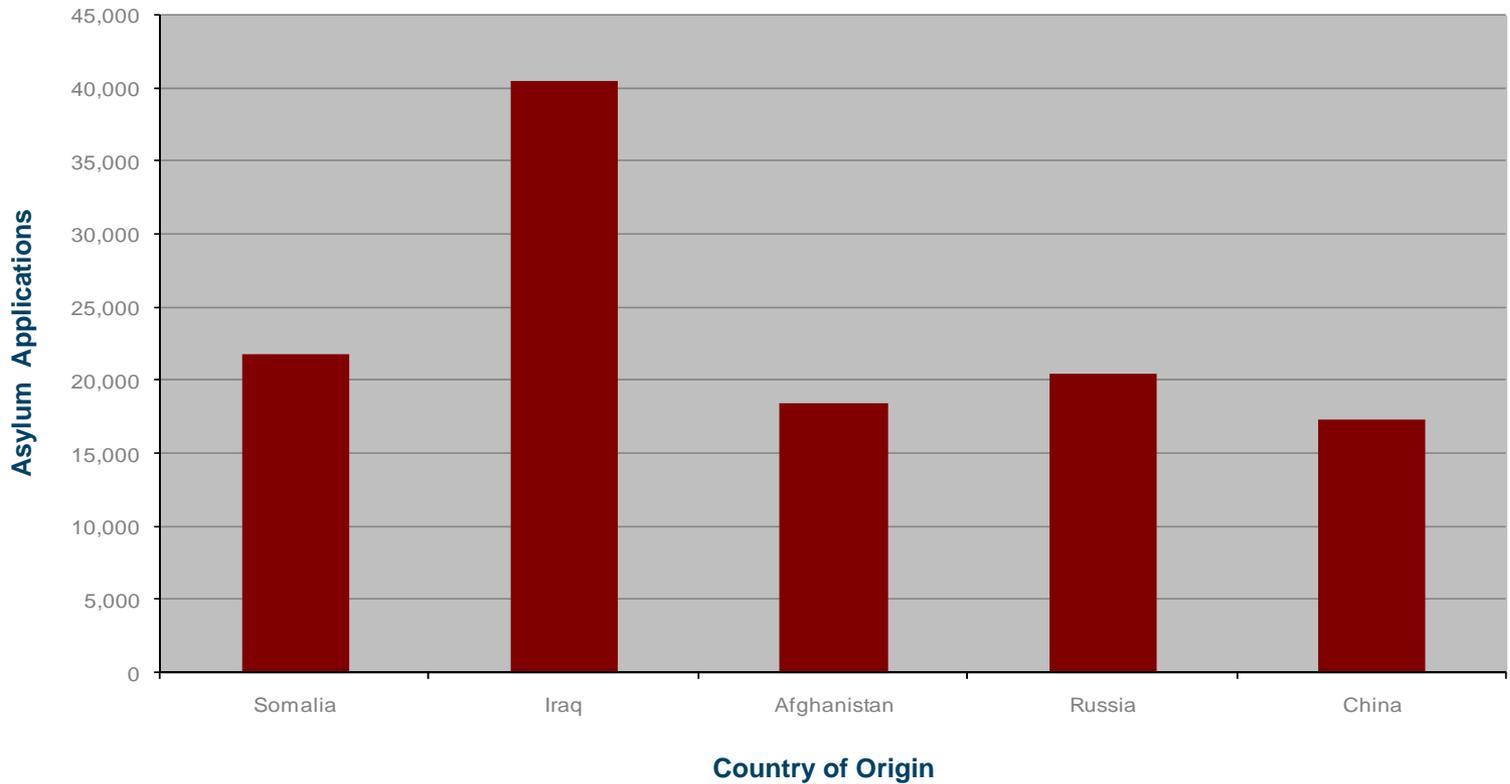
Asylum Applications to Industrialized Countries by Country of Origin as Reported by UNHCR 2000 - 2008

The number of asylum applicants to “industrialized countries,”* counted by state of origin, is reported annually in UNHCR’s publication *Global Trends*. In 2008, only Somalia and Iraq – countries wrought with violent internal conflicts – were home to more political asylum seekers than the Russian Federation.

* UNHCR varies slightly the number of “industrialized countries” it uses each year



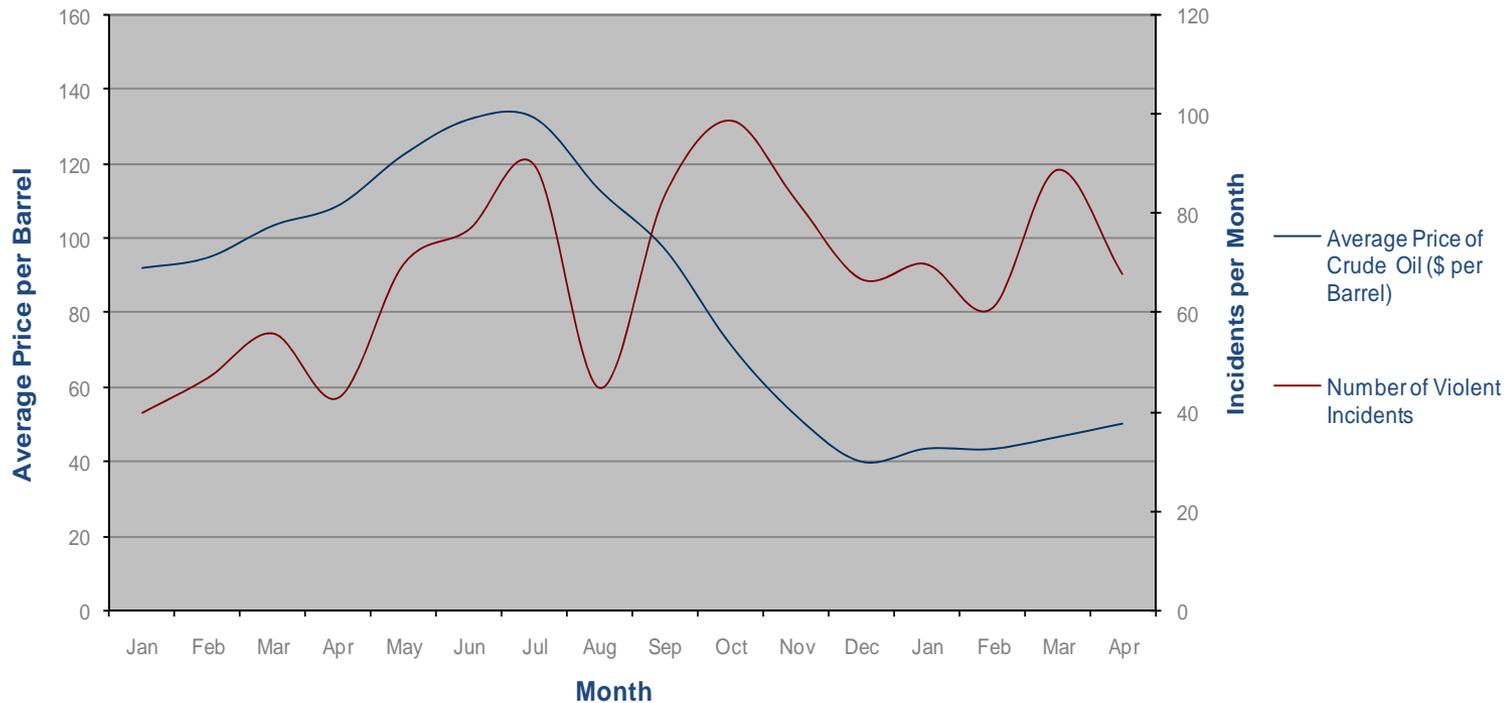
Asylum Applications by Country of Origin to Industrialized Countries 2008



Statistics obtained from UNHCR's annual publication *Global Trends*.



**Average Cost of Crude Oil Compared to the Number of Violent Incidents in the North Caucasus
January 2008 - April 2009**



CSIS is tracking the level of violence in the North Caucasus and the price of crude oil. Here we offer an early 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.

* Price of oil according to Energy Information Administration



This report has been made possible by a grant from the Open Society Institute.

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 by the CSIS Human Rights and Security Initiative and the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

For more information please contact Lucy Moore, lmoore@csis.org.

Sources

Main:

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

Additional:

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- Window on Eurasia, Paul Goble (<http://windowoneurasia.blogspot.com/>)
- 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>)
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