



VIOLENCE IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS

Summer 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.

Summer 2009 has been exceptionally violent, with July the bloodiest month in years. On the eve of the 5th anniversary of the tragedy in Beslan, we present this report on violence in the North Caucasus, with a focus on summer 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.

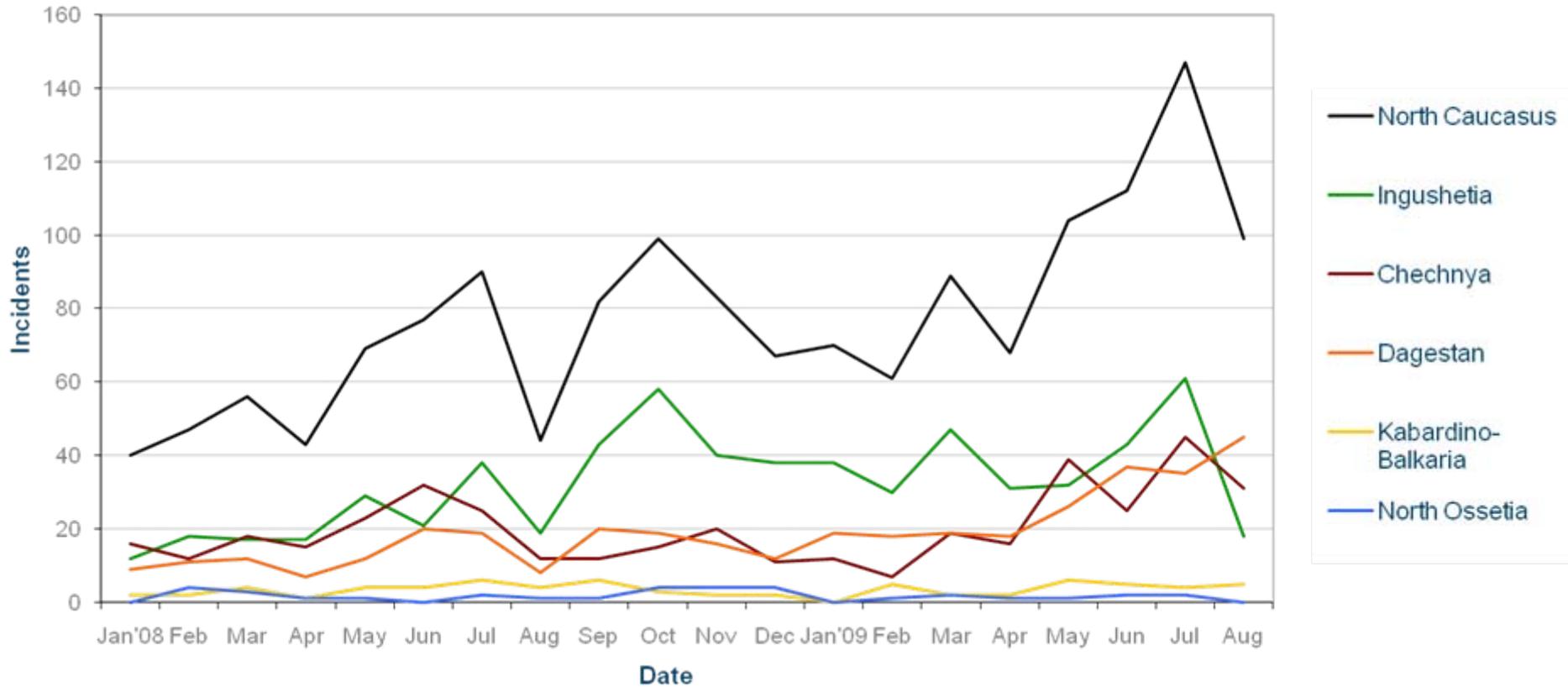
“North Caucasus”:

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

* Includes failed detonations

** Includes unsuccessful assassination attempts

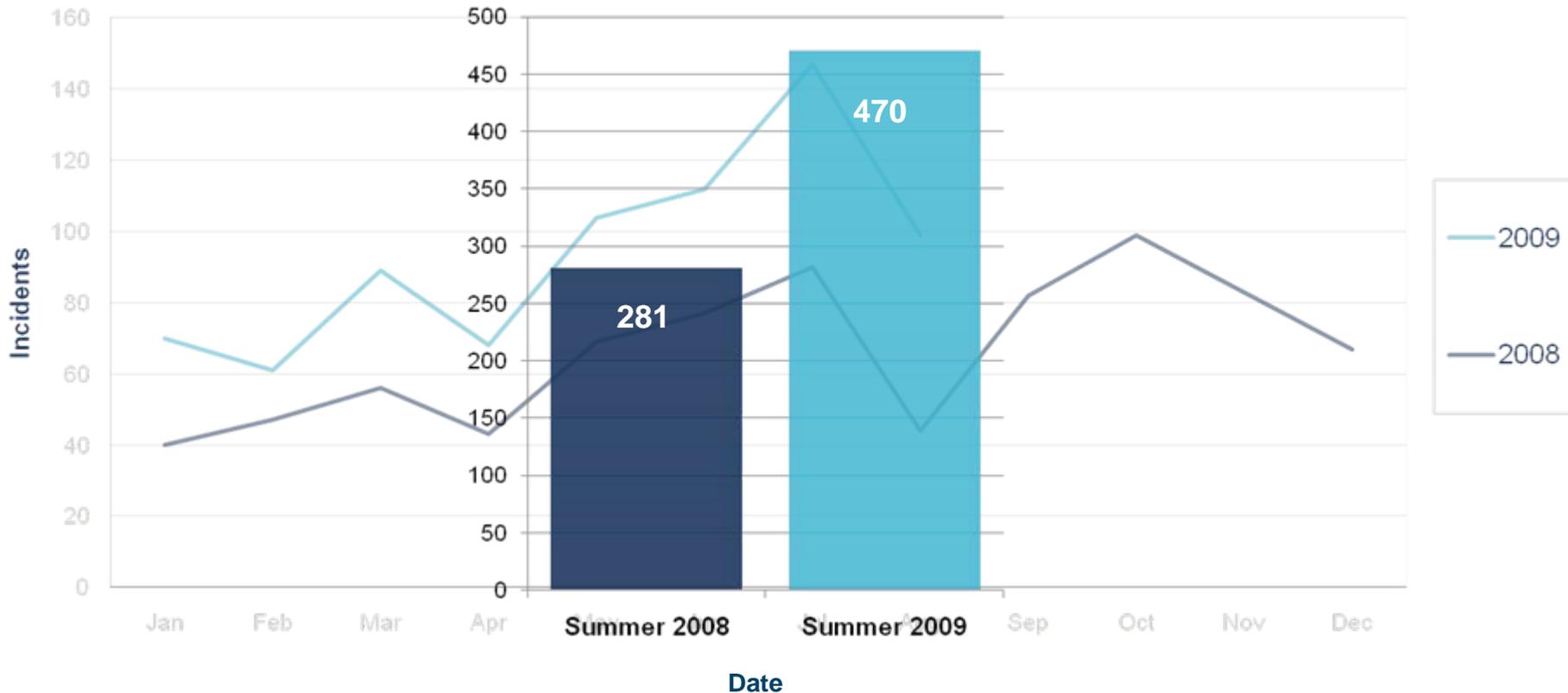
Violent Incidents in the North Caucasus January 2008 – August 2009



Violent Incidents in the North Caucasus 2008 and 2009



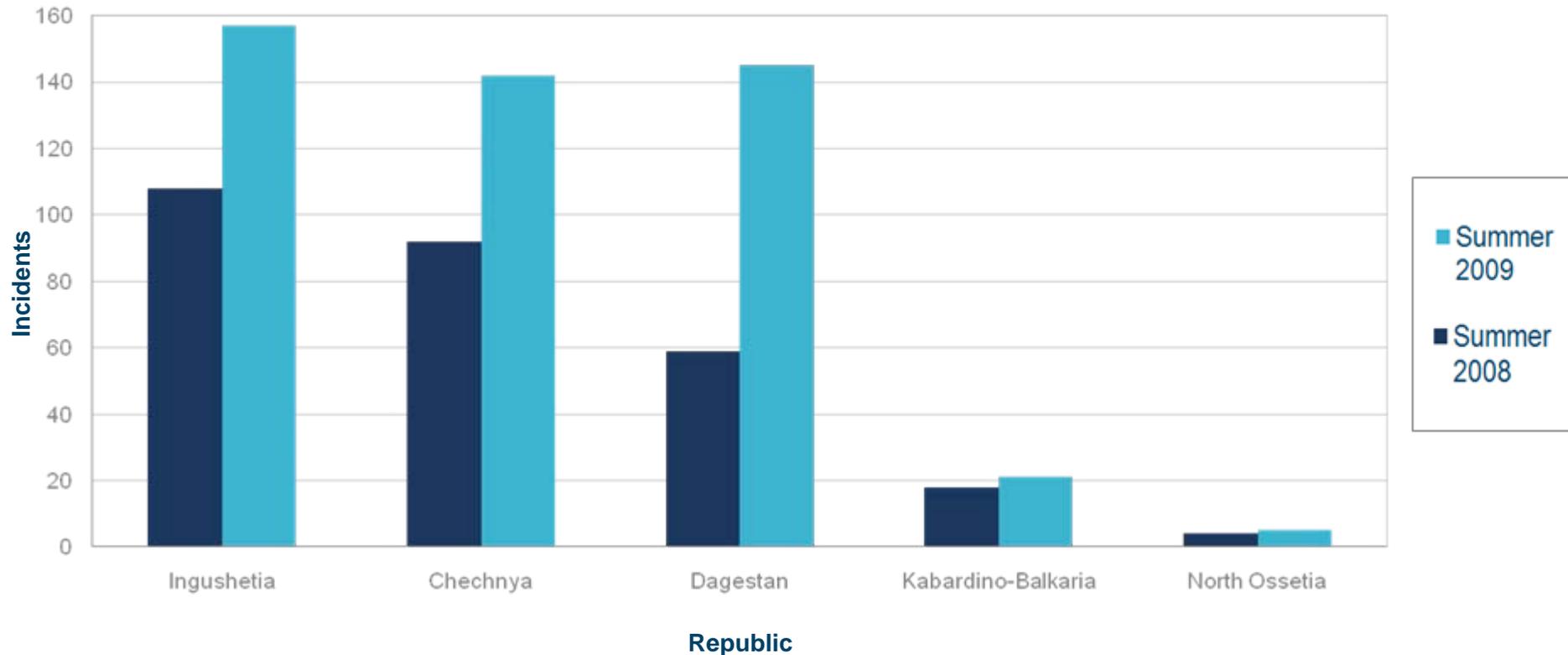
Violent Incidents in the North Caucasus Totals for Summer 2008 and Summer 2009*



*Summer 2008 includes violent incidents from May 1, 2008 through August 31, 2008. Summer 2009 includes violent incidents from May 1, 2009 through August 31, 2009.



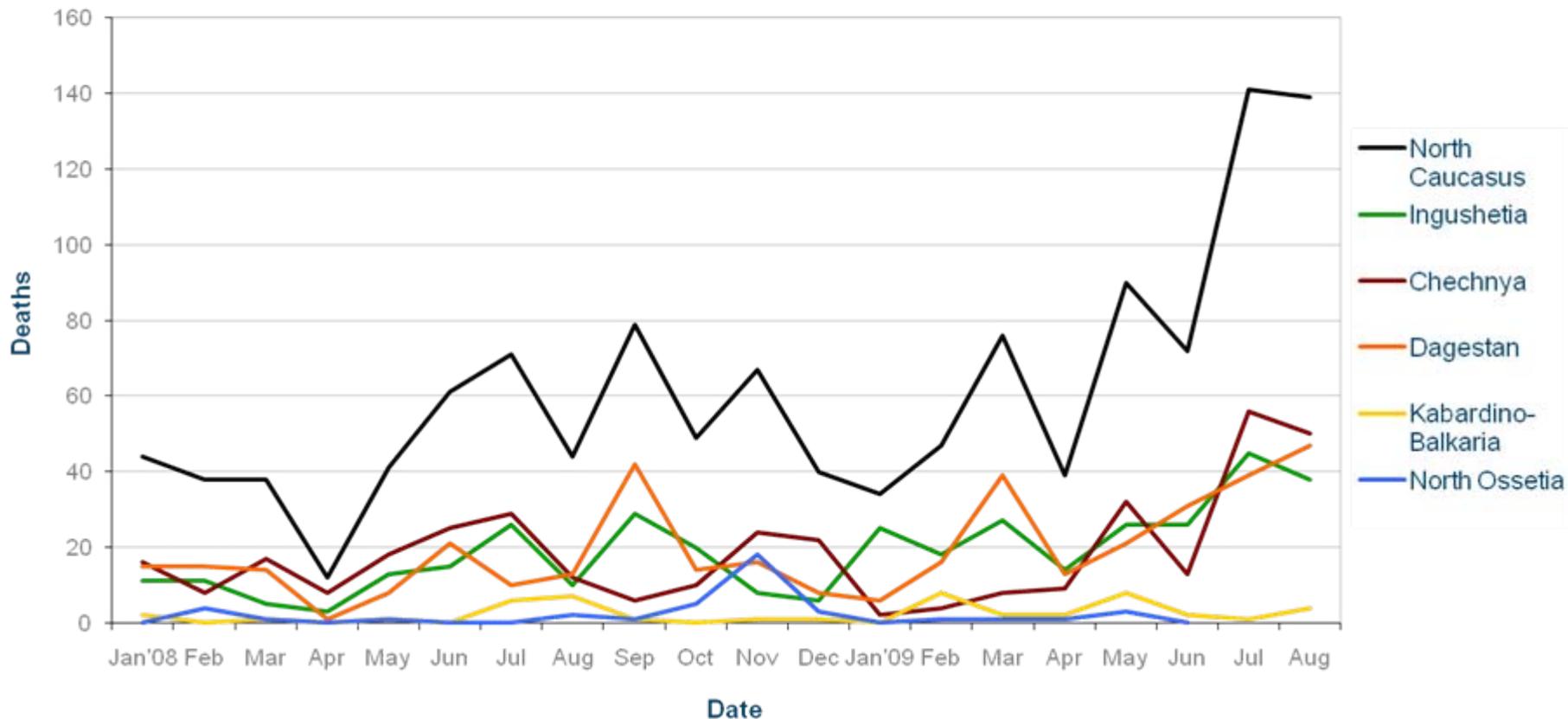
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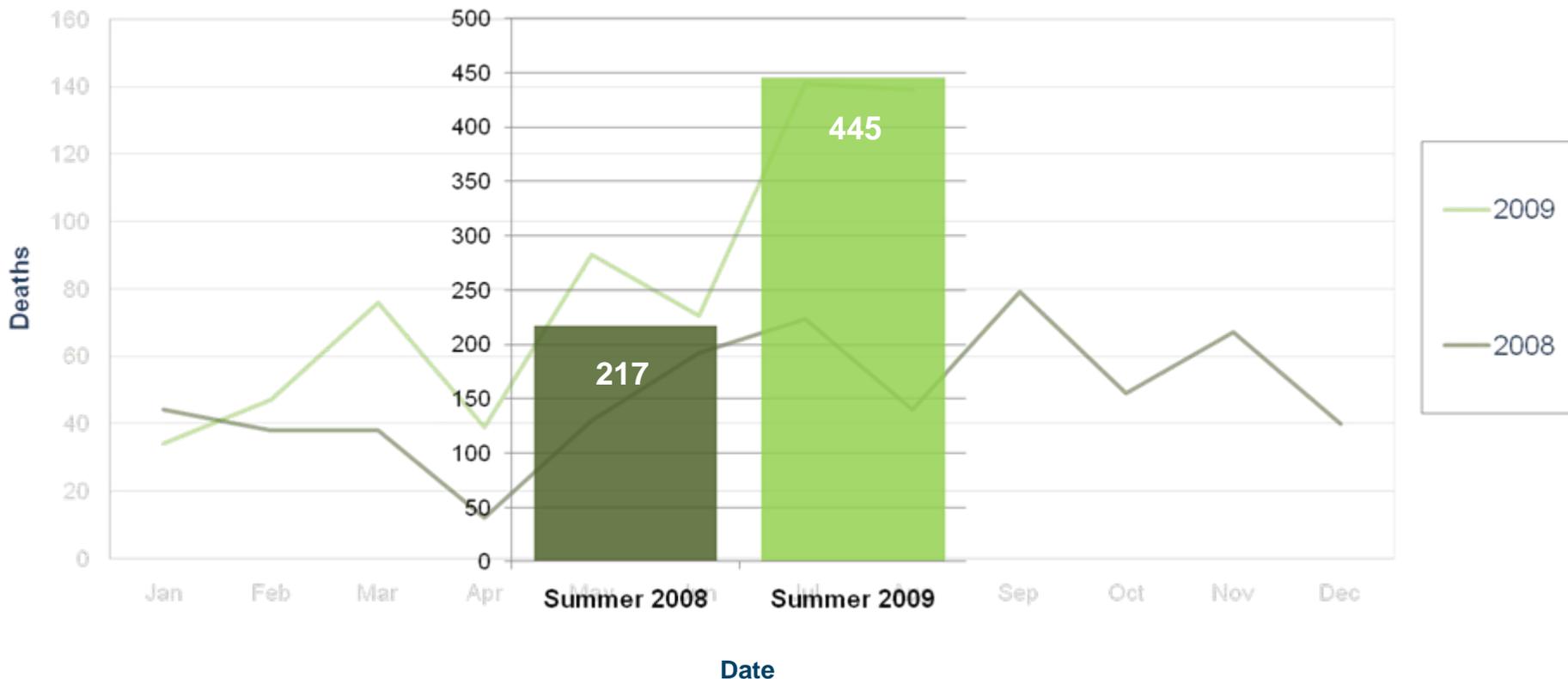
Deaths due to Violent Incidents in the North Caucasus January 2008 – August 2009



Deaths due to Violent Incidents in the North Caucasus 2008 and 2009



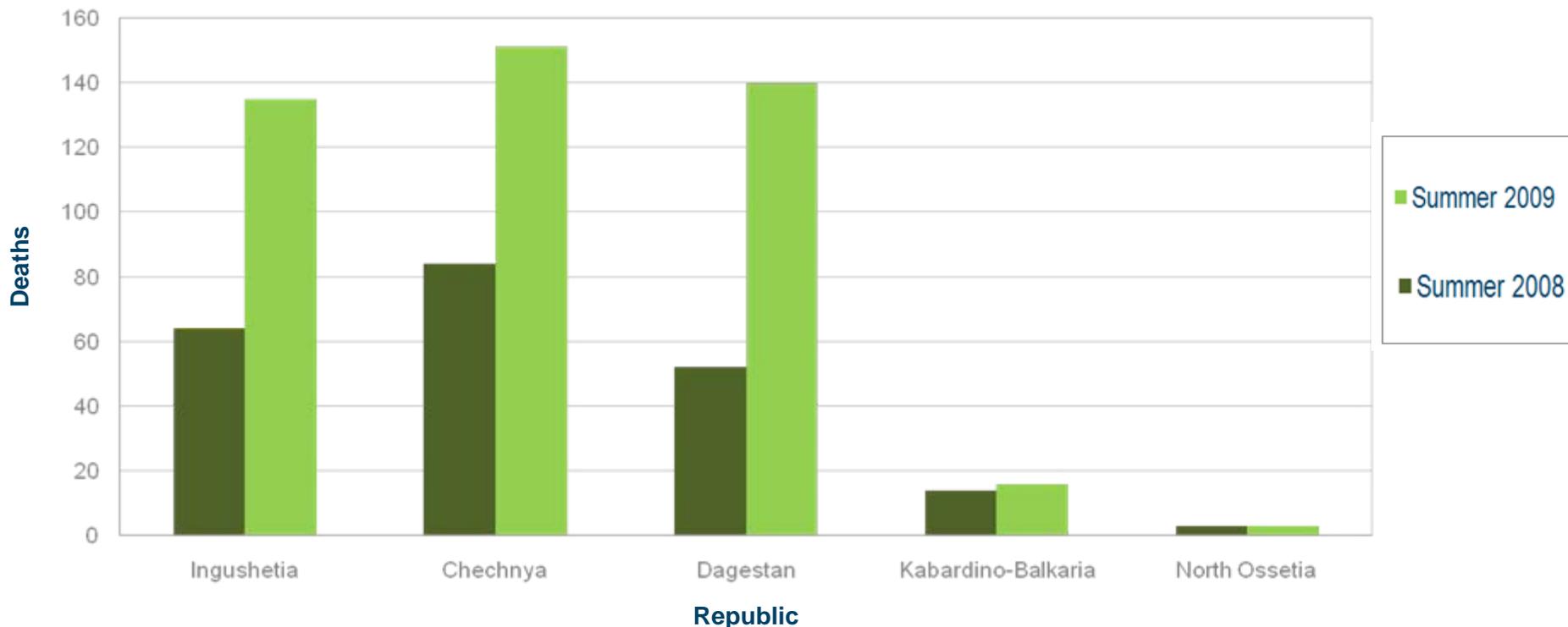
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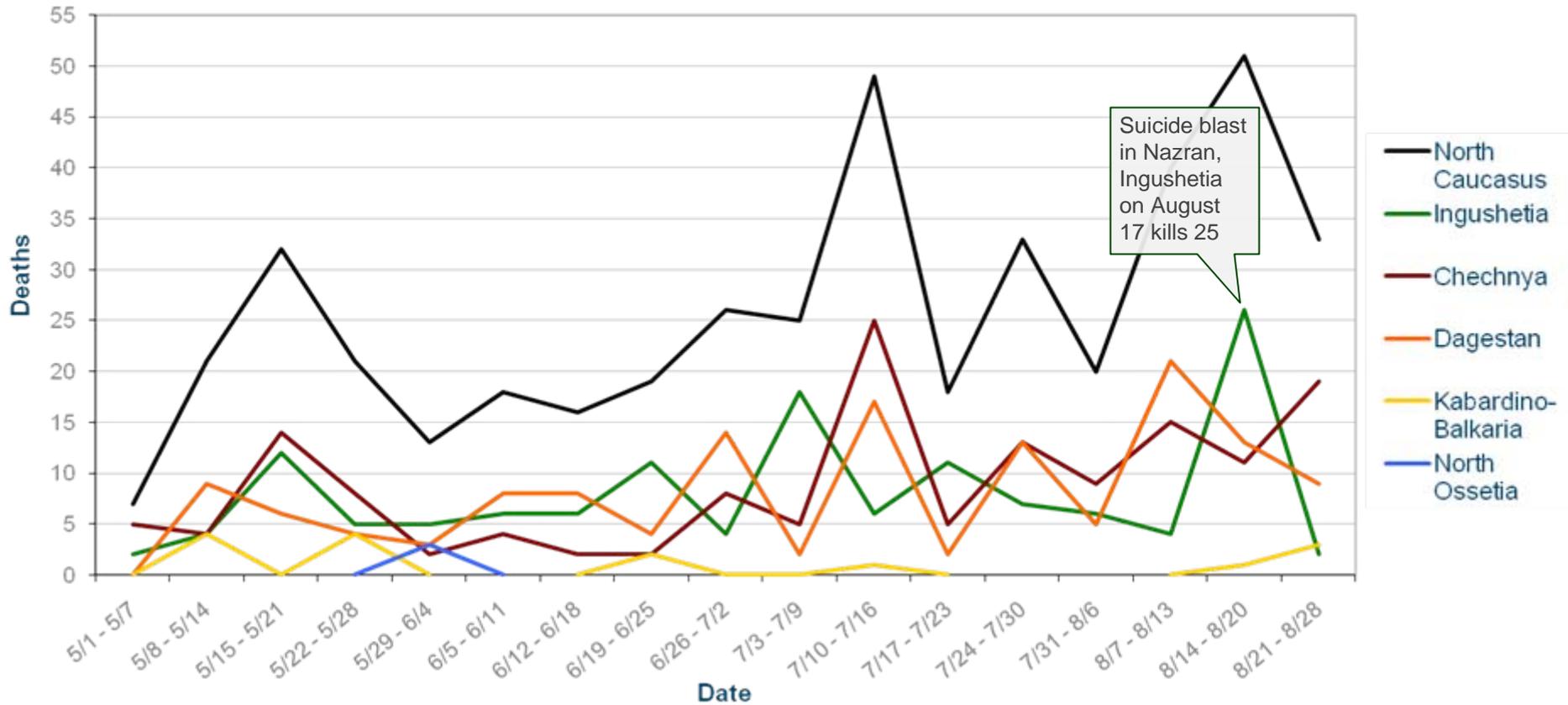


Deaths due to Violent Incidents in the North Caucasus Summer 2008 and Summer 2009*

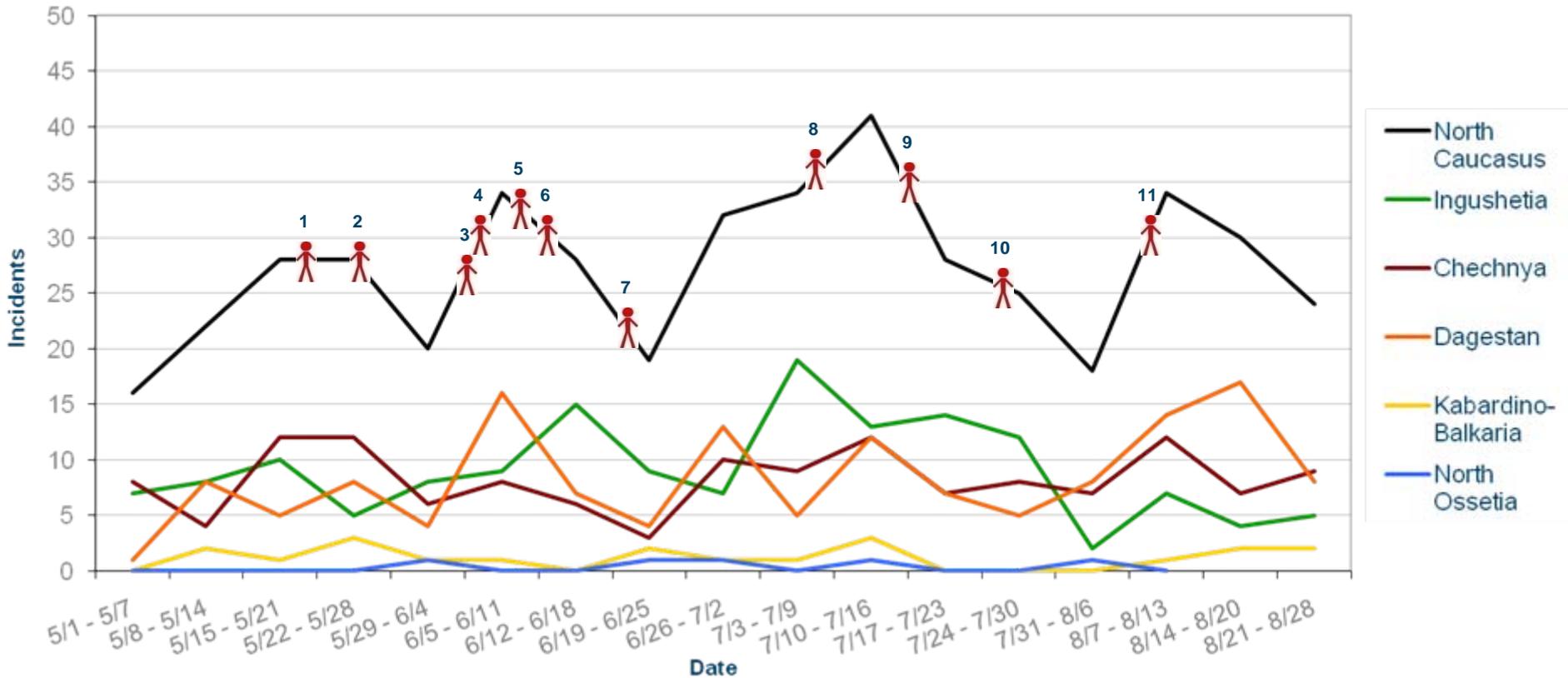


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Deaths due to Violent Incidents in the North Caucasus Summer 2009



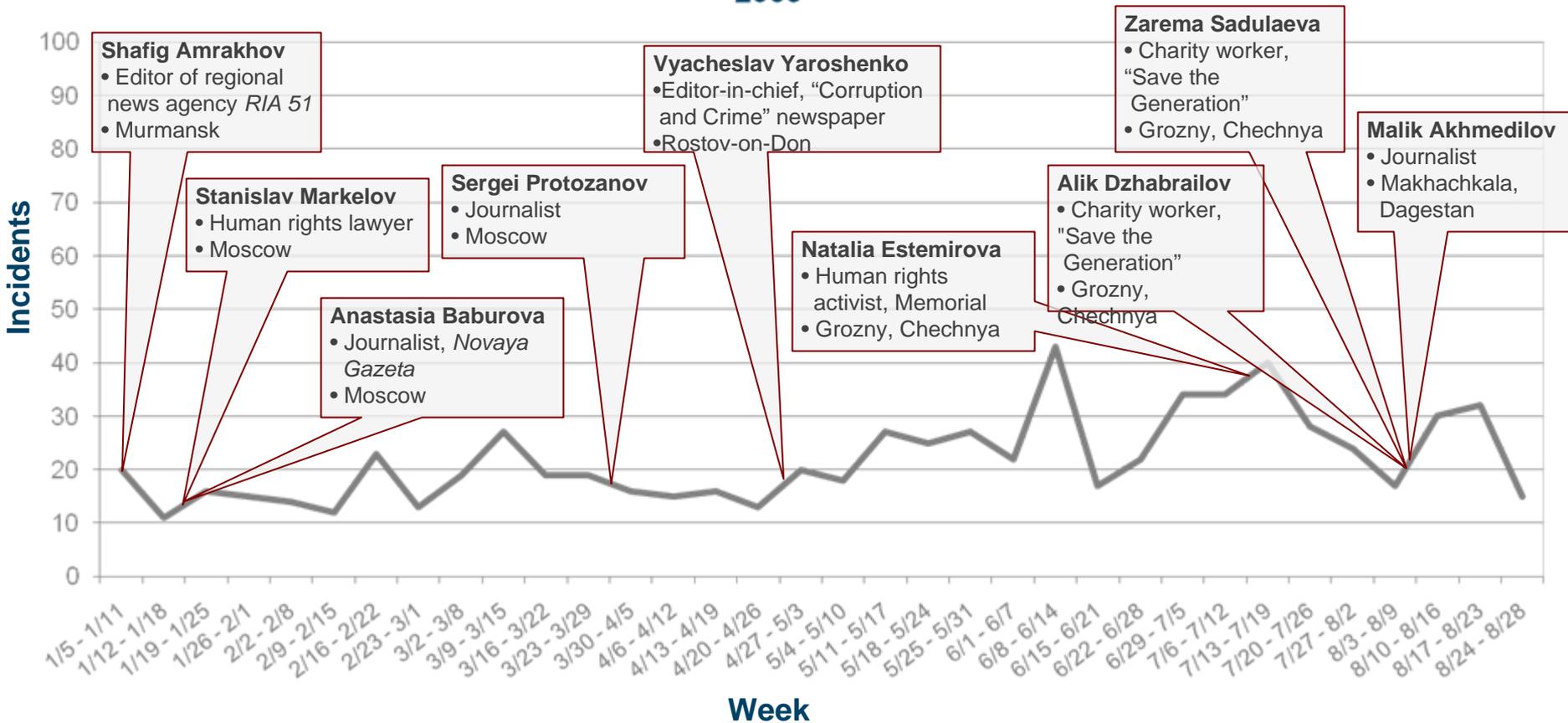
Violent Incidents and Attacks on High Ranking Government Officials in the North Caucasus Summer 2009



1. Deputy Head of Investigative Directorate, the Dagestan Investigative Committee of the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Russian Federation – Killed, May 21, 2009
2. Former officer of the Anti-Extremism and Criminal Terrorism branch, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Dagestan – Killed, May 24, 2009
3. Minister of Internal Affairs, Dagestan – Killed, June 5, 2009
4. Assistant First Deputy Chairman, Government of Chechnya – Killed, June 6, 2009
5. Deputy Chief Justice, Ingushetia's Supreme Court – Killed, June 10, 2009
6. Vice Premier under former president, Ingushetia – Killed, June 13, 2009
7. President, Ingushetia – Wounded, June 22, 2009
8. Head of the Non-Departmental Security Service, Department of Internal Affairs of the city of Karabulak, Ingushetia – Killed, July 9, 2009
9. Minister for Sport, Culture and Tourism, Ingushetia – Reportedly attacked*, July 17, 2009
10. Four high-ranking police officers killed in suicide bombing in Grozny – Killed, July 26, 2009
11. Minister for Construction, Ingushetia – Killed, August 12, 2009

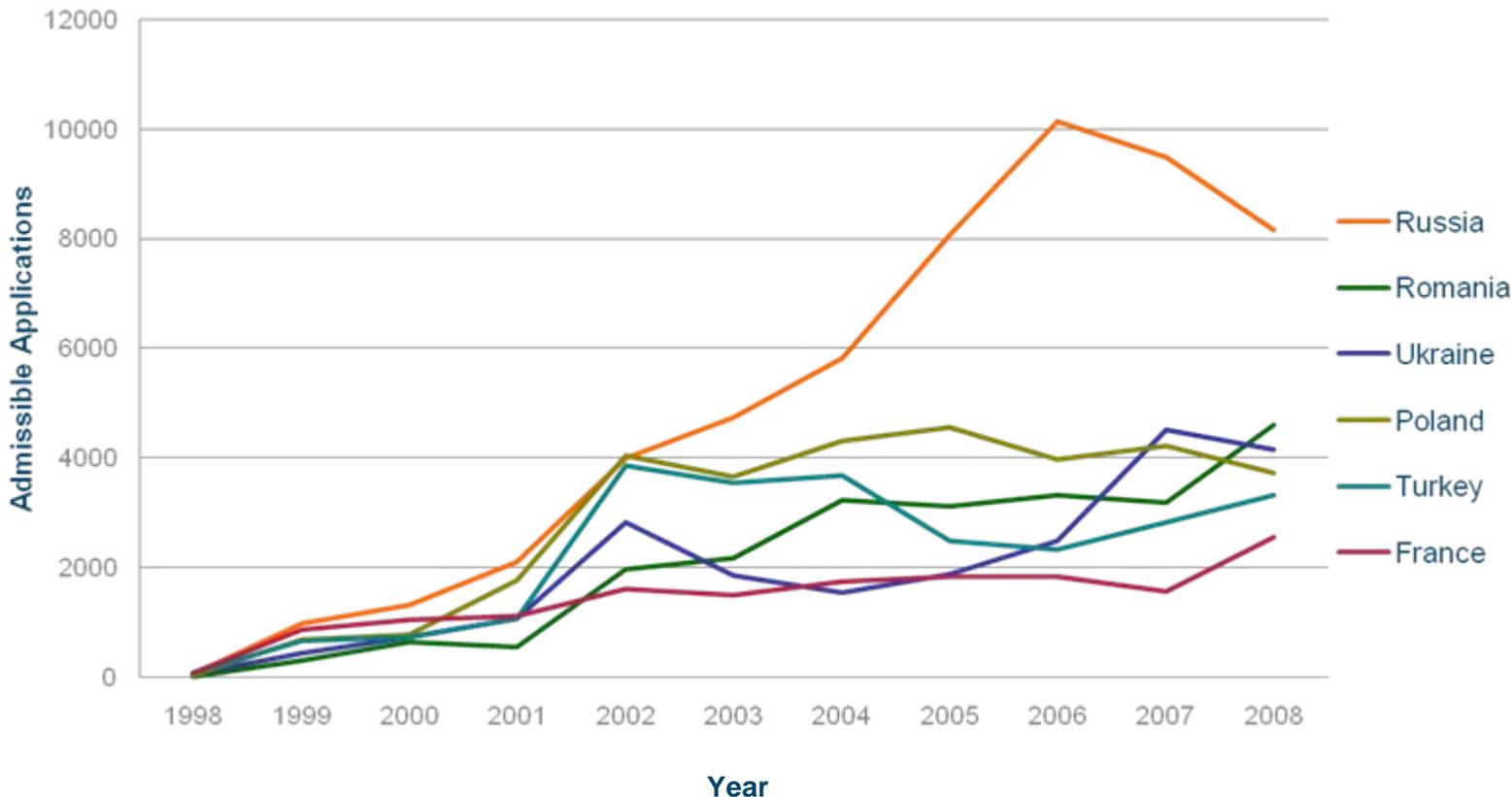
* It was originally reported that the Ingush Minister for Sport, Culture and Tourism was attacked in his car. Later reports refuted this, claiming that the Minister was alive and well.

Violent Incidents in the North Caucasus and Killings of Journalists and Human Rights Activist in Russia 2009



Admissible Applications* by Country to the European Court of Human Rights 1998 – 2008

It should be noted that the rise in admissible applications before the ECHR does not necessarily illustrate an increase in human rights abuses. Instead, there is a growing recognition that the ECHR is the avenue for justice in the large number of cases that have passed through the Russian judicial system.

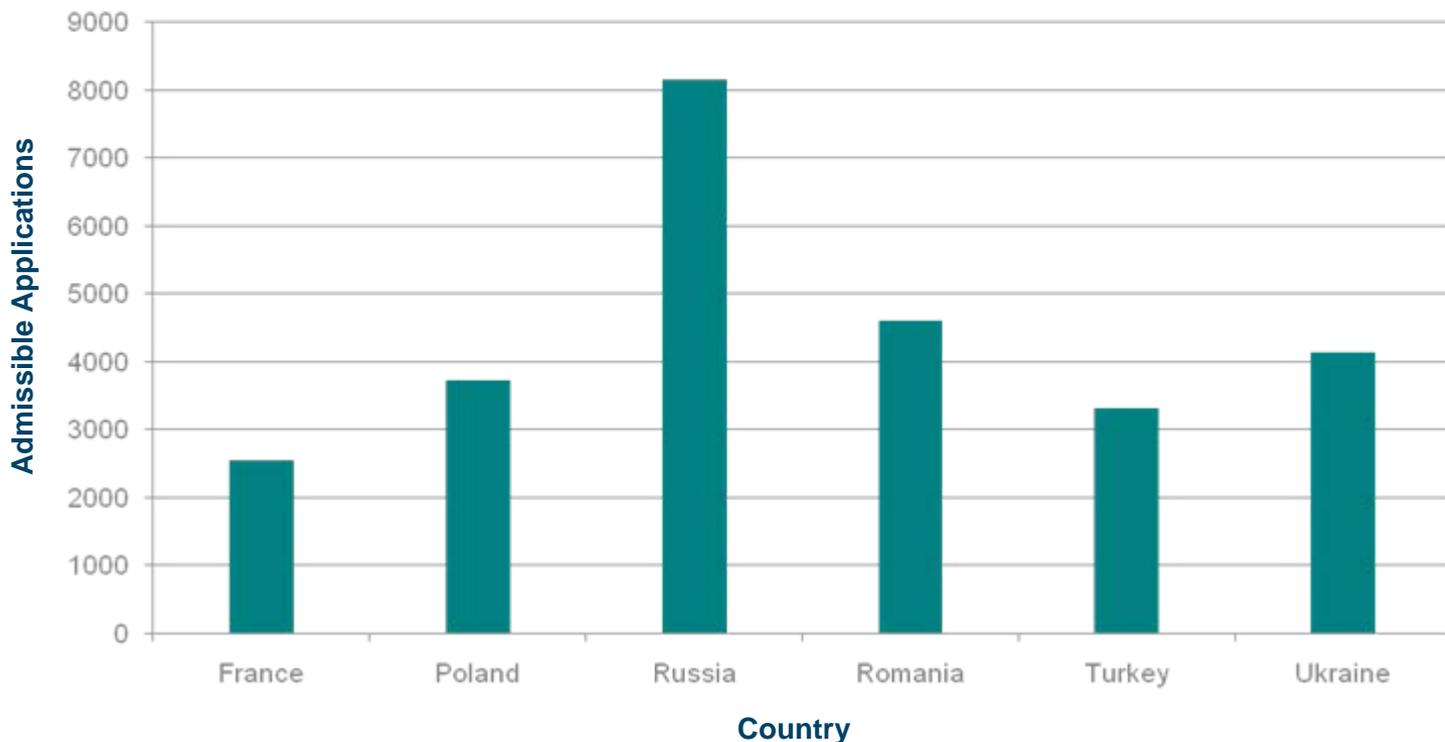


* “Admissible applications” are those in which the applicant has “exhausted the effective remedies available in the country in which the alleged violation was committed” and lodged the application within six months of the country’s final decision.

Admissible Applications* by Country to the European Court of Human Rights in 2008

Russia has more applications before the ECHR than any other country in the Court's jurisdiction.

While only a fraction of applications brought against Russia originate from republics of the North Caucasus, the court has become a prominent outlet for cases of torture, disappearance and extrajudicial executions in Chechnya and Ingushetia.



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Average Cost of Crude Oil Compared to the Number of Violent Incidents in the North Caucasus January 2008 – July 2009

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



Sources

Main:

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

Additional:

- 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>)
- Russia Justice Initiative (<http://www.srji.org/en/echr/russia/>)
- Report of the European Court of Human Rights, 1998-2008
(<http://www.echr.coe.int/NR/rdonlyres/ACF07093-1937-49AF-8BE6-36FE0FEE1759/0/FactsAndFiguresENG10ansNov.pdf>)
- Human Rights Watch (<http://www.hrw.org/>)

Further Reading:

- For more on the impact that this mounting violence has had on Russia's human rights community and what the international community ought to be doing about it, see Sarah Mendelson's August 12th *Foreign Policy* article "(Un)civil Society in the North Caucasus."
- For a survey-based assessment of factors contributing to the region's volatility, see Professor Theodore Gerber's and Sarah Mendelson's article "Security through Sociology: The North Caucasus and the Global Counterinsurgency Paradigm," forthcoming in *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, Volume 32, Issue 9, September 2009.
- 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 2007 report by the CSIS Human Rights and Security Initiative and the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

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For more information please contact Matthew Malarkey,
mmalarkey@csis.org