

FROM THE CONFLICT ZONE

BULLETIN OF HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER "MEMORIAL"

(prepared by HRC "Memorial" in Nazran)

Ingushetia – 26-29 June 2004

30 June 2004. On June 28-29 "Memorial" visited compact settlements of Chechen IDPs in the Ingush towns of Karabulak and Sleptsovsk. In most of these settlements special operations were carried out after June 21. Usually the operations involved passport control, interrogation, taking fingerprints, search of individual houses and household premises in camps. Some cases of beatings and threats of reprisals have been registered by "Memorial".

In compact settlement "Kolos" located in Karabulak, across the street from the building of OMON, the special operation took place on June 26, five days after the raid.

At 9: 30 a.m. 50-60 masked servicemen of Chechen and Ingush OMON with dogs blocked the settlement. They carried out a door-to-door check up, collected all male residents of "Kolos" in front of the school, boarded them on Gazel minibus and took them to the local militia. Several men were kicked during the detainment.

In militia every man was checked in the computer database, fingerprints were taken. This procedure lasted from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The IDPs interviewed by "Memorial" said, that the militiamen kept telling them "We are sick of you. Go home". None of the interviewed was asked questions about events of June 21. Those who had no temporary registration in Ingushetia were fined, 100 rubles each. Afterwards, everyone was released.

It should be noted that denial of registration to forced migrants from Chechnya has been a frequently practiced form of discrimination, aimed to facilitate the process of their return to Chechnya. "Memorial" has been systematically assisting IDPs in getting registration through courts.

In compact settlement "Agrosnab" near Karabulak the IDPs were very happy about their mop-up. "It was no mop up, just a document check-up", said women, who gathered in front of the commandant's house.

The operation was carried out by local militia at 7 a.m. on June 26. They went door-to-door, checked IDPs passports without entering their homes. The operation lasted less than one hour. No violations have been registered. There have been no electricity or gas cut-offs in Agrosnab.

In compact settlement MRO "Rassvet" in Sleptsovsk no mop up operations took place after the raid. On June 29, when "Memorial" visited the settlement, they found many families in the process of leaving. Those were the families, who used to live in tents on the territory of the settlement. IDPs complained that except for transport, the migration services provided no assistance in resettlement for IDPs. They said they were pressed to leave, but refused to specify in what manner. At the time of "Memorial" visit, Mr. Parov, **the head of migration** Ingush services, was present in the camp. He refused to talk to human rights activists in quite an unfriendly manner.

In compact settlement "SMU-4" a special operation took place on June 24. Mixed units of federal and local Ingush power agencies blocked the camp. Some of them were masked, others had open faces. They entered people's homes, in some carried out unsanctioned search,

turning IDPs personal belongings upside down. All the passports of male IDPs were collected, the men themselves were taken to the local militia station. Three men were kicked during the detainment.

According to the IDPs, at the militia station the men were interrogated, they were shown pictures of Chechen fighters, fingerprints were taken. All men were kept in one small stuffy room, and when one of them asked for water, he was told that instead of water they would now all be taken outside and shot down like dogs. "You are gypsies," – the militiamen kept repeating. IDPs spent several hours at the police station. After that all of them have been released. "We will come back in a week, then we will show you", said the militiaman: "You won't have peace until you go home." After the operation 8 families out of 72 residing in camps, left Ingushetia.

In compact settlement "Oskanovskie garazhi" a mop-up operation took place on June 28. At 8:45 a.m. a mixed unit of Ingush and federal power agencies arrived to the camp by three cars. They carried out a door-to-door check up. The passports of all young men were taken to the local militia. They were returned in a few hours. Before returning passports, militiamen interrogated young men and took their fingerprints. One young man was beaten.