

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN INFORMATION BULLETIN 1/2005

RUSSIA

CHECHEN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

DECEMBER 2005

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1. Introduction

- 1.01 This Country of Origin Information Bulletin (COI Bulletin) has been produced by Research Development and Statistics (RDS), Home Office, from information about Russia obtained from a wide variety of recognised sources. It does not contain any Home Office opinion or policy.
- 1.02 This COI Bulletin has been prepared for background purposes for those involved in the asylum/human rights determination process. The information it contains is not exhaustive.
- 1.03 The COI Bulletin is sourced throughout. It is intended to be used by caseworkers as a signpost to the source material, which has been made available to them. The vast majority of the source material is readily available in the public domain.
- 1.04 This COI Bulletin is intended to give a brief overview of parliamentary elections held within the Republic of Chechnya (Ickheria), a member of the Russian Federation, on 27 November 2005. It should be read in conjunction with existing COI products on the Russian Federation. The COI Bulletin only includes reports considered to be relevant to those involved in the asylum/human rights determination process.
- 1.05 This COI Bulletin and the accompanying source material are publicly disclosable. Where sources identified in the COI Bulletin are available in electronic form the relevant link has been included. The date that the relevant link was accessed in preparing the COI Bulletin is also included. Paper copies of the sources have been distributed to nominated officers in Asylum Caseworking Directorate and all Presenting Officer Units.

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2. Chechen Parliamentary Elections 27 November 2005

- 2.01 As reported by the official interfax news agency on 3 December 2005, "The United Russia party has won a majority of seats in the two-house Chechen parliament and will have 24 seats in the People's Assembly (the lower chamber) and nine in the Council of the Republic (the upper chamber). [1a]
- 2.02 As noted by the same source the full results were as follows:
- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| United Russia | 60.65 % |
| Union of Right-Wing Forces (SPS) | 12.39 % |
| Communist Party (CPRF) | 12.20 % |
| Eurasian Union | 3.85 % |
| Yabloko | 3.15 % |
| Rodina (Motherland) | 2.39 % |
| Liberal Democratic Party | 1.46 % |
| Narodnaya | 1.29 % |
| Against all | 1.51 % [1a] |
| Assumed to be spoilt ballots | 1.11 % |
- 2.03 As reported by the BBC on 28 November 2005, "Some 350 candidates were competing for 58 seats. Eight Russian parties fielded candidates and independents also stood." [5a]
- 2.04 As reported by Radio Liberty in a report dated 27 November 2005, "When Chechnya's 430 polling stations closed at 6:00 p.m. local time, no noticeable incidents had been reported. The elections took place amid high security out of fear that separatist forces would try to disrupt the voting process. Media reports say thousands of army troops and police officers were deployed across the republic to prevent any incident... According to the Chechen Constitution, at least 25 percent of voters should turn out for the elections to be technically valid." [3a]
- 2.05 As reported by Reuters on 29 November 2005, "The European Union hailed on Tuesday a weekend parliamentary election in Chechnya seen entrenching a pro-Moscow strongman [Ramzan Kadyrov] in power as a step forward for democracy in the rebel region. Separatist rebels took no part in the vote and called it a charade... 'The Presidency of the European Union considers these parliamentary elections ... an important step towards broader representation of a range of views in Chechen society,' it said in a statement released by current EU president Britain." [2a]
- 2.06 On 8 December 2005, MOSNEWS reported, "Russian rights activists have accused the European Union of whitewashing reality by giving an optimistic assessment of Chechnya's parliamentary election, Reuters reported... Rights groups have said the presence of Russian troops, and kidnappings and murder by Moscow's proxy forces in the region made a free parliamentary poll impossible... The letter was signed by Russian rights group Memorial, the Helsinki Federation, the Russia-Chechen Friendship Society and others including the Paris-based International Federation for Human Rights." [4a]

- 2.07 As reported by Radio Liberty on 7 December 2005, "Ramzan Kadyrov, the first deputy prime minister of the pro-Moscow Chechen government, has been elected chief regional representative of Unified Russia, Russia's ruling party. The announcement was made today in Grozny by Chechen presidential spokesman Muslim Khuchiyev. Ramzan Kadyrov is the son of late Chechen president Akhmad Kadyrov, who died in a May 2004 bomb attack." [3b]
- 2.08 On 29 November 2005 the BBC reported, "The Kremlin-backed President of Chechnya, Alu Alkhanov, has said he is planning to go to Brussels to meet Chechen separatist representatives. Russia has refused to negotiate with the separatist rebels since hostilities flared up again in 1999... 'We are open to those who want peace,' Mr Alkhanov said. He did not name the separatists he is planning to meet." [1b]
- 2.09 As reported by the BBC on 12 December 2005, "Russian President Vladimir Putin has paid a surprise visit to the Chechen capital Grozny to attend the opening of the new parliament elected last month." [5c]

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Annex A: List of newly elected MPs

Upper House – Republican Council (18 single mandate seats, constituencies given in brackets)

Aslambek Musaevich Aidamirov (Kurchaloevsky) *United Russia*
Sharap Abievich Beldurov (Sunzha) *United Russia*
Akhmarkhadzhi Gopurovich Gazikhanov (Nozhai-Yurt) *United Russia*
Musa Muslievich Ibragimov (Grozny) *United Russia*
Musa Maggaevich Khamzatov (Argun) *United Russia*
Akhmed Nokhaevich Khumakiev (Nadterechnaya) *United Russia*
Anna Dmitrievna Kolesnikova (Naurskaya) *United Russia*
Salauty Techchievich Metsalov (Gudermes) *United Russia*
Abuyazdid Salamovich Mitrishev (Achkoi-Martan) *United Russia*

Mokhsin Umarovich Demigov (Sharoi) *Independent*
Roza Vakhiev Isaeva (Shatoi) *Independent*
Ibragim Abdulkhalovich Khultigov (Vedeno) *Independent*
Alu Alievich Magomedmirzaev (Urus-Martan) *Independent*
Aleksandr Georgeovich Radvan (Itum-Kale) *Independent*

Magomed Abdulovich Akhmedov (Grozny) *Communist Party*
Isa Gelanievich Khashkhanov (Shali) *Communist Party*
Vakhid Zhumalievich Mantsaev (Shelkovsky) *Communist Party*

Said Nazhadievich Yusupov (Gudermes) *Eurasian Union*

Totals: United Russia – 9
Independent – 5
Communist Party – 3
Eurasian Union – 1
[6a]

Lower House – People's Assembly (20 single mandate seats: 20 party list seats)

Single mandate

Mashar Abuzarovna Aidamirova (Gudermes) *United Russia*
Sultan Gabisovich Bilimkhanov (Nozhai-Yurt) *United Russia*
Yury Fedorovich Laskov (Shelkovsky) *United Russia*
Dzhalvadi Baimutdinovich Malaev (Oiskharsky) *United Russia*
Mukhtar Abdulaevich Musaev (Shali) *United Russia*
Visriddin Sherdievich Sherdiev (Zavodsky) *United Russia*
Ibragim Abdurakhmanovich Suleimenov (Vedeno) *United Russia*
Rizvan Said-Magomedovich Suleimanov (Argun) *United Russia*
Aburashit Valavdievich Zakaev (Leninsky) *United Russia*
Salman Soipobich Zakriev (Kurchaloevsky) *United Russia*

Shamkhan Abusoltovich Abdulaev (Urus Martan) *Independent*
RuslanVakhidovich Betrakhmadov (Grozny) *Independent*
Aslanbek Aindyevich Chuchaev (Naurskaya) *Independent*
Khamzat Mamutovich Dadaev (Achkoi-Martan) *Independent*

Khamzat Tultaevich Tankayev (Goity) *Independent*
Zata Magomedovna Tashtamirova (Oktyabrsky) *Independent*
Idris Emievich Usmanov (Nadtrechnaya) *Independent*
Said-Bek Adayevich Uzuev (Shatoi) *Independent*
Zambek Zamaevich Zalzaev (Staropromyslovsky) *Independent*

Mikhail Khasanovich Darchev (Sunzha) *SPS*

Totals: United Russia – 10
Independent – 9
SPS – 1
[6a]

Party list (NB: full list not available at time of writing)

Dukvakha Abdurakhmanov, *United Russia*
Adnan Barzukaev, *United Russia*
Mompasha Machuev, *United Russia*

Magomed Khambiev, *SPS*
Adnan Tenishev, *SPS*

Totals: United Russia – 14
SPS – 3
Communist Party – 3
[6a]

Party Heads (NB: full list not available at time of writing)

Motherland: Turpal-Ali Khasbulatov

United Russia: Ramzan Kadyrov (as of 07.12.2005)

Yabloko: *Unknown*

SPS: Zinaida Said-Emeneva Magomedova

Communist Party - *Unknown*

LDPR - *Unknown*

Eurasian Union - *Unknown*
[6a]

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Annex B: List of source material

- [1] a **Interfax**, accessed via <http://www.interfax.ru/?lang=e&>
3 December 2005, *Chechnya announces official results of parliamentary elections*, accessed 8 December 2005
<http://www.interfax.com/3/110551/news.aspx>
- [2] a Reuters, accessed <http://today.reuters.com/>
29 November 2005, *EU hails Chechen election as step forward*, accessed 8 December 2005
<http://today.reuters.com/News/CrisisArticle.aspx?storyId=L29717828>
- [3] a **Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty**, accessed via <http://www.rferl.org/>
27 November 2005, *Russia: With Heavy Security In Evidence, Chechen Vote Comes Off Without Violence*, accessed 27 November 2005
<http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2005/11/41a88e3a-0ced-4639-bcf8-ef4dac1dd417.html>
- b 7 November 2005, *Kadyrov Is Unified Russia's Top Chechen Representative*, accessed 8 December 2005
<http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2005/12/ADCCF61C-CF24-4202-A037-F336F2C57D46.html>
- [4] a **MOSNEWS**, accessed via <http://www.mosnews.com/>
8 December 2005, *Russian Rights Activists Accuse EU of Whitewashing Chechen reality*, accessed same date
<http://www.mosnews.com/news/2005/12/08/whitewashing.shtml>
- [5] **BBC**, accessed via
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/default.stm>
- a 28 November 2005, *Pro-Putin party leads in Chechnya*, accessed 28 November 2005
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/4477270.stm>
- b 29 November 2005, *Chechen leader set to meet rebels*, accessed 29 November 2005
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/4481106.stm>
- c 12 December 2005, *Putin in surprise Chechen visit*, accessed 12 December 2005
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/4520904.stm>
- [6] a **Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)**
List of Chechen MPs