

## **CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS 1990 - 2004**

The main purpose of this chronology is to help the reader by reconstructing MSF's actions and public statements in regional and international news reports of the period. It is intended as a tool for this specific document, and not as an academic reference.

International	Russian Federation / North Caucasus	MSF in North Caucasus	MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media
<b>1990</b>	Boris Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federation told small States of the ex- Soviet Union to “take as much independence as they could swallow.”		
<b>1991</b>	<p><b>1 November</b> Dzhokhar Dudaiev, President of the Republic of Chechnya-Ingushetia proclaimed independence.</p> <p><b>8 November</b> Moscow sent in troops then withdrew at parliament’s request.</p> <p><b>December</b> Ingushetia officially separated from Chechnya.</p>		
<b>1992</b>	<p><b>January to March</b> Dudaiev refused to sign the Russian Federation treaty. A Chechen constitution is adopted. Russia imposed an economic embargo.</p>		
<b>1993</b>	<p><b>June</b> Dudaiev dissolved the Chechen Parliament and accords himself full powers.</p>	<p><b>July-August</b> MSF F: Exploratory mission to Chechnya, Ingushetia, &amp; Ossetia. Support to Nazran hospital and refugees.</p>	
<b>1994</b>	<p><b>January</b> Dudaiev renamed Chechnya “The Chechen Republic of Ichkeria.”</p>	<p><u>MSF F:</u> South Ossetia: support to Tskinali Hospital. North Ossetia (Prigorodny): assistance to Ingush refugees. <u>MSF B:</u> Armenia and Azerbaidjan for several years.</p> <p><b>July-August</b> MSF F: Intervention during a cholera epidemic in East Chechnya.</p>	

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<p><b>1994</b></p>	<p><b>September</b> Following attempt by Russian troops to overthrow the regime, <u>President Dudaiev</u> declared a state of emergency.</p> <p><b>11 December</b> 25,000 Russian soldiers crossed into Chechnya.</p> <p><b>20 December</b> Grozny pounded with bombs – population flight.</p>	<p><b>December</b> <u>MSF B and MSF F</u> started intervention in Chechnya.</p>	<p><b>20 December</b> Press Release (PR) <u>MSF B</u>: “<i>MSF Sets Up Aid for Chechen Victims.</i>”</p>
<p><b>1995 February</b> <u>Human Rights Watch</u> Helsinki Report: “Russia, Three Months of War in Chechnya.”</p> <p><b>Late March</b> <u>OSCE</u>: “Access Conditions for Humanitarian Aid are Improving in Chechnya.”</p>	<p><b>Mid-February</b> Russian troops took control of Grozny: destruction of the city, thousands of wounded.</p> <p><b>March</b> Russian troops hurled bombs on the towns of South Chechnya.</p>	<p><b>February</b> <u>MSF B</u>: Surgery and provision of drugs to Vedeno and Marketi hospitals. <u>MSF F</u>: healthcare and support to South Chechnya &amp; Grozny hospitals, and Chechen refugees in Ingushetia.</p> <p><b>March</b> <u>MSF B</u>: in Hospital n°9 and 10 in Grozny.</p>	<p><b>9 February</b> <u>PR MSF B</u>: “<i>The Conflict in Chechnya Drags on: MSF Sends Another 42 Tons of Material.</i>”</p> <p><b>21 February</b> <u>PR MSF B</u>: “<i>MSF Evacuates 11 Children from Grozny Orphanage.</i>”</p> <p><b>13 March</b> <u>PR MSF F</u>: “<i>MSF Barred from Entering Southern Chechnya.</i>”</p> <p><b>22 March</b> <u>PR MSF B</u>: “<i>Whilst the International Media Loses Interest in the Chechen Conflict, 80,000 People are Wandering the Ruins of Grozny.</i>”</p> <p><b>27 March</b> <u>PR MSFB</u>: “<i>Massive Bombings of Several Chechen Towns, MSF Sends in a Full Charter of Supplies.</i>”</p> <p><b>30 March</b> <u>Press Conference in Brussels &amp; PR MSF F/B</u>: “<i>Civilians Targeted in the Fighting.</i>” + Report: “<i>Chechnya: the Continuation of Humanitarian Aid Relies on Transport of relief Supplies.</i>”</p>

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<p><b>1995</b></p>	<p><b>May</b> Bombing raids intensify in southern Chechnya.</p> <p><b>Late June</b> Chechen fighters take hostages in Budenkovsk: 100 dead.</p>	<p><b>April</b> <u>MSF B</u>: watsan in Grozny and Khassaviourt.</p> <p><b>May</b> <u>MSF B</u>: in Marketi <u>MSF F</u>: in Shatoi, underground surgery under fire.</p> <p><b>2 June</b> <u>MSF F</u> forced to evacuate Shatoi after an ultimatum and the attack of Russian forces. General Kulikov, Head of Russian forces in Chechnya, denied access to MSF in Southern Chechnya. Kulikov refused to meet the MSF F President because of the PR.</p> <p><b>9 June</b> <u>MSF F</u> Board meeting: What can we do in Chechnya?</p> <p><b>Late June</b> <u>MSFB</u> team treats Buddenkovsk wounded hostages in Khasavyurt.</p> <p><b>24 June</b> A Russian tank targets an <u>MSF B</u> car near Vedenovsk.</p>	<p><b>24 May</b> PR <u>MSF B</u>: "MSF Calls on the Russian Army to Spare Medical Facilities."</p> <p><b>27 May</b> PR <u>MSF F</u>: "MSF Calls for a Ceasefire to Evacuate Civilians."</p> <p><b>30 May</b> PR <u>MSF B</u>: "MSF Appeals to the Russian Army to Protect Medical Facilities - Marketi under Fire." PR <u>MSF F</u>: "Civilians Still under the Russians bombs in Shatoi."</p> <p><b>2 June</b> PR <u>MSF B/F</u>: "Declared persona non grata in the Region of Shatoi and Marketi, MSF is Forced to withdraw from Southern Chechnya."</p> <p><b>16 June</b> <u>MSF F</u> report: "Humanitarian Law Flouted in Chechnya: the Example of Shatoi."</p> <p><b>20 June</b> <u>MSFB</u>: "Info Update, Chechnya: MSF Manages to Treat Hostages." Letter from <u>MSFF</u> President to <u>PACE</u> President.</p> <p><b>25 June</b> PR <u>MSF B</u>: "MSF Team Attacked by the Russian Army."</p>

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<p><b>1995</b></p>	<p><b>30 July</b> Ceasefire agreement signed between Russian forces and the Chechen separatists. Some refugees return to Grozny.</p> <p><b>November</b> <u>Doku Zavgoyev</u> elected as <u>Head of the Republic of Chechnya</u> by the Supreme Soviet of Chechnya (pro-Russian).</p>	<p><b>August-September</b> 4 armed attacks against MSF F Grozny office and compound.</p> <p><b>October</b> <u>MSF F</u>: retreated to Nazran (Ingushetia) <u>MSF B</u>: harassment against MSF teams at checkpoints.</p> <p><b>15 November</b> <u>MSF B</u>: team caught in an ambush between the Russians and Chechens.</p> <p><b>25 December</b> <u>MSF B</u>: armed attacks against MSF House in Grozny</p>	<p><b>June</b> <u>MSF B</u> <u>Press Briefing</u> to deny accusations of arms transportation by the Russian authorities.</p>
<p><b>1996</b></p>	<p><b>10 January</b> 2,000 Hostages taken by Chechen rebels in Kizlyar (Dagestan). Rebels retreated to Pervomayskoye with hostages. .</p>	<p><b>January-March</b> <u>MSFB</u>: Food distribution in Grozny.</p> <p><b>10 January</b> <u>MSF B</u>: team in Dagestan treated Pervomayskoye wounded hostages</p> <p><b>11 January</b> <u>MSFB</u>: expatriate kidnapped for a few hours in Vedenov.</p>	<p><b>17 January</b> <u>MSF B</u>: - <u>Letter</u> from Executive Director to Russian President Boris Yeltsin: Ceasefire Request to evacuate Pervomayskoye hostages.</p>

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<p><b>1996</b></p> <p><b>21 January</b> The Council of Europe parliamentary members passed a unanimous vote accepting Russia's membership.</p>	<p><b>March</b> Chechen offensive on Grozny, take the town after 3 days.</p> <p><b>14 March</b> Ultimatum by Russian Commander to Samashki population, bombing of Sernovodsk.</p> <p><b>31 March</b> - <u>Sernovodsk</u> is taken by Russian forces. - <u>Yeltsin</u> announces a peace plan, promised in mid-March.</p> <p><b>18 April</b> <u>Letter</u> from Russian Interior Ministry to a Western Embassy saying they decline all responsibility for the safety of</p>	<p><b>30 January</b> MSF F: armed attack against Karaboulak compound.</p> <p><b>February</b> MSF B: opening of a surgical programme in Vedeno, closure of Nova Yurt and Kurtchaloi programmes for lack of access.</p> <p><b>27 February</b> MSF B: armed attack attempt against Vedeno compound.</p> <p><b>March</b> MSF B: in Grozny, deputy logistician wounded by Russian forces.</p> <p><b>Mid-March</b> MSF B and MSF F: teams blocked outside Sernovodsk.</p> <p><b>Late March</b> MSF B: bombings in Vedeno and Marketi. MSF B/F: start of refugees' accounts collection process in order to prepare a public statement during Bill Clinton's visit to Moscow in April.</p>	<p>- PR asking access to hostages in Pervomayskoye</p> <p><b>6 March</b> PR MSF B: "Chechen Offensive on Grozny."</p> <p><b>5 April</b> PR MSF B/MSF F: "Samashki Razed to the Ground by the Russian Army - Vedeno also under Threat."</p> <p><b>18 April</b> MSF B/F: Press Conference in Moscow and Brussels. PR &amp; report: "The Chechen Republic, A Far</p>

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<p><b>1996</b></p>	<p>its citizens present on Russian territory.</p> <p><b>21 April</b> Dzhokhar Dudaiev killed by the Russian forces. <u>Zelimkan Yandarbiyev</u> replaced him as President of the Independent Chechen Republic of Ichkeria.</p> <p><b>10 June</b> Ceasefire agreement between Russian forces and separatists.</p> <p><b>Early July</b> - <u>Boris Yeltsin</u> is reelected as President of the Russian Federation. - Federal forces attacks on villages under rebel control contributed to break in ceasefire.</p> <p><b>6 August</b> Rebel offensive on Grozny.</p> <p><b>19 August</b> 48-hour Russian ultimatum to Grozny civilians to leave or threats of bombings, - massive flight of civilians.</p>	<p><b>27 April</b> <u>MSF B</u>: administrator, driver (quickly released) and translator kidnapped. Temporary withdrawal of expatriates from Chechnya.</p> <p><b>10 May</b> <u>MSF B</u>: administrator and translator released. Internal controversy about a possible link between the 18 April public statement and kidnapping.</p> <p><b>July</b> <u>MSF F</u>: - Exploratory mission to Shatoï (Chechnya). - Round trips between Chechnya and Ingushetia to deliver drugs.</p> <p><b>27 July</b> Two <u>ACF</u> volunteers kidnapped in Grozny. They are released in August and picked up by <u>MSF F</u> team.</p>	<p><i>from Peace.” Letter to <u>Bill Clinton</u> and all <u>Heads of State</u> attending the summit in Moscow.</i></p>

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<p><b>1996</b></p>	<p><b>22 August</b> Ceasefire agreement and start of Russian troops withdrawal from Grozny.</p> <p><b>31 August</b> Peace Treaty signed by Russians and Chechens in Khassaviurt, Russian troops start to withdraw from Chechnya.</p> <p><b>Night of 16 December</b> Murder of 6 ICRC employees in Novye Atagi hospital.</p>	<p><b>September</b> <u>MSF B</u>: resumed activities in Grozny, maternity hospital, 5 general hospitals, &amp; water distribution. <u>MSF F</u>: support to Shatoi hospital.</p> <p><b>25 September</b> <u>MSF B</u>: violent kidnapping of 3 volunteers in Grozny for a few hours, money stolen from safe.</p> <p><b>November</b> <u>MSF B</u> house in Grozny is burglarised.</p> <p><b>20 November</b> - <u>MSF F</u>: incident at a checkpoint, confusion with ICRC. - Kidnapping of ICRC employees for several hours.</p> <p><b>14 December</b> <u>MSF B and UNHCR</u> cars detained during a battle between a group of Chechen fighters and Russian forces.</p> <p><b>Late December</b> <u>MSF B</u>: Expatriates retreat to Dagestan, leaving no expatriates in Chechnya.</p>	<p><b>November</b> Publication of <u>MSF Book "Population in Danger"</u> with an essay denouncing the Russian forces' war conduct in Chechnya.</p>



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<p><b>1997</b></p> <p><b>8 September</b> During a visit to Moscow, <u>Hubert Vedrine, Minister of Foreign Affairs</u> (MoFA) of France mentioned the hostages' fate.</p>	<p><b>5 January</b> Last Russian troops officially leave Chechnya.</p> <p><b>27 January</b> <u>Aslan Maskhadov</u> elected <u>President of the independent Republic of Chechnya</u>, he refuses to sit on the Federal Council.</p> <p><b>12 May</b> Signature of a formal peace treaty between Chechnya and the Russia Federation = - pledged to renounce violence, - the Duma refused to ratify the treaty.</p> <p><b>Summer</b> Increased kidnappings of foreigners in North Caucasus.</p>	<p><b>Late February</b> <u>MSF F:</u> Resumption of Shatoi programme.</p> <p><b>April</b> <u>MSF F:</u> official resumption of activities in Ingushetia.</p> <p><b>Night of 1<sup>st</sup> July</b> <u>MSF F:</u> Kidnapping of Christophe André, administrator based in Nazran. Withdrawal of expatriates from MSF F programmes in North Caucasus.</p> <p><b>21 July</b> Christophe Andre's proof of life</p> <p><b>5 August</b> 4 employees of Equilibre are kidnapped in Dagestan.</p> <p><b>29 August</b> <u>MSF F:</u> Board meeting discussion on relevance to communicate with kidnappers through media.</p>	

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<p><b>1997</b></p> <p><b>25 to 27 September</b> During a visit to Moscow, French President Jacques Chirac mentioned the hostages fate.</p>		<p><b>26 September</b> MSF F: discussion on relevance to mediatise the kidnapping.</p> <p><b>21 October</b> MSF F: <u>Christophe Andre</u> escapes. MSF B: expatriates withdrew from Dagestan</p> <p><b>November</b> MSFF: closure of Shatoi programme.</p>	<p><b>24 September</b> MSF F: <u>François Jean</u> (Foundation) interviews with Moscow press, called French President Jacques Chirac to take position on hostage issue.</p> <p><b>23 October to 1<sup>st</sup> November</b> Account of <u>Christophe Andre's</u> escape in the French media.</p>
<p><b>1998</b></p>	<p><b>January</b> <u>Aslan Maskhadov</u> nominates <u>Shamil Basayev</u> as Prime Minister.</p> <p><b>June</b> <u>Aslan Maskhadov</u> declared a state of Emergency.</p> <p><b>July</b> <u>Aslan Maskhadov</u> escapes an assassination attempt.</p> <p><b>October</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Aslan Maskhadov's</u> authority waned.</li> <li>- <u>Shamil Basayev's</u> (under <u>Khattab's</u> influence) authority on the rise.</li> <li>- Heads of 3 kidnapped British citizens are found.</li> </ul>	<p><b>29 January</b> Kidnapping of <u>Vincent Cochetel (UNHCR)</u> in North Ossetia.</p>	

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	<p><b>12 December</b> Vincent Cochetel released by a violent intervention of Russian Special Forces.</p>		
<p><b>1999</b></p>	<p><b>January</b> Aslan Maskhadov announced the introduction of Sharia (Islamic law) in Chechnya within 3 years.</p> <p><b>May</b> Kidnapping of Moscow's special envoy in Chechnya.</p> <p><b>June</b> Closure of several border posts after clashes in North Caucasus.</p> <p><b>7 August</b> - <u>Shamil Basayev</u> and <u>Khattab's</u> forces, without Aslan Maskhadov's agreement, attacked Dagestan to "chase the Russians out." - <u>Vladimir Putin</u>, <u>Russian Prime Minister</u>, vowed to stamp out the rebellion in less than a fortnight.</p> <p><b>15 August</b> <u>Aslan Maskhadov</u> declared a state of emergency in Chechnya.</p> <p><b>Late August - Early September</b> -300 deaths by blasts in Moscow and Dagestan attributed to Chechen leaders by the Russians and to the FSB by Chechens. - Redeployment of Russian Federal troops in Chechnya. - New forays of Chechen rebels in Dagestan.</p>	<p><b>July</b> <u>MSF F</u>: Closure of the North/South Ossetia programme because of kidnapping threats.</p>	

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<p><b>1999</b></p> <p><b>Early October</b>  <u>The US State Department called</u> for a halt to the bombings.  <u>Moscow</u> compared its intervention in Chechnya to <u>the NATO's intervention in Kosovo</u>.</p>	<p><b>6 September</b>  Russian troops heavily bombed the border between Chechnya and Dagestan.</p> <p><b>11 September</b>  <u>Aslan Maskhadov</u> gave the order for a general mobilisation.</p> <p><b>23 September</b>  The Russian forces continued bombing Chechnya. Chechen civilians escaped to Ingushetia and Dagestan.</p> <p><b>Night of 3 October</b>  Russian forces occupy Northern Chechnya. Russian authorities no longer recognised the government of the elected President Aslan Maskhadov.</p> <p><b>24 October</b>  Closure of the border between Ingushetia and Chechnya, total blockade and intensified bombing.</p>	<p><b>30 September</b>  <u>MSF B: Project Committee</u> - security situation does not allow humanitarian intervention in Caucasus.</p> <p><b>October</b>  <u>MSF H: "Scanning"</u> team in Nazran, internal discussions about risks of an intervention in Chechnya.</p> <p><b>29 October</b>  <u>MSF E:</u> board meeting, "we could reconsider being present in Chechnya if the conflict lasts [...] we got in touch with our contacts in Georgia."</p>	<p><b>10 October</b>  The <u>Nobel Peace Prize</u> is awarded to MSF.</p> <p><b>October-November</b>  MSF to the international press: MSF's lack of intervention in Caucasus is due to high security risks.</p>

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<p><b>1999</b></p> <p><b>November</b> OSCE delegation in Chechnya is turned back from Chechnya by the Russian authorities.</p> <p><b>12 November</b> - <u>Knut Vollebaek</u>, OSCE President "The OSCE powerless in Chechnya." - <u>Kofi Annan</u>, UN Secretary General, declared that he is monitoring the events in Chechnya with concern. He has no support from the Security Council's permanent members.</p> <p><b>17 - 20 November</b> OSCE Summit in Istanbul.</p>	<p><b>4 November</b> - Reopening of the border crossings between Ingushetia and Chechnya. - UNHCR visit to Ingushetia and Dagestan. Grozny is encircled and bombed by Russian forces.</p> <p><b>5 November</b> <u>Igor Sergueiev</u>, Russian Defence Minister, admitted that 'the aim of the operation was to bring Chechnya back into the Russian Federation's fold.'</p> <p><b>November</b> Russian forces took Gudermes, 3,000 Chechen refugees in Georgia.</p> <p><b>4 December</b> Russian Forces air attack totally cuts Grozny off.</p>	<p><b>Early November</b> <u>MSF F</u>: internal discussions on a possible public statement calling to increased guarantees for aid and protection for the Chechen civilians.</p> <p><b>November</b> <u>MSF F</u>: - 3 convoys into Chechnya from Georgia, - consultations and surgical references in the Pankisi valley (close to Georgia/Chechen border).</p> <p><b>19 November</b> <u>MSF F</u>: Board meeting suggested a public statement during the Nobel Peace Prize reception.</p> <p><b>December</b> <u>MSF B</u>: decision to remote control project in Ingushetia from Moscow. <u>MSF H</u>: Recruited Kenny Gluck</p>	<p><b>8 November</b> <i>Le Monde</i> (France): "200,000 civilians in the southern Chechen mountains trying to escape the bombings of the villages." MSF is quoted.</p> <p><b>16 November</b> <u>MSF</u>: 'open letter to the Presidents and Prime Ministers of the OSCE Member States' (Istanbul summit), <u>MSF B</u> questioned letter.</p>

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<p><b>1999</b></p> <p><b>5 December</b> Hubert Vedrine, French MoFA: <i>"The West would maintain pressure on Russia to call a halt to its military operation."</i></p> <p><b>7 December</b> Bill Clinton, President of the United States, condemned the Russian's strategy to bring Grozny to its knees.</p> <p><b>8 December</b> European and Canadian Ministers declared the ultimatum on Grozny inadmissible and brandished the threat of sanctions against Russia.</p> <p><b>9 December</b> Boris Yeltsin reminded the United States that Russia is a nuclear power.</p>	<p><b>5 December</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Russian ultimatum to Grozny: all persons remaining in the town after the 11 December considered terrorists and annihilated by artillery and aerial fire.</li> <li>- 200,000 civilians have already fled Chechnya.</li> </ul> <p><b>10 December</b> Moscow postponed the ultimatum deadline and said it would consider a dialogue with Maskhadov.</p>	<p>as coordinator/ consultant, opened an office in Nazran and recruited a local team.</p>	<p><b>10 December</b> <u>MSF accepted the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>MSF President speech</u> began with a call to President Yeltsin to stop bombing Chechnya's civilians &amp; MSF representatives, wore T-shirts blazoning "Grozny" in red, demonstrated in front of the Russian embassy.</li> <li>- <u>PR MSF</u>: <i>"Russia Must Stop Indiscriminate Attacks Against Civilians in Chechnya – the People of Chechnya Must be Given Access to Humanitarian Aid."</i></li> <li>- <u>MSF E</u>: launched a petition urging the French President and Prime Minister to take heed of these calls.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>1999</b></p> <p><b>20 December</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Human Rights Watch Open Letter</u> to UN Secretary General requested an independent investigation on violations of war law by Russian forces in Chechnya.</li> <li>- <u>UN Secretary General for displaced persons</u> reminds Russia of its responsibilities to assist and protect the Chechens displaced by the fighting.</li> </ul> <p><b>22 December</b></p> <p><u>Letter from Bill Clinton to MSF</u>: US administration is striving to find a political solution in Chechnya.</p>	<p><b>13 December</b></p> <p>Closure of the Chechnya/ Georgia border.</p> <p><b>Late December</b></p> <p>Pressure from <u>Russian Minister of Emergencies</u> to force Chechen refugees to return to Russian-controlled areas in</p>	<p><b>Late December</b></p> <p><u>MSF H</u>: first distribution of drugs in Ingushetian hospitals welcoming displaced Chechens.</p>	<p><b>14 December</b></p> <p><u>Le Monde</u> (France): MSF F quoted "Refugees are broken."</p> <p><b>17 December</b></p> <p>PR <u>MSF F</u>: "<u>MSF calls for Immediate Re-Opening of Border between Georgia and Chechnya.</u>"</p> <p><u>MSF F</u>: <u>Letter</u> from the President to the President of Georgia asking for the re-opening of the border.</p> <p><b>23 December</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>PR MSF F</u>: "<u>Once again MSF calls for Immediate Re-opening of Border between Georgia and Chechnya.</u>"</li> <li>- <u>MSF F Report</u>: "The tracking of civilians"</li> <li>- <u>MSF H/Amnesty International</u>: rallied in front of the Russian embassy in The Hague.</li> </ul>

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<b>1999</b>	Chechnya. - Forced repatriation of 2,000 refugees to Sernovodsk.		
<p><b>2000 Early January</b>  <u>US President</u> and several administration officials declared that the political future of <u>Vladimir Putin</u> is tied to a peaceful resolution of the Chechen crisis.</p> <p><b>13 January</b>  <u>Vladimir Putin</u> declared official candidate to the presidential election in Russia.</p> <p><b>24 January</b>  - <u>Georges Robertson</u>, NATO Secretary General, "NATO understands but does not accept Russia's action in Chechnya."  - <u>The European union</u> reaffirmed its opposition to Russia's war conduct but "preserved dialogue with Russia."</p> <p><b>27 January</b>  - <u>The Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly</u> (PACE) refuses to sanction the Russian delegation but asks for a peaceful in Chechnya.</p>	<p><b>January</b>  Increased Russian artillery fire and aerial bombing of Grozny.</p> <p><b>16 January</b>  <u>Andrei Babitsky</u>, Radio Free Europe correspondent in Russia, kidnapped.</p>	<p><b>January</b>  MSF CH: exploratory mission in Dagestan from Azerbaijan.</p>	<p><b>January</b>  Last article from <u>François Jean</u> (Foundation MSF F) on Chechnya is published in the French review "<i>Esprit</i>."</p> <p><b>12 January</b>  <i>The New York Times</i>:  MSF open letter to President <u>Clinton</u> and Secretary of State <u>Albright</u>, "<i>Humanitarian law must be respected in Chechen Conflict</i>."</p> <p><b>13 January</b>  - <i>BBC</i>: MSF accused the Russian state of committing war crimes in Chechnya,  - 18,000 signatures on MSFF petition delivered to French President and Prime Minister.</p> <p><b>18 January</b>  MSF diplomatic steps with the American and Canadian governments.</p> <p><b>27 January</b>  - <u>MSF Open Letter to the Council of Europe</u>, "<i>Member states must recognize the state of war in Chechnya and demand the application of</i></p>





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<p><b>2000</b> human rights observers access to Chechnya.</p>	<p><b>18 February</b>  <u>Omar Khanbiev</u> and his team were released and kept under house arrest in Gudermes.</p> <p><b>23 February</b>  Anniversary of the Chechen deportation by Stalin.</p> <p><b>24 February</b>  <u>Andrei Babitsky</u> surfaced again claiming he was held prisoner and beaten in a filtration camp.</p> <p><b>Early March:</b>  First aid convoy (UNHCR) arrived in Grozny.</p>	<p><b>25 February</b>  <u>MSF B Project Committee:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- opened a remote control programme in Chechnya,</li> <li>- limited public testimony for security reason,</li> <li>- strengthened communication in Russia.</li> </ul> <p><b>28 February</b>  Meeting of <u>MSF North Caucasus desks</u>: disagreement on communication approaches.</p> <p><b>4 to 18 March</b>  <u>MSF F</u>: exploratory mission in Ingushetia.</p>	<p><b>22-23 February</b>  <u>MSF B/MSF F</u> signed a petition with Human Rights organizations, "<i>Crime without Punishment in Chechnya: Putins pursuing Stalin's work,</i>" and participated in rallies in Brussels and Paris.</p> <p><b>29 February</b>  <u>MSF B</u>: in <i>La Dernière Heure</i> (Brussels): "<i>We've rarely seen a criminal organization like it [...] revolving around the kidnapping of Westerners.</i>" According to <b>Ren TV</b>, the Russian Minister of Justice suggested that MSF delivered medicines to the separatist fighters.</p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> March:</b>  MSF refuses the interview on <b>Ren TV</b>.</p> <p><b>4 March</b>  <u>General Vladimir Shamanov</u>, commander of Russian forces</p>

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<p><b>2000</b></p> <p><b>13 March</b>            After a visit to Chechnya, <u>PACE</u> called for a bi-lateral ceasefire and urges the Russian authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to investigate human rights violations and war crimes,</li> <li>- to allow humanitarian organisations free access to the region,</li> <li>- and to open negotiations with “elected Chechen representatives.”</li> </ul> <p><b>Early April</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>PACE</u> voted unanimously in favour of Russia’s suspension, should it not immediately begin seeking a means to achieve peace in Chechnya, and put an end to human rights violations. Moscow’s replied that it should mind its own business.</li> <li>- <u>UN/ Russian Federation</u></li> </ul>			<p>in Chechnya, on Russian TV: “MSF has interests that are harmful to the Russian State.”            Disagreement between sections on whether or not to answer this accusation.</p> <p><b>16 March</b>  <u>MSF letter to Serguei Lavrov, Russian’s Federation Ambassador to the UN</u>, “MSF considers this statement made by General Shamanov [...] to constitute both slander and a threat.”</p> <p><b>March</b>  <u>MSF Austria</u> advocacy campaign for OSCE presence in North Caucasus.</p> <p><b>22 March</b>  <u>Itar Tass</u> (state news agency of Russia): “MSF office in the Pankisi Valley in Georgia was opened as a base for transporting humanitarian materials and arms to Chechen fighters.”</p>

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<p><b>2000</b> agreement defined a framework for humanitarian operations in Chechnya and Ingushetia, imposed armed escorts.</p> <p><b>22 April</b> EU Troika visit to Ingushetia: "Russia's humanitarian efforts towards Chechen civilians are insufficient." Ruslan Auchev, President of Ingushetia, pleaded for dialogue between Putin and Maskhadov.</p> <p><b>9 June</b> <u>Resolution of the US Senate</u> - condemned the Russian forces' brutal policies in Chechnya, - called for an immediate cease of military operations and access for international humanitarian organisations,</p>	<p><b>June</b> <u>Vladimir Putin</u> placed Chechnya's civil administration directly under his control and appointed Akhmed Kadyrov, a religious leader, clan chief, and erstwhile separatist fighter to its head.</p>	<p><b>Mid - April</b> <u>MSF H:</u> closure of programmes in Georgia. <u>MSF F:</u> opening of a support programme to Nazran hospital.</p> <p><b>26 April</b> <u>MSF B:</u> Project Committee proposed a remote control programme in Chechnya.</p> <p><b>Early June</b> <u>MSF H:</u> Kenny Gluck took over coordination of programmes in North Caucasus after his predecessor was dismissed.</p>	<p><b>11 April</b> <u>PR MSF H/USA:</u> "MSF calls for Independent Monitoring Presence in Chechnya."</p> <p><b>30 May</b> <u>MSF Austria</u> annual press conference is dedicated to Chechnya.</p>

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<p><b>2000</b> - called upon the Clinton administration to meet with elected representatives of the Chechen government.</p>	<p><b>July</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Multiplication of zatchistka (roundup) in Chechnya.</li> <li>- Suicide attacks on Russian army posts.</li> <li>- Flux of displaced civilians from Chechnya to Ingushetia.</li> </ul>	<p><b>July</b></p> <p><u>MSF H:</u> Coordinator and 6 national staff detained at a checkpoint for 4 hours.</p> <p><u>MSF F:</u> started supporting Sernovodsk refugee camp and Grozny maternity.</p> <p><b>8 July</b></p> <p><u>MSF B:</u> programme opening in Chechnya delayed for operational reasons.</p> <p><b>18 July</b></p> <p><u>MSF B/F/H/CH:</u> desks agreement on a communication strategy for North Caucasus based on collection of patients accounts and development of contacts with the Russian press.</p> <p><b>Mid - August</b></p> <p><u>MSF B:</u> two teams in Moscow worked on two different programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- North Caucasus</li> <li>- Moscow homeless and Siberia TB programmes.</li> </ul>	<p><b>6 July</b></p> <p>British actress and activist <u>Vanessa Redgrave</u> accompanied the presentation of her film on Chechnya to the British House of Commons with a speech consisting of extracts from MSF H's collected accounts.</p> <p><b>21 July</b></p> <p><i>The Washington Post</i> (USA) Kenny Gluck , HOM MSF H , described the disastrous situation of Chechen hospitals.</p> <p><b>1 August</b></p> <p><u>MSF International Website,</u> "The unlimited cost of the war," by Kenny Gluck, HOM MSF H</p> <p><b>15 August</b></p> <p><u>MSF B</u> anonymously circulated the survey, "Chechen Refugees in Ingushetia," to the press.</p>

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<p><b>2000</b></p> <p><b>Mid-September</b> PACE representatives' visited Chechnya.</p> <p><b>30 October to 1<sup>st</sup> November</b> Results of <u>Vladimir Putin's</u> visit to Paris' EU summit: - <u>Russia/EU</u> long-term strategy partnership to ensure energy supplies; -European representatives keep mute on the Chechnya question.</p> <p><b>22-23 November</b> After a visit to refugee camps in Ingushetia, members of PACE declared they were shocked by the inhumane conditions of life in these camps.</p>	<p><b>September</b> <u>Akhmed Kadyrov</u> declared, "Aid from Moscow is totally inconsequential" and "Chechens should rise up against the abusive policies being pursued by the Russian forces"</p>	<p><b>Late August</b> <u>MSF F</u>: exploratory mission, opened a programme in Shatoi.</p> <p><b>Late September</b> <u>MSF F/H</u>: - Started to prepare a communication campaign during Putin's visit to Paris. - MSF H's disagreement on MSF F's proposal to describe the events in Chechnya as a war. - Agreement on need to document the situation more thoroughly. - Started collection of refugees' life accounts.</p> <p><b>October</b> <u>MSF CH</u>: Opened an office in Dagestan.</p> <p><b>November</b> <u>MSF CH</u>: the coordinator in Dagestan questioned MSF's public stance on the Caucasus crisis.</p>	<p><b>22 September</b> <u>Harvard International Review</u>: "Chechnya, Moscow's revenge," by <u>François Jean</u> (MSF Foundation).</p> <p><b>Early October</b> <u>MSF H</u> declined a request by Vanessa Redgrave to visit its mission in the Caucasus.</p> <p><b>Late October – Early November</b> <u>MSFF/H</u>: Communication campaign during Vladimir Putin's visit in Paris. Interviews of the two coordinators in the Press.</p> <p><b>22 November</b> <u>MSF's hearing by the Council of Europe on humanitarian situation in Chechnya. Press conference in Brussels.</u> MSF report: "Chechnya, the politics of terror."</p>

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<p><b>2000</b></p> <p><b>Mid-December</b> <u>Vladimir Putin</u> visited Canada.</p>		<p><b>29 November</b> <u>MSF H</u>: team detained and threatened at a Russian army's check point, then accused of spying.</p> <p><b>2 December</b> <u>MSF H</u>: a local employee was interrogated about Kenny Gluck by the FSB (Russian intelligence services). 8 December <u>MSF H</u>: local team attacked and detained by battle-dressed and masked men who were looking for an expatriate to kidnap.</p>	<p>PR <u>MSF</u>: "MSF denounces politics of terror on civilian populations of Chechnya."</p> <p><b>Mid-December</b> <u>MSF Canada</u> publicly asked the Canadian Prime Minister to question Vladimir Putin about the situation in Chechnya. During a conference in Berlin, <u>MSF Germany</u> questioned the Operations Controller of the Russian army in Chechnya.</p> <p><b>21 December</b> <i>Chicago Tribune</i> (USA): "Chechnya in Clutches of Quicksand Conflict," Kenny Gluck is quoted.</p> <p><b>22 December</b> <i>NTV</i> (Russia): broadcast on humanitarian situation in Chechnya with Kenny Gluck, MSF H Chechen surgeon, &amp; Akhmed Kadyrov.</p>
<p><b>2001</b></p>		<p><b>9 January</b> <u>Kenny Gluck</u>, MSF H's coordinator in North Caucasus is <u>abducted</u> in Starye Atagi, Chechnya. ACF's coordinator escapes. Suspension of all MSF H activities in the region.</p>	

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<p><b>2001</b></p> <p><b>11 January</b> EU asked NGOs to suspend operations in Chechnya. UNHCR suspended activities in Chechnya.</p>	<p><b>10 January</b> <u>Aslan Maskhadov</u> gave order to look for <u>Kenny Gluck</u>.</p>	<p><b>10 January</b> Set up of a Amsterdam/New York /Paris <u>Crisis Cell</u> on <u>Kenny Gluck</u> abduction.</p>	<p><b>10 January</b> PR MSF: "MSF condemns attack on humanitarian relief workers."</p> <p><b>11 January</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Serguei Iastrjembki</u>, Kremlin's spokesperson: "MSF employees were moving about in flagrant breach of the rules."</li> <li>- Putin's envoy in South Russia, "Kenny Gluck has organised his own kidnapping."</li> <li>- <u>Chechen pro-Russian authorities</u>, "Kenny Gluck is detained in a Southern area out of Russian control."</li> </ul> <p><b>12 January</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PR MSF: "MSF urges immediate release of abducted aid worker in Chechnya, <u>Kenneth Gluck</u> medically at risk."</li> <li>- MSF USA <u>Press Conference</u> with <u>Daniel Gluck</u>, Kenny's brother.</li> <li>- <u>The Council of Europe</u> called for <u>Kenny Gluck's</u> immediate release.</li> </ul> <p><b>15 January</b> <u>Lord Judd</u>, PACE rapporteur on Chechnya, "Kenny Gluck's abduction will have serious consequences for the Chechen populations."</p> <p><b>16 January</b> <u>Moskovskie Novosti</u> (Russia) published an interview by <u>Kenny Gluck</u> 10 days before his abduction: "officially the war has been over for a long time but nothing has changed for Chechen civilians."</p> <p><b>18 January</b> <u>Rushailo</u>, Minister of the Interior of the Russian Federation to the Press, "Gluck is detained in the Vedeno region by <u>Khattab's radical Islamic group</u>. Russian troops are carrying out searches to find him."</p>



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<p><b>2001</b></p> <p><b>25 January</b>  <u>PACE</u> cancelled sanctions imposed on Russia 9 months earlier for its conduct of the war in Chechnya.</p>	<p><b>22 January</b>  <u>Vladimir Putin</u> transferred the management of operations in Chechnya to the Russian security services.</p>	<p><b>19 - 21 January</b>  <u>MSF F</u> received letters from Nazran and Moscow teams to the desk, questioning the suspension of activities in Ingushetia.</p> <p><b>26 January</b>  <u>MSF F</u>: board against MSF expatriates being continuously present in Chechnya and in Ingushetia.</p>	<p><b>23 January</b>  <u>Aslan Maskhadov</u> accused Kadyrov's body guards of Kenny Gluck's abduction.</p> <p><b>25 January</b>  <u>Lord Judd</u> launched an appeal for <u>Kenny Gluck's</u> release.</p> <p><b>27 January</b>  <u>Aslan Maskhadov</u> "does not rule out involvement of the Russian forces in Kenny Gluck's abduction."</p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> February</b>  <i><u>Novaia Gazeta</u> (Russia), <u>Vyatcheslav Izmailov</u>. "The political objectives of Gluck's kidnapping have been achieved. It is time to release him."</i></p> <p><b>2 February</b>  <u>NTV</u> (Russia): <u>Vyatcheslav Ismailov</u> accused Russian special services of detaining <u>Kenny Gluck</u>, who himself could be linked to the secret services.</p> <p><b>3 February</b>  <u>Le Monde</u> (France) mentioned internal disagreements within MSF on suspension of</p>

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<p><b>2001</b></p> <p><b>15 February</b>            PACE resolution calling for a cease fire, negotiations in the presence of international observers, and NGO access to IDPs.</p>	<p><b>14 February</b>  <u>Akhmed Kadyrov</u> announced that NGOs will no longer be allowed to operate independently in Chechnya.</p> <p><b>15 February</b>            Resumption of international aid in Chechnya.</p>	<p><b>4 February</b>            - <u>Kenny Gluck's</u> release was 'officially' during an operation led by members of the FSB.            - In reality, he is dropped at a MSF surgeon's house,            - his abductors give him a <u>letter of apology</u> from Shamil Basayev.</p> <p><b>5 February</b>  <u>Kenny Gluck</u> detained in a Russian army base.</p> <p><b>6 February</b>  <u>Kenny Gluck</u> arrived in Nazran.</p>	<p>programmes in North Caucasus.</p> <p><b>4 February</b>            PR MSF: "<u>MSF Relief Worker released in Chechnya</u>".</p> <p><b>5 February</b>  <u>Kommersant</u> (Russia):            - according to an FSB source, Kenny Gluck was not released by the Russian services but by his abductors.            - <u>The US State Department</u> said that it doubted the official version of the Gluck affair.            - <u>Aslan Maskhadov</u> said he was very pleased with Kenny Gluck's release and accused the Russian secret services of the abduction.            - <u>Vladimir Putin</u> congratulated himself on Kenny's release.</p> <p><b>8 February</b>  <u>Kenny Gluck quick press conference</u> in Moscow,: no clue about his abductors.            PR MSF "<u>Kidnapped aid worker Kenneth Gluck relates details of captivity.</u>"</p>

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<p><b>2001</b></p> <p><b>22 April</b> <u>UN Commission on Human Rights</u> resolution condemns the brutal conduct of the Russian war in Chechnya.</p>	<p><b>Early March</b> OCHA requested NGOs to sign a protocol which subjects humanitarian activities to the arbitrary control of FSB.</p> <p><b>Early April</b> According to a poll, the number of Russians worried by Putin's inability to stop the war in Chechnya has doubled within a year.</p> <p><b>April</b> 120 people are taken hostage by pro-Chechen activists in Istanbul.</p> <p><b>May</b> - Russian authorities reduced aid to Chechen IDPs in Ingushetia. - Announcement of total withdrawal of Russian troops from Chechnya, while 5,000 soldiers remain.</p>	<p><b>6 March</b> MSF to <u>Vladimir Kalamonov</u>, Kremlin Envoy for Human Rights in Caucasus during a meeting: - MSF never uses armed escorts and - MSF has not yet decided to resume activities in Chechnya.</p> <p><b>March</b> <u>MSF CH</u>: - rehabilitation of Gudermes maternity and - mobile surgeries with armed escorts for expatriates.</p> <p><b>Early April</b> MSF diplomatically declined a request to support <u>President Alichev's</u> (Ingushetia) candidacy for the Nobel Peace Prize.</p> <p><b>May</b> <u>MSF H</u>: enjoined by the pro-Russian Chechen administration to refocus all its aid on Chechnya.</p>	<p><b>Late February</b> <u>Kenny Gluck's press conference and interviews in New York.</u></p> <p><b>6 March</b> <u>Interfax</u> (Russia): <u>Vladimir Kalamonov</u> announced that MSF is resuming its activities in Chechnya. - MSF denied the claim, but not publicly.</p> <p><b>11 March</b> <u>NTV</u> (Russia) announces the arrest of two fighters close to <u>Basayev</u> accused of Kenny Gluck's abduction.</p> <p><b>12 March</b> <u>Kavkaz Center</u> (web) <u>Shamil Basayev's</u> letter to Kenny Gluck posted.</p> <p><b>14 May</b> - <u>FSB</u> alleges that a Russian Chechen citizen, arrested for spying, was travelling as an MSF representative. - <u>PR MSF B</u>: "MSF indignant about the defamatory assertions of the FSB spokesperson."</p>

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<p><b>2001 16 to 19 May</b>  <u>EU/Russia summit</u>: wait and see climate regarding Chechen issues.</p> <p><b>Mid-June</b>            Moscow presented the reopening of the <u>OSCE</u> offices in Chechnya as sign of normalisation.</p> <p><b>10 July</b>  <u>The Council of Europe</u> asked Russia to provide a complete report on torture allegations in Chechnya.</p>	<p><b>30 May</b>            Pro-Russian Chechen administration's <u>resolution 22</u>: drastic limitation of international NGOs' working conditions in Chechnya.</p> <p><b>16 June</b>            Russian forces's zatchistka in Kurtchaloi.</p> <p><b>Early July</b>            Russian forces zatchistkas in Sernovodsk and Assinovskaia.</p> <p><b>9 July</b>  <u>Akhmed Kadyrov</u> accused Russian troops of targeting civilians in Sernovodsk and Assinovskaia.</p> <p><b>10 July</b>            Moscow announced that a preliminary enquiry had been initiated for the accusations of abuses committed by Russian soldiers in Chechnya.</p> <p><b>11 July</b>  <u>Vladimir Moltenskov, Acting Commander of the Russian forces in the Caucasus,</u></p>	<p><b>End May</b>  <u>MSF B</u>: intervention for flood victims in Lensk (Siberia).</p> <p><b>15 June</b>  <u>MSF F</u>: President and desk met exiled members of Chechen independent government to get security guarantees for MSF staff in Caucasus.</p> <p><b>Early July</b>  <u>MSF F</u>: Nazran team collected first hand testimonies on Sernovodsk and Assinovskaia's zatchiskas. They tried in vain to enter Chechnya in order to treat the wounded and collect accounts.</p> <p><b>11 July</b>  <u>MSF F</u>: President sends a letter to <u>Shamil Basayev</u> requesting a meeting.</p>	<p><b>28 May</b>  <u>PR MSF B</u>: "<i>Help to Flood Victims.</i>"</p>

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<p><b>2001</b></p> <p><b>12 July</b>  <u>Lord Russel-Johnston</u>, President of <u>PACE</u> condemned the sweeps of Chechen villages by the Russian forces and called on Western leaders to put pressure on the Russian authorities.</p> <p><b>11 September</b>            - <u>Attacks on the World Trade Center Towers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington</u> increased the fight against terrorism campaign.</p> <p><b>14 September</b>            Moscow proposed to cooperate with Washington in fight against terrorism.</p> <p><b>4 October</b>  <u>Vladimir Putin</u> committed to fight against terrorism, together with the EU.</p>	<p>admitted that “large-scale crimes” were committed against civilians in Sernovodsk and Assinovskaia</p> <p><b>July-August</b>            Tensions between federal forces and <u>Akhmed Kadyrov’s</u> pro-Russian Chechen government.</p> <p><b>28 August</b>  <u>The Russian National Security Council</u> called on refugees in Ingushetia to return to Chechnya.</p> <p><b>Mid-September</b>            - Rebel offensive in Eastern Chechnya.            - Attacks against headquarters of the pro-Russian administration,            - Increased bombing and sweeps by Russian forces.</p>	<p><b>September</b>  <u>MSF H:</u> opened a mental health programme in Ingushetia.</p> <p><b>November</b>  <u>MSF B/F/H:</u> survey and collection of personal accounts of the precarious conditions of IDPs in Ingush camps.  <u>MSF H:</u> resumed activities in Chechnya.</p>	

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<p><b>2001 4 December</b>  <u>Lord Judd</u> (PACE) announced that the human rights situation is improving in Chechnya.</p> <p><b>Mid-December</b>  <u>Lord Judd</u> (PACE) denounced "the terrible conditions of life of civilians in Chechnya."</p>	<p><b>December</b>  Offensive by Chechen separatists, <u>Aslan Maskhadov</u> announced a one-year extension of his mandate as President of the Independent Chechen Republic of Ichkeria.</p> <p><b>28 December</b>  <u>Ruslan Auchev</u>, President of Ingushetia since 1993 is forced to resign.</p>		<p><b>Mid-December</b>  <u>MSF Moscow</u>: photo exhibition on refugee camp in Ingushetia and distribution of a report with the survey results, showing the poor quality of assistance.</p> <p><b>21 December</b>  PR MSF F: "Thirty Years of Service in the Name of Victims, not Regimes," focused on Chechen IDPs in Ingushetia.</p>
<p><b>2002 10 January</b>  <u>US State Department</u> declared that Russia's military actions and human rights violations in Chechnya were encouraging terrorism.</p> <p><b>15 January</b>  - <u>Ruud Lubbers</u> (UNHCR) in Ingushetia and Moscow, noted improvement in resolving IDP problems, raised concerns about human rights violations committed by Russian soldiers in Chechnya and said that Aslan Maskhadov was not a terrorist  - <u>Vladimir Putin</u> in Paris, "All means could be used against the criminal Chechen regime."</p>			<p><b>15 January</b>  PR MSF F: "Vladimir Putin in Paris: MSF denounces living conditions of Chechen refugees."</p> <p><b>16 January</b>  PR MSF B: "Chechens still fleeing violence."</p>

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<p><b>2002</b></p> <p><b>23 January</b>  <u>The Council of Europe</u> announced it did not envisage sanctions against Russia.</p> <p><b>15 February</b>  <u>Igor Ivanov</u> Russian MoFA to Paris.</p> <p><b>Late February</b>  <u>European civil society and political figures</u> publicly express their support to the Chechens.</p>	<p><b>23 January</b>            Russian government took control of TV6, the last independent Russian TV channel.</p>		<p><b>22 January</b>            MSF hearing by the Refugee and Migration Committee of PACE, "a new episode of attempts to wipe out a people."</p> <p><b>24 January</b>            PR MSF F: "Council of Europe, from co-Operation to collaboration."            PR MSF B: "MSF condemns the Council of Europe's hesitation to condemn the war carried out by Russia."</p> <p><b>25 January</b>            MSF F <u>Press Conference</u> in Paris with Serguei Kovalev (Duma &amp; Memorial).  <u>MSF report</u>: "Chechnya-Ingushetia: a deliberate strategy of non-assistance to people in crisis."</p> <p><b>February</b>  <u>MSF USA</u>: Communiation campaign based on report: "Chechnya-Ingushetia: a deliberate strategy of non-assistance to people in crisis."</p> <p><b>15 February</b>            PR MSF : "Visit by Igor Ivanov to Paris: Chechnya at the heart of the Debate."</p> <p><b>March</b>  <u>MSF F</u>: diplomacy campaign in anticipation of the UN Commission for Human Rights session.</p>

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<p><b>2002</b></p> <p><b>10 April</b> Resolution of <u>the European Parliament</u> on Chechnya: Refrained from condemning Russia and demanded both parties negotiate a political solution to resolve the conflict.</p>	<p><b>4 March</b> <u>Akhmed Kadyrov</u>, head of pro-Russian Chechen administration criticised Russian forces' sweeps in Grozny.</p> <p><b>April</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Serguei Iastrjembki</u>, Kremlin spokesperson on Chechnya: HRW and MSF reports are "biased."</li> <li>- <u>Stanislas Ilyasov</u>, <u>Prime Minister of the pro-Russian Chechen government</u>: all IDP camps in Chechnya will be dismantled by 15 April.</li> <li>- Vehicles transporting medicines are subjected to stricter administrative inspections.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Mid-April</b> <u>MSF B/F/H</u>: Planned to replace tents in Ingush refugee camps. Discussion about communication strategy on North Caucasus.</p>	<p><b>4 March</b> <u>PR MSF B</u>: "Civilians continue to flee violence in Chechnya."</p> <p><b>14 March</b> <b><i>International Herald Tribune:</i></b> <u>MSF Open Letter</u> to the Council of Europe: "No end in sight to the war in Chechnya."</p> <p><b>15 March</b> <u>Open Letter</u> from Peter Schieder, President of <u>PACE</u> to MSF.</p> <p><b>2 April</b> <u>MSF briefing</u> before the <u>UN Commission for Human Rights</u>: "Faced with such an abdication of responsibility, which international body is today able to put an end to the large-scale violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Chechnya?"</p> <p><b>11 April</b> <u>PR MSF F</u>: "Chechnya: the cosmetic recommendations of the European Parliament."</p>



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<p><b>2002 20 April</b> The <u>UN Commission for Human Rights</u> rejected a resolution condemning abuses by the Russian troops in Chechnya.</p> <p><b>26 June</b> <u>G8</u>: - <u>Aslan Maskhadov</u> asked, in vain, the members of G8 to put pressure on Russia to open negotiations. - <u>Vladimir Putin</u> declared the war in Chechnya was a "tragedy" and announced a "normalisation."</p>	<p><b>May</b> <u>Muratz Ziazikov</u>, supported by Moscow, was elected President of Ingushetia.</p> <p><b>29 May</b> - 20-step <u>repatriation agreement</u> concerning the return of IDPs to Chechnya is signed by the Kremlin and - <u>Muratz Ziazikov</u>, the new President of Ingushetia.</p>	<p><b>24 April</b> <u>MSF CH</u>: two national staff were detained at a checkpoint near Gudermes.</p> <p><b>8 May</b> The Chechen Republic's government commission for IDPs requested <u>MSF H</u> to supply 200 tents to the refugees returning to Chechnya rather than to those remaining in Ingushetia.</p> <p><b>27 June</b> <u>MSF B</u>: intervention to help the victims of the Stavropol floods (south Russia).</p>	<p><b>3 June</b> <u>PR MSF</u>: "MSF concerned over new pressures exerted on Chechen refugees in Ingushetia to return to Chechnya."</p> <p><b>June</b> MSF diplomacy campaign on forced repatriation of IDPs in Chechnya.</p> <p><b>27 June</b> <u>PR MSF B</u>: "MSF's reaction to the floods which have struck the south of Russia."</p>

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<p><b>2002</b></p> <p><b>19 and 20 July</b> France-Russia summit in Sochi (Russia).</p> <p><b>23 July</b> UN activities suspended for 6 months due to Davidovitch kidnapping.</p>	<p><b>Early July</b> Coercitive and violent closure of the tent camp of Znamenskoye (northern Chechnya). Refugees are forcibly repatriated to Chechnya.</p> <p><b>10 July</b> FSB informed UNSECOORD (Office of the UN Security Coordinator in the Russian Federation) that due to threats of kidnapping, visits by international staff to Chechnya must be suspended.</p> <p><b>20 July</b> Abdoulkhakim Soultgov, Putin's representative for human rights in Chechnya qualified the situation as unacceptable.</p> <p><b>23 July</b> Abduction of Nina Davidovitch, aid worker for the humanitarian organisation Drujba.</p>	<p><b>4 July</b> MSF B/F/H: joint reaction strategy to the 20-step plan for the repatriation of the displaced Chechens.</p> <p><b>12 July</b> MSF H: informed by Ingush MoH that they are renegeing on the agreement authorising the opening of a hospital to treat refugees suffering from TB.</p>	<p><b>9 July</b> PR MSF: "MSF condemns relocation of displaced Chechens."</p> <p><b>16 July</b> MSF F: Letter to French MoFA, Dominique de Villepin, denouncing Russian pressure on IDP repatriation.</p>

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<p><b>2002</b></p>	<p><b>26 July</b> The <u>director of the Ingush federal migration service</u> announced that the camps will be closed by the end of the year.</p> <p><b>Early August</b> The <u>Dagestan authorities</u> warned the <u>MSF Swiss</u> section that serious threats of kidnapping have been made against foreigners in the North Caucasus.</p> <p><b>8 August</b> Abduction of an <u>ICRC</u> team in the Pankisi Valley (Georgia).</p>	<p><b>12 August</b> Abduction of Arjan Erkel, <u>MSF CH</u> Head of Mission in Dagestan.</p> <p><b>13 August and following days</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Suspension of MSF activities in North Caucasus.</li> <li>- Contacts with Russian authorities and exiled representatives of the independent Chechen government to ask for support.</li> <li>- Set up of the Arjan Erkel Crisis Cell in MSF CH.</li> </ul>	<p><b>26 July</b> <u>MSF B/F/H</u>: Letter to leaders of OSCE members calling them to put pressure on Russia to stop IDP forced repatriation in Chechnya.</p> <p><b>29 July</b> <u>MSF letter to UN</u> calling for pressure on Russia to stop IDP forced repatriation in Chechnya.</p> <p><b>6 August</b> <u>PR MSF Moscow</u>: "MSF strongly condemns kidnapping of Head of Drujba - operations inside Chechnya continue to be suspended."</p> <p><b>8 August</b> <u>PR MSF F</u>: "MSF suspends its activities in the Pankisi Valley (Georgia)."</p> <p><b>13 August</b> <u>PR MSF CH</u>: "<i>MSF confirms kidnapping of its staff member.</i>"</p> <p><b>14 August</b> <u>PR MSF CH</u>: "<i>Following the abduction of a member of our personnel in Dagestan, MSF suspends activities in Dagestan, Chechnya, and Ingushetia.</i>" <u>PR MSF</u>: "<i>MSF condemns the kidnapping of a member of its personnel and suspends activities.</i>" <u>The UN</u> condemned the kidnapping of <u>Arjan Erkel</u>.</p>

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<p><b>2002</b></p> <p><b>9 September</b> UN resumed humanitarian activities in Ingushetia.</p> <p><b>Mid-October</b> PACE report after delegation's visit in Caucasus: "sweeps" operations continued, demanded investigations, and called on NGOs to increase aid in Chechnya.</p>	<p><b>15 August</b> Evacuation of ICRC teams from Caucasus.</p> <p><b>23 October evening</b> 700 people taken hostage by Chechen rebels in the Dubrovka Theater in Moscow.</p>	<p><b>Mid-October</b> MSF sections unanimously decided to make no public comment on the PACE report.</p> <p><b>21 October</b> MSF B/F/H/CH: Dirops discuss the suspension of operations in Chechnya.</p> <p><b>24 October morning</b> - MSF negative answer to Russian authorities' request to bring medicines inside the theatre and - act as a mediator with the</p>	<p><b>19 August</b> PR MSF, Geneva "MSF demands unconditionnal release of Arjan Erkel- MSF offices in Dagestan remain open, operations continue to be suspended."</p> <p><b>22 August</b> PR MSF, Geneva/ Moscow: "MSF maintains suspension of activities in north Caucasus."</p> <p><b>26 August</b> EU condemned kidnappings of humanitarian actors and called for Arjan Erkels release.</p> <p><b>11 September</b> PR MSF: "MSF head of mission remains missing – relief operations resume in Ingushetia."</p>

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<p><b>2002</b></p> <p><b>30 October</b> The <u>United States</u> ambassador to Moscow questioned the assault conditions on the Dubrovka theatre.</p>	<p><b>Night of 26 October</b> Russian special forces launched an assault on the theatre, putting neuroleptic gas through the ventilation system.</p> <p><b>13 November</b> Kidnapping of two <u>ICRC</u> employees near Grozny.</p>	<p>hostage takers. - A MSF team remained on the spot, ready to intervene should there be medical needs.</p> <p><b>26 October</b> - A MSF team brought support to the medical staff of two hospitals in Moscow to treat victims of the assault. - MSF decided not to communicate on its intervention.</p> <p><b>29 October</b> <u>MSF International President</u> meets high-ranking FSB official who said - Arjan Erkel is alive, - and the person responsible for his kidnapping is a "local commander."</p> <p><b>30 October</b> <u>Thank you letter</u> from the Chief Doctor of the Moscow City Clinic Hospital n°13 to MSF.</p> <p><b>Mid-November</b> - Set up of the <u>MSF international monitoring committee</u> to provide support and advice to the Swiss section. - Closure of the investigation by the Dagestan authorities on Arjan Erkel abduction. MSF was not informed. - A diplomat, formerly posted to Moscow, advised MSF F President to remain extremely firm with the Russian authorities.</p>	<p><b>4 November</b> <u>PR MSF F</u>: "MSF strongly condemns kidnapping of ICRC employees and expresses its solidarity with the ICRC and the abductees' families."</p>

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<p><b>2002</b></p>	<p><b>2 December</b> The Aki Yourt camp is forcibly emptied by Russian Forces.</p>	<p><b>3 December</b> <u>MSF B</u>: In spite threats from the authorities, team continues providing medical care to the Aki Yourt refugees.</p> <p><b>10 December</b> The Erkel Crisis Cell drew up a communication plan designed to maintain pressure on the Russian authorities. 2003</p>	<p><b>20 November</b> <u>PR MSF</u>: "Head of Mission of MSF in Dagestan remains missing after 100 days – efforts by authorities fail to secure release."</p>
<p><b>2003</b></p> <p><b>16 January</b> <u>The European Parliament</u> called on the Russian authorities to do everything in their power to secure the release of Arjan Erkel.</p>	<p><b>10 January</b> Liberation of <u>Nina Davidovitch</u>, abducted several days before Arjan Erkel.</p>	<p><b>13 January</b> The Erkel Crisis Cell launched the second phase in its communication strategy: claiming the Russian authorities are capable of helping secure Arjan's release.</p> <p><b>29 January</b> In a meeting with MSF and the Dutch MoFA the Erkel family asked that no public criticism of the Russian authorities be made.</p>	<p><b>10 January</b> <u>PR MSF</u> "MSF Welcomes the Release of Nina Davydovitch - Head of MSF Mission in Dagestan Remains Missing – MSF Demands his Immediate Release"</p> <p><b>29 January</b> In a <u>letter to MSF International President</u> the <u>Dutch MoFA</u> expressed surprise at remarks allegedly made by the President of MSF France to the French MoFA suggesting</p>

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<p><b>2003</b></p> <p><b>31 January</b> The President of the <u>European Union</u> called on the Russian authorities to do everything in their power to secure the release of Arjan Erkel.</p> <p><b>10 February</b> <u>Vladimir Putin</u> was received by the President of the French Republic.</p>		<p><b>3 to 16 February</b> <u>MSF B/F/H</u> survey of Chechen refugees living in 8 tent camps in Ingushetia.</p> <p><b>Early March</b> MSF receives Arjan's mobile phone bill.</p>	<p>that Russian services are involved in the abduction of Arjan Erkel and deploring the Dutch authorities' lack of commitment to resolving the situation.</p> <p><b>3 February</b> PR MSF B: "<i>The Duma launches an information campaign for the homeless.</i>"</p> <p><b>5 February</b> - PR MSF: "<i>MSF favorably received the EU declaration calling for the release of Arjan Erkel, MSF head of omission MSF Dagestan, for whom there has been no news for almost 6 months.</i>" - MSF International President: sent a <u>response letter</u> to the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs.</p> <p><b>10 February</b> <i>Le Figaro</i> (France) MSF F President's interview "<i>Putin's Russia is a Bermuda Triangle.</i>"</p> <p><b>12 February</b> - <u>Press conference</u> Moscow: MSF/Erkel family/Dutch embassy. - PR MSF: "<i>Arjan Erkel, abducted six months ago in Dagestan, still missing: MSF calls on the Russian and Dagestani governments to give high political priority to the case.</i>"</p>

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<p><b>2003</b></p> <p><b>March</b> US offensive in Iraq.</p>	<p><b>23 March</b> <u>Russian referendum</u> to adopt a new constitution re-integrating Chechnya into the Federation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the opinion of observers the referendum was rigged. According to the authorities,</li> <li>- more than 80% of the Chechens participated and</li> <li>- a process for political settlement was declared in Chechnya.</li> </ul>	<p><b>March</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Dutch MoFA</u> receives pictures showing Arjan holding a recent newspaper, two letters for his family and for MSF.</li> <li>- People close to <u>Basayev</u> inform MSF that Arjan's abductors work for the Russian secret services and have tried to sell them the hostage.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mid-March</b> <u>Meeting MSF/Erkel family/ Dutch MoFA:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MSF reaffirms its aim of keeping pressure on the Russian authorities.</li> <li>- Erkel Family and MoFA are opposed to this strategy.</li> </ul>	<p><b>7 March</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PR MSF: <i>"Birthday of Arjan, a MSF volunteer who has been held hostage for seven months in the Caucasus, marked by an international appeal for his release – Russian authorities not facing up to their responsibilities."</i></li> <li>- MSF launches an international <u>petition</u> demanding that Russian and Dagestani authorities do everything to secure Arjan's release.</li> </ul> <p><b>12 March</b> <u>MSF F: letter to the Ingush President Muratz Ziazikov</u> asking him to allow Chechen refugees to occupy housing its team was building.</p> <p><b>26 March</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>PR MSF F:</u> <i>"Order to destroy shelters for displaced Chechens constitutes new obstruction of rights."</i></li> <li>- <u>Letters</u> from MSF sections to western leaders so they could reinforce the request.</li> </ul>



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<p><b>2003</b></p>	<p><b>April</b> More and more refugees return to Chechnya, pressed by the Russian and Ingush authorities.</p> <p><b>11 April</b> Report of the pro-Russian Chechen government on atrocities perpetrated by Russian forces against civilians.</p>	<p><b>4 April</b> <u>Dutch MoFA</u> asked MSF to stop distributing the petition. MSF refuses with the agreement of Erkel family.</p> <p><b>10 April</b> Meeting between <u>MSF and Ingush President Muratz Ziazikov</u>: MSF asks him to withdraw threats to destroy shelters.</p> <p><b>April</b> Security tensions for MSF teams in Moscow.</p>	<p><b>2 April</b> - PR MSF <i>"MSF demands Putin help obtain release of kidnapped aid worker."</i> - Signed petitions were given to Russian embassies throughout the world and to the Kremlin by Arjan's father and MSF Secretary General. - Press Conference by Arjan's father and MSF Secretary General.</p> <p><b>3 April</b> PR MSF Moscow/ Amsterdam: <i>"MSF shocked by brutal murders in Grozny."</i></p> <p><b>5 April</b> <i>NRC Handelsblad</i> (The Netherlands): Coen Van Zwol: <i>"A young fair-haired man is worth millions in Dagestan,"</i> quotes MSF H HoM and MSF Information Officer in Moscow, - linked Erkel's abduction and Russian reluctance to NGO presence in Caucasus, and - explained MSF silence in the aftermath of the Dubrovka assault by its concern not to cause harm to Arjan.</p>

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<p><b>2003 16 April</b> UN Commission for Human Rights did not adopt a draft resolution condemning Russia for atrocities.</p>	<p><b>14 May</b> Attack against an FSB building in Znamenskoïe in Chechnya.</p>	<p><b>Late April</b> MSF is informed that at the time of his abduction, Arjan was tailed by FSB.</p> <p><b>12 May</b> A go-between provided investigators with a video proving that Arjan Erkel was still alive.</p>	<p><b>6 May</b> MSF Moscow: Press Conference. PR MSF &amp; report: <i>“Left without a choice – Chechens forced to return to Chechnya,” 89% of refugees don’t want to return to Chechnya.</i></p> <p><b>8 May</b> <i>Novaïa Gazeta</i> (Russia) Viatcheslav Ismailov: <i>“Arjan Erkel might still be alive.”</i></p> <p><b>12 May</b> PR MSF: <i>“Russian investigators assure that kidnapped aid worker is alive, MSF welcomes news, demands more to be done to secure his release.”</i></p> <p><b>14 May</b> PR MSF: <i>“MSF sends medical teams to help civilians wounded in Znamenskoye in Chechnya.”</i></p> <p><b>May</b> - MSF calls on European and US MoFAs to talk about Arjan Erkel’s case during the G8 summit in St Petersburg. - UNHCR accuses MSF of fake figures (news circulated by a Russian Press Agency).</p> <p><b>17 May</b> MSF F: <u>General Assembly meeting, annual report of the President</u>, <i>“Persons who are working on the Arjan case on a daily basis, who have led the investigations are convinced that we are facing hostility from the Russian state and its security services.”</i></p>

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<p><b>2003</b></p> <p><b>31 May</b>  <u>St-Petersburg/EU/ Russia Summit:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- need for a political resolution to the Chechen question.</li> <li>- Dutch prime minister publicly raised the question of Arjan Erkel. Putin declared that he is dealing with Arjan Erkel case.</li> </ul> <p><b>3 July</b>  <u>European Parliament</u> resolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- described violations of human rights by Russian forces in Chechnya as <i>“war crimes and crimes against humanity,”</i> and</li> <li>- called on the Russian authorities to intensify efforts to find Erkel.</li> </ul>	<p><b>21 May</b>  <u>FSB</u> advised <u>UN</u> and international NGO staff not to circulate in Chechnya</p>	<p><b>19 May</b>            Start of the trial of the two men accused of Kenny Gluck’s abduction - Kenny declines an invitation to appear in court.</p> <p><b>Late May</b>            MSF discovered that the investigation of Arjan’s abduction has been closed in November 2002. The investigation resumes.</p> <p><b>June</b>  <u>MSF F:</u> HoM is arbitrarily prevented from leaving Russian territory.</p>	<p><b>10 June</b>  <u>MSF Hearing:</u> at the Caucasus Commission of the US Congress and the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.  <u>PR MSF USA:</u> <i>“Displaced Chechens forced back to war zone.”</i>            MSF meetings with officials of the <u>US administration</u> about the fate of IDPs and Arjan Erkel.</p> <p><b>12 June</b>  <u>PR MSF</u> <i>“Arjan Erkel kidnapped 10 months ago.”</i></p>

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<p><b>2003</b></p> <p><b>12 August</b>  <u>US-UE</u> urge Putin to act in aid worker kidnap case.</p>	<p><b>4 July</b>  <u>Akhmed Kadyrov</u>, Head of pro-Russian Chechen administration declared that all IDPs must have returned to Chechnya by September.</p>	<p><b>12 August</b>  The Dutch MoFA breaks off all contacts with MSF for several weeks.</p>	<p><b>16 July</b>  <i><b>NRC Handelsblad</b></i> (The Netherlands) Coen Van Zwol: "Identity of the US attaches was unknown to Erkel."</p> <p><b>29 July</b>  <u>A representative of Dutch MoFA</u> showed a video of Erkel to journalists and said MSF was acting irresponsibly in the management of the case.</p> <p><b>11 August</b>  <u>PR MSF</u> "One of the three largest camps in Ingushetia, Bella, is being emptied under the indifferent watch of the international community."</p> <p><b>12 August</b>  - <u>PR MSF</u> "One year after Arjan Erkel's kidnapping, MSF Considers the investigation to be a failure and calls for more action by the Russian authorities to resolve the case."  - <u>MSF rallied</u> in Moscow, Amsterdam, and Geneva.  - <u>Interviews</u> with MSF in international press on Russian authorities' inaction.</p> <p><b>13 August</b>  <i><b>The Independant</b></i> (UK): Open letter from <u>Kenny Gluck and Vincent Cochetel</u>, former hostages in Caucasus, "Russia must act to protect aid workers in the Caucasus."</p> <p><b>18 August</b>  MSF International President: <u>Letter</u> to the President of the United States asked him to raise Erkel's case during his</p>

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<p><b>2003</b></p> <p><b>19 August</b> Attack on <u>UN</u> Headquarters in Bagdad (Iraq).</p> <p><b>26 August</b> Following UN HQ attack in Bagdad, the <u>UN Secretary General Kofi Annan</u> announced the adoption of a resolution on the protection of humanitarian workers in conflict zones.</p> <p><b>26 and 27 September</b> - <u>George W. Bush and Vladimir Putin met</u> in Camp David. - <u>Vladimir Putin at the UN</u>.</p>	<p><b>1 October</b> Ingush authorities definitively closed the Bella camp for displaced persons.</p>	<p><b>Late September</b> <u>MSF B</u>: closed TB programme in Siberia following its rejection by the Russian authorities.</p>	<p>forthcoming meeting with Vladimir Putin in Camp David.</p> <p><b>28 August</b> <u>PR MSF</u> "Now the time to act – after the UN Security Council resolution on the safety of aid workers, MSF presses Russia to secure Arjan Erkels release."</p> <p><b>25 September</b> - <u>PR MSF</u> "President Putin called on to fulfill obligation to ensure the release of abducted MSF aid worker Arjan Erkel – UN members urged to hold Russian president accountable for resolution of the case." - <u>MSF USA</u>: Press Conference to the UN, New York, - demonstration on a cruise boat <u>on the Hudson River</u> near the <u>UN</u> building, - continued lobby of American and European leaders.</p> <p><b>26 September</b> <u>PR MSF</u>: "President Bush is urged to push President Putin for aid worker's freedom."</p> <p><b>30 September</b> <u>PR MSF B</u>: "MSF Ends Tuberculosis Treatment in Kemerovo Region, Russia."</p>

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<p><b>2003</b></p> <p><b>5 November</b> EU/Russia summit in Rome.</p>	<p><b>5 October</b> Akhmed Kadyrov, Head of pro-Russian Chechen administration is elected President of Chechnya and pledged to get rid of Maskhadov and Basayev within two months. Observers reported the election was manipulated.</p> <p><b>5 November</b> The head of the migration service in Ingushetia declared that the humanitarian</p>	<p><b>October</b> MSF is provided with proof of Arjan's life and contracts the FSB Veterans Association to search for Arjan.</p> <p><b>19 October</b> Russian MoFA declares to Swiss MoFA that Arjan Erkel is alive and that Russia is doing everything to secure his release.</p> <p><b>Late October</b> MSF CH moderated the MSF movement's proposal for communication in order to avoid compromising the progress being made with some leads to get Arjan's release.</p> <p><b>November</b> MSF and Dutch MoFA are informed that FSB has transferred the responsibility of the investigation to the Russian Ministry of Interior.</p>	<p><b>3 October</b> PR MSF: "Camps closed, people expelled: displaced Chechens must have option to be re-located in Ingushetia."</p> <p><b>6-8 October</b> <i>Novaia Gazeta</i> (Russia) Vyatcheslav Izmailov: "Vladimir Putin, release of Arjan Erkel is in your hands."</p> <p><b>19 October</b> PR MSF CH: "The Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs states that Arjan is alive."</p> <p><b>27 October</b> <i>Novaia Gazeta</i> (Russia): Vyatcheslav Izmailov accused a business man and member of the Dagestani parliament, of Arjan Erkel's kidnapping.</p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> November</b> Launch of a poster campaign with portraits of Arjan in Moscow's airports.</p> <p><b>5 November</b> MSF Italy: press conference in Rome. PR MSF: "EU President</p>

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<p><b>2003</b></p> <p><b>7 November</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At the end of his visit, <u>Vladimir Putin</u> is accompanied to the airport by the President of the French Republic.</li> <li>- Damning report of the <u>UN Commission on Human Rights</u> on violations in Chechnya.</li> </ul>	<p>organisations working in the displaced persons' camps are openly using propaganda to dissuade people from returning to Chechnya.</p> <p><b>7 December</b> <i>Vladimir Putin's</i> party wins the elections for the Russian Federation's Duma.</p> <p><b>10 December</b> Alina IDP camp in Ingushetia is closed and IDPs sent back to Chechnya.</p>	<p><b>Early December</b> A lead in Arjan's release, through <u>the Veteran's Association of the Russian Secret Services</u>, recruited by MSF and Dutch MoFA seems to be on the verge of succeeding.</p> <p><b>10 December</b> Arrest of <u>Imamutdin Temirbulatov</u>, Dagestani Officer-in-charge of the investigation on Arjan Erkel's case. Confusion and blockage on the veterans' lead.</p>	<p><i>Berlusconi called to push President Putin to secure the release of Arjan Erkel, MSF aid worker in Captivity in the Caucasus since August 2002.</i></p> <p><b>NRC Handelsblad</b> (The Netherlands): <u>Coen Van Zwol</u>, "Identity of Arjan Erkel's kidnapper is known."</p> <p>Return to the hypothesis of Izmailov in <i>Novaia Gazeta</i> on 27 October.</p> <p><b>7 November</b> <b>Le Monde</b> (France): "MSF demonstration in Paris for Arjan Erkel." MSF called on French President to raise Arjan's issue with Vladimir Putin.</p> <p><b>16 November</b> <b>NRC Handelsblad</b> (The Netherlands) <u>Coen Van Zwol</u>, "Death for the living." Again, return to the hypothesis of Ismailov in <i>Novaia Gazeta</i> on 27 October.</p>

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<p><b>2003</b></p>		<p><b>25 December</b> 500 days in captivity for Arjan Erkel.</p>	<p><b>15 December</b> <i>Novaia Gazeta</i> (Russia): "Sensation or fabrication." <u>Vyatcheslav Ismailov</u> took Temirbulatov's defence.</p> <p><b>16 December</b> Mistaken announcement in <i>Chechen Times</i> (Chechnya): "Special operation by Chechen Special Forces to liberate Arjan Erkel."</p> <p><b>25 December</b> PR MSE: "August 12, 2002 - December 25, 2003 Arjan Erkel, 500 days in captivity, still missing." Candlelight vigil in Amsterdam for Arjan Erkel.</p>
<p><b>2004</b></p> <p><b>26 February</b> <u>European Parliament Report</u> on EU-Russia relations: concern over failure of Erkel's case resolution.</p>		<p><b>28 January</b> Erkel family urges MSF and Dutch MoFA to maintain strict confidentiality around the leads followed in efforts to secure Arjan's release.</p> <p><b>26 February</b> <u>Letter</u> from Erkel family's lawyer threatening MSF with legal action if it does not halt its communication campaign.</p> <p><b>27 February</b> <u>MSF E:</u> board meeting discussion on staff security in Caucasus.</p>	<p><b>12 February</b> PR MSE: "After 18 Months of captivity, Arjan Erkel still missing - ongoing violence limits relief efforts to thousands of displaced people."</p> <p><b>16 February</b> <i>Novaia Gazeta</i> (Russia): "Khattab's Financier," Once again <u>Vyatcheslav Ismailov</u> points the responsibility for Erkel's kidnapping to a member of Dagestan's parliament and business man.</p>



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<p><b>2004</b></p> <p><b>9 March</b> <u>European Council</u> meeting in Rome.</p>		<p><b>4 March</b> MSF CH: Letter from Thomas <u>Linde</u>, Executive Director to Dick Erkel, MSF understands his reservations but intends to step up communication pressure on Russian authorities (but he does not make clear the nature of MSF statements).</p> <p><b>9 March</b> Arjan Erkel's birthday.</p> <p><b>10 March</b> MSF F: President's statements on Russian officials responsibility in Arjan Erkel's abduction were criticised within the MSF movement by those who felt they could be dangerous for Arjan. US administration officials advised MSF to make more noise about Erkel case.</p> <p><b>11 March</b> MSF International President, General Secretary, MSF CH General Director sent a letter to the movement's directors asking them to support the crisis cell communication lines.</p>	<p><b>1 March</b> MSF's dossier to media and political leaders "Arjan Erkel, hostage in the Russian Federation since August 12, 2002."</p> <p><b>8 March</b> CNN (United States): Interview of MSF USA Executive Director: "The balance of power and profit motives in the Caucasus region seem to take priority over Arjan's life."</p> <p><b>9 March</b> AFP (France): "MSF: officials implicated in the kidnapping of the MSF representative in Dagestan," MSF F President quoted. PR MSF: "European Council must act to save Arjan Erkel."</p> <p><b>10 March</b> Le Monde (France) Marie Jégo: "MSF accuses Russian officials of holding Arjan Erkel hostage." JH Bradol, President of MSF F was quoted.</p> <p><b>11 March</b> Le Temps (Switzerland) Pierre Hazan: "MSF accuses Moscow of doing nothing to free its Head of Mission currently held hostage," Thomas Nierle and Jean-Christophe Azé, members of Erkel's Crisis Cell quoted.</p>

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2004			<p><b>AP</b> (United States) <u>Judith Ingram</u>: “MSF accuses Russian authorities of complicity in abduction of aid worker,” <u>MSF F President</u> quoted.</p> <p><b>AFP</b> (France): “Russia denies involvement in the kidnapping of MSF worker.”</p> <p><b>Nezavisimaïa Gazeta</b> (Russia): “Russia officially accused over kidnapping – MSF makes unpleasant statements.”</p> <p><b>12 March</b></p> <p><b>Le Figaro</b> (France) <u>Patrick de St-Exupéry</u>: “The deliberate and systematic practice of kidnapping,” interview with MSF F President.</p> <p><b>Radio 1</b> (The Netherlands): interview with <u>Dick Erkel</u> who criticised MSF’s communication campaign.</p> <p><b>Gazeta.ru</b> (Russia) <u>Maria Tsvetkova</u>: interview with <u>Mark Walsh</u>, MSF Regional Information Officer in Moscow: “Bradol [MSF F President] was referring to a newspaper article written by Vyacheslav Izmailov.”</p> <p><b>12 March</b></p> <p>PR UN Commission for Human Rights: “Acting UN High Commissioner for Human Rights appeals for release of Arjan Erkel.”</p> <p><b>14 March</b></p> <p><b>Le Journal du dimanche</b> (France) <u>Karen Lajon</u>: “An MSF member under threat of death.”</p> <p><b>16 March</b></p> <p><b>Libération</b> (France) <u>Pierre Hazan</u>: “An MSF member under threat of death,” Thomas Nierle, Arjan Erkel Crisis Cell quoted.</p> <p>- Statement of President of MSF International, MSF H, MSF CH and MSF International Secretary General: “Médecins sans</p>

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<p><b>2004</b></p>		<p><b>17 March</b>  <u>Fax</u> from Erkel family's lawyer threatening MSF of legal action if MSF does not stop its communication campaign.</p> <p><b>25 March</b>  <u>Dutch MoFA</u> declared that MSF public statements have upset the Russian authorities and brought all the efforts undertaken to secure Erkel's freedom to a standstill, thus MSF will cut off from their information.</p> <p><b>26 March</b>  <u>MSF F:</u> board meeting discussion about public statements regarding Arjan Erkel's abduction.</p>	<p><i>Frontières confirms implication of Russian and Dagestani authorities in Arjan Erkel."</i></p> <p><b>17 March</b>  - <i>The Washington Post</i> (USA): Editorial, "where is Arjan Erkel?"  - <u>Dutch MoFA</u> called on the Russian authorities to secure Arjan Erkel's release before the UN Commission for Human Rights.</p> <p><b>18 March</b>  - PR MSF "Arjan Erkel, nineteen months in captivity - MSF denounces inaction and indifference of Russian Authorities."  - MSF Moscow <u>Press Conference</u>.  - MSF CH/MSF H Directors of Operations on Radio Echo of Moscow: strong suspicions concerning Russian officials' involvement in Arjan Erkel's prolonged captivity.  - The Minister of Interior of Dagestan states to <i>Itar Tass</i>: he is monitoring the Erkel case on a daily basis.  - <u>MSF to media</u>: "Arjan Erkel is sick and under threat of execution."</p> <p><b>26 March</b>  <i>ANP</i> (The Netherlands): "MSF must stop the media campaign on Erkel," Dutch MoFA quoted to have warned MSF.</p> <p><b>29 March</b>  <i>Novaia Gazeta</i> (Russia) Vyatcheslav Ismailov:</p>

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<p><b>2004</b></p> <p><b>21 December</b>  <u>Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation</u>: "The war in Chechnya was over three years ago."</p>		<p><b>8 April</b>  <u>Arjan Erkel's Crisis Cell</u> asks all MSF communication departments to stay silent on the Erkel affair for tactical reasons related to operations underway.</p> <p><b>Night of 10 April</b>  Arjan Erkel released and left in a room at the FSB headquarters in Makhachkala.</p> <p><b>13 April</b>  <u>MSF USA: Executive Director</u> asked the MSF movement to be more pro-active and issue a position on Arjan Erkel's abduction and release.</p>	<p>Interview with <u>Dagestani Minister of Interior</u>, we have reasons to consider Arjan Erkel alive and you are close to the truth in your journalist's investigation.</p> <p><b>11 April</b>  <u>PR MSF</u>: "Arjan Erkel is free."</p> <p><b>13 April</b>  <u>Le Monde</u> (France), <u>Natalie Nougayrède</u>: "Arjan Erkel, MSF representative in Dagestan, was freed – NGOs aiding displaced Chechens are convinced his abduction was intended to intimidate them."</p> <p><b>15 April</b>  <u>PR MSF</u>: "MSF expresses relief at release of kidnapped aid worker Arjan Erkel, [...] highlights the continued acceptance by the government of the Russia Federation [...] of a climate of violence in the region."  - <u>The Moscow Times</u> (Russia): "Light is shed on Erkel's release."</p> <p><b>August</b>  <u>MSF H</u>: report "The trauma of ongoing war in Chechnya."</p>
<p><b>2007</b></p>		<p>Closure of last MSF programmes in Chechen IDP camps in Ingushetia.</p>	