

ISSUE

 Violations of children's rights and humanitarian law in the Chechen wars

CRIMES

- Unlawful detention
- Kidnappings
- Disappearances
- Killings

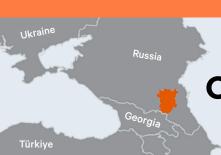
Not even the new-born, a girl less than a year old, was spared; she was beaten in front of her mother.

936 victims under 18 years are documented in the Natalia Estemirova Documentation Centre (NEDC) database of the Chechen conflicts from 1994. The actual number is probably higher. Elder boys were seen as potential fighters and at particular risk of ill-treatment, but girls were also not spared from suffering the same violations as adults.

YEAR

1994-2025

936 VICTIMS



Chechen Republic, Russia



At least 936 child victims are recorded in the NEDC database. The majority were civilians. 64% were 14-18, and 36% were under 14. 689 boys and 247 girls were targeted. 509 children were killed or disappeared, 260 unlawfully detained or abducted, 111 tortured, and many more injured and traumatised during bombings and raids. The actual number is probably higher, as many cases of unlawful detention, abduction, and trauma were never reported.

7 June 2001
11-year-old boy killed while buying chewing gum in Kurchaloy

The reported cases highlight the brutal treatment. 16 children were killed or injured in the bombing of the village of Elistanzhi.

Three boys were tortured and executed in Tsa-Vedeno. An 11-year-old boy was killed in Khurchaloy while buying chewing gum. Two sisters were killed in Grozny. Children suffered the same violations as adults and were denied the extra protections their age should have guaranteed.

Their stolen childhoods remain the most haunting legacy of the conflicts. Targeting of children continues to be a feature of Russian warfare in Ukraine today.

29 Sep 2005
Grozny police
car shelling kills
two sisters



Call to action:



Russia must investigate all cases of children being victimised. Democratic states must sanction the military and police officials involved in the victimisation of children.



