



Photo: NEDC

COUNTRY

**The Chechen Republic,
Russia**

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

CHE2-2025

27 Dec 2000
Adolescents
detained; three
boys found dead

Oct 1999
Elistanzhi village
bombed; at least
nine children died

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

29 Sep 2005
Grozny police
car shelling kills
two sisters

30 Sep 2005
936 verified cases

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.

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.

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.



Norwegian
Helsinki Committee

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