

### THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SPHERE

#### **How are Chechen refugees returning home?**

More than half a million of the republic's population have fled their homes since 1999, due to the military operations and overall instability, and threats from Chechen terrorists. People are starting to return home as life is getting back to normal in Chechnya. This, for the most part, concerns refugees from other parts of the republic. More than 180,000 people have returned to Chechnya since 2000 up to the present day, including over 85,000 from Ingushetia. Significantly, this return home is purely voluntary. Nevertheless, 360,000 were in temporary sheltering and outside Chechnya in the middle of 2002. Neighbouring Ingushetia hosts the largest refugee community, numbering more than 100,000. Some are in refugee camps, others have rented accommodation. The federal budget makes the necessary allocations, including for food purchases and deliveries. The creation of 120,000 new jobs within the last two years has become another impetus for refugees to return. Jobs are offered mainly in agricultural sphere - but not only there. The construction is developing rapidly, employing more than 40,000 in 2002, as against 10,000 the previous year. Another 30,000 people will find employment in the near future, according to the Chechen Government. Another 150,000 receive unemployment benefits.

#### **The return of refugees is closely linked to the reconstruction of housing in Chechnya. What is the situation in this area?**

According to the Federal State Construction Committee's statistics, a total of 1,645 residential blocks - 1,634 private and 11 municipal, with a total floor space exceeding 320,000 square metres - were commissioned from January to December 2002. Grozny, Argun, Gudermes and the village of Sernovodskaya are

offering good conditions for the return of refugees. Repairs and fitting have been completed in 15 newly-started temporary accommodation centres to cater for an approximate 14,000 people. All told, the federal targeted programme for the economic and social rehabilitation of the Chechen Republic envisages the restoration of 4,550 private blocks and 2,630 municipal flats, with a total floor space exceeding 500,000 sq. m, in 2002 and 2003.

#### **It is an open secret that many refugees are in fear of their lives and so are reluctant to return.**

Indeed, one of the biggest problems keeping people from returning is the instability and explosive situation due to continuing terrorist attacks. Suffice it to mention the terrorist attack of December 27, 2002, when a suicide bomber outside the Chechen republican government premises took 82 lives and injured 153. It is up to the law-enforcement bodies to improve the situation. Other government agencies, including the Federal Migration Service of the Interior Ministry, are doing all they can to promote the return of refugees to Chechnya. In particular, the real number of refugees is being established, and they are being re-registered. The readiness of temporary accommodation centres is being checked for the returning refugees, and steps are being taken to provide them normal conditions. The first issue of the newspaper *Migratsionny Vestnik* (Migration Herald) came out in July 2002 as a special weekly supplement to the magazine, *Migratsia i Grazhdanstvo* (Migration and Citizenship). The

Federal Migration Service established the newspaper to provide refugees with objective information about accommodation in particular cities and districts, the progress of construction, employment and educational opportunities, as well as the payment of social and other benefits.

#### **As we know, Grozny, the republic's capital, suffered the worst in the two Chechen military campaigns. When can we expect it to be rebuilt?**

Grozny really accounts for 70% of war damage to the Chechen economy, according to the government commission on social and economic recovery of the Chechen Republic. 66% of the city's houses are damaged, 28% of them totally destroyed. The urban engineering infrastructure was almost fully incapacitated. The equipment of electric substations, boilers, water intakes, pumping stations and purification facilities has been destroyed or pilfered almost completely. A general plan is being drafted for the reconstruction of the Chechen capital. If work proceeds at the scheduled pace and terrorists do not demolish what has been repaired, a modern city will rise again in a matter of six or seven years. That will be an expensive effort: clearing away the debris alone will take 494 million roubles, over US\$ 15 million, out of the federal purse, according to expert estimates.



#### **What if money earmarked for the reconstruction of Chechnya is misappropriated? This fear often appears in the media both in and outside Russia, and political activists say it from the rostrum now and again.**

This assumption has really become a cliché in the public minds, and it is hard to change it, especially after previous instances of misappropriation. It is groundless now, however. There is another headache now - money misspent, and upward distortions in housing construction reports. The federal authorities have made it a point to put an end to these misdeeds. The Audit Chamber of the Russian Federation summed up an inspection in April 2002, which exposed that more than 700 million roubles of federal allocations had been misspent, roughly US\$ 22 million. Importantly, the financing arrangement has been thoroughly changed within the last few years, and money now comes to the receiver without a hitch. If allocations were getting through authorised banks five or six years ago, now they go via the Federal Treasury.

#### **In what condition is the republic's oil industry today?**

In 2001, Chechnya extracted 705,000 tons of oil, with the average level of daily extraction rising more than five times, from 800 to 4,000 tons, in comparison with the previous year. According to the "Statistical Bulletin on Progress in the Economic and Social Restoration of the Chechen Republic in January-October 2002,"

it produced 1,223,000 tons of oil, including gas condensate. The republic hit the level of 138,000 tons last October alone.

### **How can you characterise the basic parametres of the restoration of Chechnya's energy industry?**

Electricity supply has been restored in virtually all the districts of the republic and aerial power transmission lines with a total length of 544.6 kilometres have been put into operation. Besides, almost all settlements have been connected to gas supplies; 548 kilometres of gas-mains commissioned and a major strip of the Stavropol-Grozny gas-main, Kavkaz-5 and Kavkaz-10 gas-mains reconstructed. The first steam power generating unit of the Argun thermal power station TETs-4 was launched in the middle of December 2002 to become the largest of all the rebuilt power plants in Chechnya. It will provide heat for other enterprises, including sugar and ferroconcrete factories which are to create up to 3,000 jobs.

**Ошибка! Закладка не определена.**

### **But the re-launching of the Argun TETs-4 thermal power station has been accompanied by losses among the personnel...**

Indeed, extremists went out of their way to undermine the resurrection of this plant built in the republic 39 years ago. Everything began in 2000 when four workers putting up a protective fence were shot by snipers; then leaflets with threats were scattered on the site. In all, 62 workers of the power plant were killed by militants in Argun. Nurengo association chief Nurdin Usamov said at the opening ceremony of the Argun TETs-4 first power generation unit: "The revival of the station is a real exploit of Chechen, Russian, Ukrainian and Armenian engineers and workers who have stood up to the bandits."

### **What can you say about agriculture and related industries in Chechnya?**

In 2002, Chechen farmers harvested 350,000 tons of grain from 158,000 hectares, a record crop even for Soviet times. In comparison: the 2001 grain harvest from 135,000 hectares yielded 250,000 tons. Chechnya's agrarian complex has received over 100 grain harvesters, almost a thousand tons of mineral fertilizer and about 100 tons of pesticides.

### **How is the railway and road network in Chechnya being restored?**

The middle of 2002 saw the commissioning of a railway station in Khankala and bridges across the Terek river, as well as the rehabilitation of railways on the Ishcherskaya-Gudermes strip. A new lease of life has been given to the railway stations on the Ishcherskaya-Gudermes, Ishcherskaya-Khasavyurt, Gudermes-Khankala routes and, most importantly, Grozny. Almost 350 faulty freight carriages have been repaired. It is indicative that over 15,000 carriages arrived in Chechnya without loads from the middle of 2001 to mid-2002.

April, 2002, was marked by the opening of passenger traffic along the Gudermes-Moscow-Gudermes route. Direct railway links were restored between Moscow and Grozny recently. Passengers are now free to move by internal trains or along the routes leading from Chechnya to Ingushetia and North Ossetia. In order to restore the republic' automobile pool, 220 passenger buses, about a dozen truck cranes and bowsers have been supplied.

In general, the targeted programme "The Rehabilitation of Chechnya's Economic and Social Sphere for 2002 and Subsequent Years" provides for 206.5 million roubles(about \$6.3 million) to renovate the republic's motor transport.

### **Another important component of the republic's social sector's restoration is hospitals, schools, colleges, libraries...**

Some 57 hospitals with almost 5,000 beds, 32 health centres, 46 general practitioner's rooms and 175 assistant doctors' stations had been repaired by the middle of 2002. Grozny alone now has nine hospitals, a central maternity home, a first-aid station, eight health centres for adults, three out-patient clinics for children and two dental surgeries. The republic plans to apply capital repairs to another 105 medical establishments, including 37 hospitals with 1,500 beds, five dispensaries fit to receive about a thousand patients a day, 11 out-patient clinics for almost 4,000 visits a day, two maternity homes, over 20 general practitioner's rooms. Some 291,000 people were inoculated in 2002 against various diseases. Seventeen new schools opened at the beginning of 2002-2003 academic year and another 45 schools now being repaired will open their doors for students within a short while. In all, Chechnya boasts 500 schools with a staff of 13,600 teachers instructing about 220,000 students, which is more than last year.

Admission has been restored to the higher educational establishments: the Chechen State University, the Grozny State Oil Industry Institute and the Chechen State Teacher Training Institute, with a total enrolment of 18,000 students. Besides, a group of Chechens has been admitted to Moscow State University.

### **What about cultural facilities?**

It was in 2002 that work began in Grozny on rebuilding a concert hall for 750 people, a Chechen drama theatre for 350 spectators, a state circus seating 1,400, a philharmonic society, a national museum, district cultural clubs in the settlements of Shatoi and Vedeno; 15 million roubles (about \$500,000) have been allotted for these projects. Federal support is being rendered to amateur performers and for the restoration and conservation of historical and cultural monuments. Of the registered 21 newspapers and three magazines, 3 newspapers and two magazines are printed, including "The Call of the Earth" with a circulation of 15,000 and "The Republic News" with a circulation of 10,000 copies. Chechen state radio and television broadcast for two and three hours a day, respectively.



### **LEGAL SYSTEM IN THE MAKING**

#### **Is it true that Chechnya has a normally functioning legal system?**

Yes, it is. As Russia's Justice Minister Yuri Chaika said recently, Chechnya now has five justice houses opened, including in district centres. Existing structures include notary and law offices, bodies to register public organisations, and civil registrar's offices. As for courts in Chechnya, none of them, according to the minister, has experienced any emergency situations so far. Also, Chechnya has its own corrections department, complete with facilities for keeping prisoners. Correctional colonies and isolation cells are being built or restored in Grozny, Chernokozovo, etc.

In 2002, a special federal programme allocated resources for restoring Chechnya's penal system. Administrative buildings, prisoners' quarters, baths, laundries, and engineering services are currently in the final stages of construction. And here are other statistics. More than 5,500 people were checked in 2002 for their possible involvement in illegal armed formations by Russia's Justice Ministry corrections department and other power structures, nearly 200 kilogrammes of narcotics were seized, and over a thousand illegal oil mini-refineries destroyed. As of November 25, 2002, according to the Russian Supreme Court's judicial department, the republic's 12 district courts and Supreme Court had received and examined, respectively, 1928 and 1342 criminal cases and 8,782 and 8,384 civil cases, apart from some 120 petition cases.

#### **Are there court bailiffs in Chechnya?**

There are currently 200 court bailiffs, 42 notaries, and 95 lawyers employed on a permanent basis in Chechnya. Besides, the Justice Ministry of Russia has seconded 30 of its personnel to Chechnya, while the Prosecutor's Office of Chechnya has its own staff of 264, most of them Chechens. Law enforcement officers from other Russian regions render them regular practical help. In May 2002, senior bailiffs were called to hear lectures on court activity by senior officials of the republic, Russia's interior department, special forces police, Federal Security Service and the prosecutor's office.

#### **What are the dangers Chechen police face in protecting public law and order?**

Crime is still rampant in the republic. On May 14, 2002 alone, for example, 80 locals applied to the republic's law enforcement bodies, complaining that masked men had taken away their money and valuables.

And this is without mentioning regular bandit attacks. For bandits the Chechen police is enemy No. 1. It is the police that suffers most in fighting bandits. Sources in the Chechen administration say that the religious and military top leadership of the militants - the so-called "shura" - unhesitatingly passes death sentences on Chechens cooperating with the new bodies of authority and especially with the police.

#### **Why is the reform of the law enforcement bodies in the Chechen Republic needed?**

An order recently signed by Russia's Interior Minister Boris Gryzlov to set up a Ministry of the Interior of the Chechen Republic, in place of the interior department for Chechnya, is an important step in this direction. Experts believe that this is a timely and necessary measure to stabilize the situation in the republic. Under new manning tables the number of personnel of the Chechen Interior Ministry is to be raised to 17,000. Ruslan Tsakayev, a Chechen, has been appointed its head. In the opinion of the Chechen leadership, it is local police who can bring law and order to the republic and maintain it at the proper level. This, however, requires not only increasing the numerical strength of the Chechen police, but also better equipment and weapons.

#### **How are human rights monitored in Chechnya?**

Observing human rights is one of the Chechen government's priority tasks. The post of a special presidential envoy for human rights in Chechnya has been created. His duties, apart from protecting civil rights and freedoms, also include cooperation with international public and non-governmental human rights organisations. Currently this position is held by Abdul-Khakim Sultygov, who formerly sat on the State Duma commission on Chechnya.

## **FORMATION OF THE BODIES OF POWER IN THE CHECHEN REPUBLIC**

### **In what way have the existing bodies of state power in Chechnya been formed?**

The new system of the bodies of power in the Chechen Republic began to be actively formed upon the completion of the main stage of military operations by federal forces against terrorists in the summer of 2000. At that time, in line with the decree of the Russian president, the representation of the Russian government in Chechnya was abolished and the administration of this republic formed. With its creation, legal prerequisites for the organisation of the fully-fledged bodies of state power started forming in Chechnya. The highest-ranking official in the Chechen Republic is the administration head. His duties include the appointment of the chairman of the Chechen government. He also represents the republic in relations in the federal bodies of state power and with other Federation subjects.

The Russian president's special representative in the Southern Federal District exercises control over the activity of the Chechen administration. Chechnya's districts also have administrations of their own. The Council for the Social and Economic Security of Chechnya has been functioning under the head of the administration of the Chechen Republic since February 2001. Among its main tasks is setting priorities in the field of ensuring stability in the republic, as well as establishing closer cooperation between republican and federal organisations in Chechnya. The Council includes local leaders and representatives of federal power structures. The Government of the Chechen Republic is a permanently functioning body of executive power. Its main tasks are to ensure socio-economic development, conduct a single state policy in the fields of finance, science, education, the public health service, social security and ecology. Apart from that, the government ensures the protection of human and civil rights and freedoms, the protection of property and public order, and crime control in the Chechen Republic.

### **Do the bodies of republican authority being created in Chechnya enjoy support among the local population?**

Transferring the levers of control over the republic into the hands of its residents became one of the main tasks in creating a system of the bodies of executive power in Chechnya. This is why Chechens hold the overwhelming majority of executive posts in the administration and government. First of all, this is necessary to ensure the real support of the local population for the actions of federal authorities to restore peace in Chechnya. The fact that in June 2000 the Russian president appointed Akhmad Kadyrov, who since 1995 was the mufti of Chechnya, - one of those who at the dawn of separatism fought against federal forces - as the administration head can be considered symbolic in this sense. In 1999, he denounced the invasion of Dagestan by militants and sided with the Russian authorities.

### **Is Chechnya represented in the bodies of federal authority?**

The Chechen Republic has the same representations in the federal bodies of power as the rest of the Federation subjects. Elections of a deputy to the lower house of the Federal Assembly - the State Duma - were held in Chechnya in August 2000. Thirteen candidates were running in the elections. About 60% of the registered voters took part in the vote. Major-General (Ret.) of the police Aslambek Aslakhonov won. Voting was qualified as "democratic, active and open." Apart from the State Duma deputy, Chechnya's interests in the Russian capital are upheld by the republic's representative in the upper house of the Russian parliament - the Federation Council - Akhmar Zavgayev. The official representation of the Chechen Republic is situated in

Moscow. It stays in contact with federal minister for Chechnya's affairs Stanislav Ilyasov.



### **A new fundamental law for Chechnya has been drafted.**

#### **What could you say about this?**

The so-called Dudayev constitution, which proclaimed the republic as a sovereign state, has been in force in Chechnya since 1992. The drafting of a new Chechen Constitution was completed in late 2002 and became an important step towards the political settlement of the Chechen crisis and returning the republic into the constitutional field of the Russian Federation. Under the draft Fundamental Law, Chechnya is a democratic social rule-of-law state with a republican form of government, while its territory is an inalienable part of the territory of the Russian Federation. Chechnya will be a presidential republic. Its head will be elected for a term of four years and may hold this post only for two consecutive terms. Any Russian citizen over 30 may be elected president.

All Chechen citizens are simultaneously recognised as Russian citizens.

Chechen and Russian are the state languages in the Chechen Republic. Russian is the language of interethnic communication and official business correspondence.

The creation and activity of public associations whose aims or activities are directed at forcibly changing the fundamentals of the constitutional system and violating the integrity of the Chechen Republic and the Russian Federation, fanning social, racial, ethnic and religious strife, and creating in the Chechen Republic any armed or paramilitary formations that are not provided for in the Constitution of the Russian Federation and federal legislation are banned.

#### **How will the new Chechen Constitution be adopted?**

A referendum on the republic's Constitution will be held on March 23, 2003. Territorial election commissions have already been formed. All in all, 20 election commissions have been created in the republic, including four in Grozny, and their chairmen appointed.

A total of 3,000 people are taking part in the organisation of the referendum and over 50 million rubles have been allocated from the budget of the Russian Federation to finance it. The referendum will cover all the populated areas of Chechnya, where 414 polling stations will open.

The residents of Chechnya will express their attitude to the drafts of the republic's Constitution and the laws on the election of the president and parliament. Representatives of international humanitarian and human rights organisations will observe the referendum.

#### **What will be the next, after the adoption of the Constitution, steps to form a democratic political system in Chechnya?**

Parliamentary and presidential elections must be held after the adoption of the Fundamental Law of Chechnya.

Under the draft of the Constitution of the Chechen Republic, the parliament will consist of two houses - the Council of the Republic (21 deputies) and the People's Assembly (40 deputies).

#### **Is the population of Chechnya prepared for what is new self-determination?**

The Congress of the Chechen People was held on December 11, 2002 in Gudermes, Chechnya. The resolution adopted at this forum says that "Chechnya wants to be a full and equal member of the Russian Federation, live together with Russia, in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, by the Russian laws common to all." "The Chechen nation does not imagine itself without Russia or outside Russia. Russia is our common destiny," the resolution stresses. The delegates to the congress called on the population of Chechnya to rally round the existing bodies of power with the right to decide all issues related to the socio-political and socio-economic life of the republic.

The resolution also contains an appeal to all the representatives of the Chechen people "in the face of Chechnya's gravest tragedy, to abandon their grievances, mutual claims, restrain ambitions and pride, and consolidate for the revival of the Motherland." The delegates to the congress called "on all the representatives of the warring side for the sake of their people to lay down arms and return to a peaceful life with guarantees for their safety." The Congress adopted an Appeal to the Russian President. The document says: "Thanks to your consistent policy, people believed that the times of friendship and mutual understanding between all the peoples living in our country may be restored, that the Chechen Republic is a full and equal subject of the Russian Federation and an inalienable part of Russia, where people should and will live by the laws common to all Russian citizens... The political and economic situation in Chechnya is slowly but surely improving. Despite the persisting tension, continuing terrorist acts and provocations against servicemen, administration heads, teachers and the people who refuse to collaborate with militants, positive changes are in evidence everywhere - in industry, agriculture, the social sphere and even in the field of cultural life. "The main achievement of recent times is an obvious change in people's consciousness," stresses the appeal. "More and more ordinary Chechens and representatives of the national elite are coming to realise that a return to normal life in the republic is impossible without saving Chechen society and reviving self-government, whose traditions and experience have largely been lost over the war years... "At the same time, it is becoming ever more clear that Chechnya will not be a full and equal member of the Russian Federation until a new Constitution of the Chechen Republic is adopted and enforced, until the legitimate head of the republic's executive power, the representative bodies of state power, the bodies of local self-government, elected by the population, start working. "We believe that the time for the revival of the state bodies of administration in Chechnya and the whole system of republican authority has come."