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* IIPER is written and edited by Dr. Gordon M. Hahn unless otherwise noted. Research assistance is provided by Seth Gray, Leonid Naboyschikov, Anna Nevo, and Daniel Painter.

CE NAIB SUPYAN ABDULLAEV KILLED, AMIR UMAROV AND RSMB AMIR ‘KHAMZAT’ ASLAN BYUTUKAEV PERHAPS

It appears that Russian forces just missed killing CE amir Dokku ‘Abu Usman’ Umarov in a special operation that culminated in aviation bombing the mountains near the village of Verkhnii Akhul in Sunzha Raion, Ingushetia on March 28th. Umarov’s naib Supyan Abdullaev, who had been fighting for 17 years, was killed in the operation along with at least six other mujahedin. Initial reports claimed 17 mujahedin had been killed in the air attack.1 Some Russian media have been reporting that not only Umarov’s naib but also his wife, his doctor Yusup Buzurtanov, and the amir of the Riyadus Salikhin Martyrs’ Brigade (RSMB) of suicide bombers ‘Khamzat’ Aslan Byutukaev were also killed in the operation.2 Umarov is diabetic and Buzurtanov reportedly always accompanies Umarov. Buzurtanov’s bag was reportedly found near the place of bombing, and it contained insulin and other medications for diabetics.3

Ingushetia President Yunus bek Yevkurov announced on April 1st that two of the six killed who had already been identified were residents of Ingushetia named Ganiyev and Yevloev and had left for the jihad together with the January 24th Domodedovo Airport suicide bomber Magomed Yevloev.4

However, CE sources have declared Umarov is alive and confirmed only the deaths of naib Abdullaev and six other unidentified mujahedin. The

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CE sources have also denied the deaths of Umarov’s wife, Buzurtanov, and Byutukaev. The CE websites claim Umarov was not even in the area when it was attacked. Umarov often hides in Sunzha Raion, Ingushetia, where the air attack occurred, because it allowed him to move back and forth between that republic and Chechnya and thus avoid capture; this was confirmed by National Antiterrorism Committee (NAK) representative Nikolai Sintsov. For this and other reasons, Umarov, as we noted in IIPER, No. 36, has had a close relationship with the Ingush mujahedin, the CE’s Galgaiche Vilayat (GV) mujahedin, for many years. Russian sources in the NAK and other law enforcement agencies still remain hopeful that Umarov is among those mujahedin killed.

NAK representatives also have been claiming that the rocket attack hit a training base for the RSMB, where the suicide bombers who carried out attacks in Ingushetia and North Ossetia in recent years have been trained. The CE has denied that the base was a RSMB base, claiming that it was a training base for new recruits run by Abdullaev.

The Russian daily Nezavisimaya gazeta reports that the operation was part of a hunt for Umarov that has been underway for several months and was planned by the FSB and Defense and Internal Affairs Ministries. The operation was kept secret from the local organs of coercion or siloviki and included the use of rockets fired by attack helicopters and ground operations that included artillery fire. Two FSB and one MVD operatives were killed in the course of the operation. It remains unclear whether the arrest of the two

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11 “Operatsiya protiv boevikov v Ingushetii gotovilas’ vaine ot mestnykh silovikov,”
Yandiev brothers in Nazran, Ingushetia on the same day yielded intelligence that helped Russian security forces track down what might have been Umarov. It is also unclear whether the Yandievs’ arrest occurred before the operation began.\textsuperscript{12} The Yandievs were friendly with Domodedovo suicide bomber ‘Seifullah’ Magomed Yevloev, who appeared on a video tape with amir Umarov and RSMB amir Khamzat to announce he was undertaking an attack in Russia. The video was made during Umarov’s visit to a RSMB base, according to the mujahedin (see IIIPER, No. 34).\textsuperscript{13}

This is not the first time that Umarov has been reported killed or possibly killed. According to \textit{Nezavisimaya gazeta}, this is the seventh time such a claim has been made.

The most recent case came in November 2009 when Russian security forces attempted to poison him. When the Russians received information that Umarov and his inner circle had been poisoned successfully and were sick and even dying in a location in Achkoi-Martan raion. Russian forces bombed the area, and mujahedin bodies were found at the site of the attack. Umarov was not among those found dead, but the source claimed the CE amir, who was already suffering from diabetes and several wounds from the first two conventional wars, had been poisoned and was suffering from several illnesses as a result.\textsuperscript{14} It will be recalled that on June 8\textsuperscript{th}, the CE reported that Arab amir Yasir Amarat had been killed by poisoning along with eight other mujahedin.\textsuperscript{15} It cannot be excluded that Umarov has exhausted his nine, or at least seven, lives and has been killed, since forensics examination continues on the remains gathered at the attack site, but the CE’s \textit{Kavkas tsentr} announcement that he is alive seemed confident enough that it seems that Umarov has slipped away again, though he could be wounded. As of April 13\textsuperscript{th}, Russian authorities had not disclosed a final determination on the remains. However, the Russian daily Kommersant, cited a source inside the FSB on April 9\textsuperscript{th}, who said that it was unlikely that Umarov was killed in the attack and that they had no information that Umarov was even in the district when the operation was carried out.


thereby essentially repeating CE website Kavkaz tsentr’s claim that Umarov.¹⁶

On April 7th, a man purporting to be Umarov phoned Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty’s (RFERL) North Caucasus service and in the Chechen-language asserted that he was alive and well. He reportedly said: “There was an operation in which several mujahedin died. My death was announced too. They won't receive any respite from me. I'm preparing my answer to them. They should expect news from me soon.”¹⁷ He is also reported to have said that he “cannot complain” about his health and does not suffer from “those diseases about which the Russians speak.”¹⁸ According to one RFERL correspondent who spoke with Umarov, RFERL was willing to continue the conversation (on or off the air is not made clear), but the connection was broken off before they could continue in the third minute of the call. The correspondent, who said he had spoken with Umarov before, vouched that the voice was “without doubt” Umarov’s.¹⁹

The Russian daily Kommersant raised the issue of the legality of the contacts between U.S. government-funded RFERL and Umarov, who last summer was placed on the U.S. State Department’s official list of international terrorists. The present author was consulted and helped draft the congressional resolution that called upon the State Department to put the CE on the list (see IIPER, No. 18, 6 July 2010). It remains unclear why only Umarov was put on the list and not the entire Caucasus Emirate. Kommersant noted: “According to this decision (putting Umarov on the list), the American side must facilitate the interdiction of financial and other assistance to the leader of the militants. ‘We were about who we were in contact with and were not ready to offer him airtime for statements of a terrorist character,’ stated the head of the North Caucasus service of Radio Liberty Aslan Ayubov to Kommersant yesterday. In his account, the journalists had a single goal – to bring clarity about (Umarov’s) fate. ‘All last week everyone was guessing: Was Umarov killed at the time of the special operation in Ingushetia on March 28th or is he alive? We were interested in the answer to this question, when we decided to put this material on the air,’ specified Mr. Ayubov.”²⁰

²⁰ Musa Muradov, “Likvidirovannyi glavar’ boevikov vyshel v efir,” Kommersant, 9
If Umarov is indeed dead or is killed in the near future, this could present formidable organizational and even political problems for the CE. First, the spring is the time when the CE attempts to convene a Madzlisul Shura to plan the peak hunting season from spring to fall and resolve any unresolved personnel or organizational issues. If Umarov is killed before the shura is held, its convening will likely be delayed because of the need to determine where and when to convene. This organizational problem will be compounded by the fact the Umarov’s naib is also gone. Second, since the naib would have played a leading role in helping to select the new CE amir and might have been the lead candidate himself, the chances that a power struggle could ensue grow. Thus, this is a perilous time regardless of whether Umarov is dead or alive, since he has no naib or designated successor. Add to this Umarov’s already bad health and the possibility he may have been wounded in the Sunzha attack, and the peril of having no naib becomes all too clear.

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MORE THAN 200 MUJAHEDIN NEUTRALIZED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2011, ACCORDING TO FSB

Military expert, Col. Vladimir Popov, was cited by the Russian daily newspaper Nezavisimaya gazeta claiming that 200 mujahedin have been killed in the first three months of 2011. My past experience in counting jihadi attacks and the attendant casualties on both sides leads me take this figure with a grain of salt, but the greater intensity of jihadi operations this winter compared with previous winters has been very real.

Director of the Russian FSB and NAK Aleksandr Bortnikov reported on April that 87 mujahedin were killed and 182 were detained in the first quarter or three months of 2011. Of the 87 killed, 37 were killed in Dagestan, 12 in the KBR, and 11 in Chechnya. Nine mujahedin surrendered voluntarily, according to the director. Security organs prevented 31 terrorist attacks and defused or deactivated 89 IEDs. There were 89 “crimes of a terrorist character” in this period compared with 170 during the same period last year, according to Bortnikov. IIPER will present its data for the first quarter of 2011 in one of the next two issues.

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OVKBK MUJAHED TRAINED AND FOUGHT WITH FATAH AL-ISLAM IN LEBANON, ACCORDING TO NAK

According to Russia’s National Anti-in Terrorism Committee or NAK, the alleged mujahed Aslan Yemkuzhev, who was killed in Nalchik, the capitol of Russia’s North Caucasus republic of Kabardino-Balkaria (KBR), on March 16th after resisting detention by firing on police, was trained and took part in combat as a member of the radical Palestinian organization ‘Fatah al-Islam’ in Lebanon. Fatah al-Islam is a jihadi Sunni organization based in Lebanon possibly having ties with Al Qa’ida. Its amir Shaker Abissi has denied ties to AQ, but AQ called on Muslims to support Fatah al-Islam. Yemkuzhev was fighting for the CE’s United Vilaiyat of Kabardia, Balkaria, and Karachai (OVKBK), which covers the KBR and Karachaevo-Cherkessia (KChR). Yemkuzhev was in the KBR’s capitol Nalchik when he was killed. He allegedly returned to the KBR in 2009 and began to propagandize radical Islamist ideas. He is suspected of participation in several OVKBK operations including the killing of police and “clergy.” The reference to ‘clergy’ suggests he may be suspected in this past summer’s murder of the chief mufti of Kabardino-Balkaria (see IIIPER, No. 32).

CE WEBSITES CONTINUE TO POST ARTICLES AND FATWAS BY THE GLOBAL JIHAD REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT’S LEADING THEO-IDEOLOGISTS

The CE’s websites continue to post articles and fatwas written by the leading Theo-ideologists of the global jihadi revolutionary movement that has received such a morale boost from the revolutionary situation spreading across the Arab and other parts of the Muslim world. For example, in March Islandin.com, the website of the CE’s United Vilaiyat of Kabardia, Balkaria and Karachai (OVKBK), posted the following items among others similar: Sheikh Osama bin Laden’s “Explanation of the Hadith of Kab Ibn Malik.” Anwar Al-Awlaki’s “Akhrira: Judgement Day and Fiery Hell.”

24 Luiza Orozaeva, “NAK: unityi v Kabardino-Balkarii boevik obuchalsya v Livane.”
“Precept for the Mujahedin from Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi.”

LAST PARTICIPANT IN THE MARCH 2010 MOSCOW SUBWAY SUICIDE BOMBINGS IDENTIFIED

One year after the March 2010 twin suicide bombings on the Moscow subway the last participant and his role have been identified. He is 22-year old Dagestan resident Gusen Magomedov, who was a key organizer of the attack and transported the two suicide bombers to Moscow.

AN OPPOSITIONIST COUNCIL OF MUFTIS OF RUSSIA?

The Russian daily newspaper Nezavisimaya gazeta detailed the recent oppositional-oriented stance of Russia’s perhaps leading mufti, Ravil Gainutdin, who is Chairman of Russia’s most influential official umbrella organization - the Council of Muftis of Russia (SMR). In December 2010 Gainutdin and the SMR have criticized Russian authorities for carrying out a policy of, or at least permitting “the violation of Muslims’ civil rights.” A major element of this alleged violation on Gainutdin’s agenda has been the authorities resistance to the building of more large mosques in Moscow. In a recent meeting on March 10th with the U.S. Ambassador to Russia John Beyrle, Nezavisimaya gazeta reports, Gainutdin raised this issue and supported the establishment of the no fly zone in Libya. On March 24th Gainutdin noted that “more and more fear and distrust towards Muslims are being whipped up, and Russian courts...have become an instrument in the hands of Islamophobes.”

The CRM is unlikely to be moving into opposition but it is more insistently standing on its position in recent years of demanding that Russian state institutions consistently respect the rights of Muslims and traditionally Muslim ethnic groups.

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ISLAMIC JIHAD UNION: MESSAGE FROM THE MUJAHEDIN OF THE KHORASAN TO THE CE

The Islamic Jihad Union’s (IJU) media department 'Badr At-Tawhid' of the Islamic Jihad Union has sent a seven-minute video message to the CE mujahedin from the IJU’s amirs and the 'land of Horosan,' Afghanistan. The three amirs seated from right to left are Abu Abdallah, who speaks first, followed by Salahudin, and finally Ubaydullah. The amirs praise the CE mujahedin and address all of Russia’s Muslims, mentioning Tatarstan and Bashkortostan explicitly. The entire text of the message, which was issued in February or March, follows. The translation is adapted from that adapted by Kavkaz Jihad Blog from UmmaNews:

Mujahid Abu Abdallah (in Russian):
Al-Hamdu lillahi rabbil 'alamin, wa Salat wa Salam ala Rasulillah.
And then, As-Salaam Aleykum wa Rahmat-Allah wa Barakatuh, dear mujahedin of the Caucasus Emirate, and those who help them sincerely for the sake of Allah, with their property and their souls! We also greet our brothers from Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, our Russian mujahedin brothers and [those] of other nationalities. We, from the land of Khorasan, on behalf of the mujahedin of the Ittihad al Jihad al-Islami (Islamic-Jihad Union) want to express our support and solidarity with the mujahedin of the Caucasus Emirate. We are sincerely proud of your perseverance and your patience in this way - the blessed path of Jihad. Allah (Subhanahu wa ta'ala) says: "And those who strive for Us - We will surely guide them to Our ways. And indeed, Allah is with the doers of good." (Surat Al-'Ankabût : 69).

In our jamaat, there are many brothers who were trained or fought on the lands of the Caucasus Emirate. And we know how this jihad began, the jihad in the Caucasus, and we know what the situation was like there earlier. Since then, we have been closely following what is happening in the Caucasus, and we are gladdened by your accomplishments and your victories, and we ask Allah (Subhanahu wa ta'ala) to increase your

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achievements and give you victory. Also, we grieve your losses, and we ask Allah (Subhanahu wa ta'alaa) that He compensate your losses.

The jihad in the Caucasus has been going on for more than 11 years, and this Taghut army, which is proud that in the past century it defeated Germany - under which was almost all of Europe - in less than 4 years, now (this army) cannot cope with a small army, a small army of mujahedin fighting for Allah’s sake. The announcement of the Caucasus Emirate, under the banner of Tawhid, by Dokku Abu Usman (Umarov), pleased us greatly, just as it did all other Muslims. This announcement - raising the banner of Tawhid - united all the mujahedin of the Caucasus. It scared this gang, which now runs Russia, and the hypocrites. And you know very well... what price was given for this - for raising the banner of Tawhid in the Caucasus. How much blood of martyrs (Insha'Allah), from all over the world, have been shed for it. Here with me now sit mujahedin, old mujahedin, who have been already for more than 13 years on the path of Allah.

Mujahid Salahudin (in Uzbek):
Al-Hamdu illahi rabbil 'alamin, wa Salat wa Salam ala Man Iya Nabiyya ba'dahu... A'udhu Billah min Ash-Shaytan Ar-Rajim.
Bismillah al-Rahman al-Rahim.
O brothers, mujahedin of the Caucasus! We ask Allah to help all the mujahedin! We greet all sisters and brothers, mujahedin of all nationalities, who are fighting with their property and souls for the sake of Islam in the Caucasus. And we ask Allah's help and mercy for you, may He assist you in your endeavors! And by this message, we want to urge all the mujahedin of the Caucasus and of all nationalities - Russians, Tatars and Bashkirs - to unity and brotherhood, and if you are united and cohesive, then the support of Allah and the victory will be ours! Here, there are mujahedin of different nationalities and we are all fighting against the enemies. And you know yourself that the infidels have gathered here, from all over the world. They have gathered against the mujahedin, but they can not defeat them. The main reason for this is (our) unity and brotherhood, and we urge you to unity. And if we are united, then surely Allah will help us. We make Dua'a for you, and also do not forget us in your righteous prayers! As-Salaam Aleykum wa Rahmat-Allah wa Barakatuh!
Mujahid Ubaydullah (in Arabic):
Bismillah al-Rahman al-Rahim! As-Salaam Aleykum to the mujahedin in Chechnya, the Caucasus, Russia and the whole Earth! I want to make a Nasiha (instruction, advice) to you: Listen and heed the words of Allah with your hearts. The Almighty says in the holy Qur'an: "whose words can be truer than those of Allah?" (Surat An-Nisā' : 122). Infidels of the Earth cannot defeat the Mujahedin, so they came to a unanimous decision: to divide and conquer. But we must be guided by and act according to the words of Allah. And He said: "And whoever holds firmly to Allah has [indeed] been guided to a straight path." (Surat 'Āl-i-Imrān : 103). "So do not weaken and do not grieve, and you will be superior if you are [true] believers." (Surat 'Āl-i-Imrān : 139). And we make Dua'a for you, and you also make Dua'a for us: "O Allah help those who help your religion, and destroy those who oppose your religion! O Allah, provide assistance to the mujahedin and destroy the infidels and hypocrites. O Allah, relieve the oppressed and the weak Muslims in the east and west. Verily, You have power over all things!"

Mujahid Abu Abdallah:
JazakAllahu Khayran.
Brothers mujahedin of the Caucasus Emirate, your strength, your unity, those are the power and unity of all Muslims on Earth. And may Allah grant victory to all the mujahedin on this Earth. And do not forget us - the mujahedin from the Khorasan - in your righteous prayers and may Allah strengthen you in this blessed path of Truth. And in conclusion: Al-Hamdu lillahi rabbil 'alamin, wa Salat wa Salam ala Rasulillah, As-Salaam Aleykum wa Rahmat-Allah wa Barakatuh.31

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CENTRAL ASIA

IMU RELEASES SIXTH AND SEVENTH VIDEOS

The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan released a sixth and seventh episode in its series focusing on activities of fighters in Afghanistan. The sixth episode is 18 minutes, 55 seconds in Uzbek posted on April 2nd. The seventh is 20 minutes and 32 seconds in Uzbek.

20 RELIGIOUS BOOKSTORES CLOSED IN UZBEKISTAN

Twenty religious bookstores as well as the Kitoblar Dunyosi (World of Books) book trading center were shut down in Tashkent, Uzbekistan by the Uzbek National Security Service (NSS). The government is looking for out of print Islamic books that could lead readers to Islamic extremism. According to Uzbek law, any literature deemed extremist or illegally imported or produced may warrant arrest and prosecution. Additionally, Hizb ut-Tahrir leaflets are also banned.

IMU IN PAKISTAN

Some of the most ardent militants in Pakistan nowadays are of Central Asian descent. Among them are reportedly Uzbeks, Tajiks, and possibly even Chechens. According to Central Asia Online, the Central Asians are more committed to the jihadi cause than the local militants. Although there is

evidence that the Central Asians went into Pakistan as early as 2000, some are reporting now that they have been committing suicide bombings, with the caveat that often it is difficult to distinguish among Russian-speaking and other militants. Much perhaps most of the fighting in some areas of Pakistan is said to be under the IMU banner which now includes Turks and Germans.37

TAJIKISTAN GOVERNMENT VIOLATES MUSLIMS’ RELIGIOUS RIGHTS

The government of Tajikistan has intervened in religious matters in several ways that constitute a clear violation of Muslims’ rights. In the Tajik province of Khatlon teachers have been asked to keep their students out of mosques on Fridays. In effect they are being asked to enforce a Tajik law that makes it illegal in Tajikistan for minors under the age of 18 to pray in mosques. Minors caught missing classes on Fridays to go to prayer will be considered for prosecution.38

Furthermore, the government is persecuting Muslim parents who choose to send their children abroad for religious Islamic education. There have already been five criminal cases in the Khatlon region against parents who send their minor children abroad. The government of Tajikistan is worried that in that a foreign Islamic education is more likely to make children more prone to Islamic extremism. According to the Committee for Religion Affairs, the total number of Tajik citizens, most of whom are school age, studying in foreign religious institutions is approximately 2,388 people.39 Although such measures are undertaken as a security precaution, they could actually end up instigating the very Islamist radicalism they are intended to control.

SEARCH FOR MILITANT LEADER CONTINUES IN TAJIKISTAN

Abdullo Rahimov, known as Mullo Abdullo, the Tajik militant leader

37 “Central Asian militants carry out attacks in Pakistan.”
allegedly behind the military convoy assault in September, was said to be hiding in Rasht Valley. On 14 April, Tajik forces went in search of him in the village of Samsoliq in Nurobod district. Former opposition commanders Shoh Iskandarov and Mirzokhjuja Ahmadov are assisting with the operation. According to Radio Free Europe, in January, one of the suspected attackers, an associate of Mullo Abdullo’s, Alovuddin Davlatov (Ali Bedaki), and seven other followers were killed in an operation in Runob, but Mullo Abdullo, who has ties to Al-Qaeda, was not found.40

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TAJIK DETAINED FOR ILLEGAL WEAPON STORAGE

A Tajik resident from the Murgab district was detained for storage of illegal weapons on 11 April 2011 in the Gorno Badakhshan district.31 Mamadmusa Odinaev, 52 was detained for possession of Kalashnikovs in his home. Additionally, another Kalashnikov was found in Shainaki-Chinor, in the Roudaki district.42 It is unclear whether Odinaev has ties to jihadists.

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TRIAL OF FUGITIVES BEGINS IN TAJIKISTAN

A trial of eleven fugitives from the August 2010 mass jailbreak and their accomplices began on 30 March 2011 in Dushanbe. The charges are of criminal nature: “jailbreak, murder, illegal possession of weapons, banditry and armed resistance.”43 Those who escaped were originally convicted for terrorism, drug trafficking, and seeking to overthrow the government.44 Of the eleven on trial, nine are Tajik nationals and two are Russian citizens, who were the operation’s masterminds: Ibrohim Nasreddinov, known as Qori Ibrohim Hikmatullo Azizov, and Magomed Akhmedov.45 Abdulrasoul Mirzoyev, Zaydullo Azizov, Bahromjon Orifov, and Ali Aliyev are also on trial. Two of the fugitives, Hikmatullo Azizov, known as Kuri Malysh, and Bahromjon

42 “Murgab resident detained for illegal weapon storage.”
44 “Trial of jailbreak fugitives starts in Dushanbe.”
Orifov were previously captured and extradited from Afghanistan.  

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KYRGYZSTAN ANTI-TERRORIST CENTER IN BATKEN

In order to strengthen security and work to obstruct jihadi incursions and interdict drug trafficking and smuggling from Afghanistan, the Kyrgyz government is to open an anti-terrorist training center in the south of the country. President Roza Otunbayeva is concerned that the south lacks protection from Islamic militants. The center’s proposed locations are either Batken or Kyzyl-Kiy. Citizens in the south reportedly welcome the idea, concerned over a lack of stability and safety. According to Central Asia Online, “Maj. Gen. Zakir Tilnov, commander of the State National Security Committee (GKNB), [stated that] the goal will be to improve interaction among the Central Asian countries’ border guards in resisting external threats and fighting terrorism, illegal migration and drug trafficking.”47

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KYRGYZSTAN WORKING ON SECURITY WITH CHINA

As security concerns rise, Kyrgyzstan is working with China on matters of enhanced trade, transportation, finance, agriculture, and most importantly, security. According to Kyrgyzstan’s Foreign Ministry, under Kyrgyzstan’s foreign policy China and Kyrgyzstan are attempting to build trust on issues of security, terrorism prevention, separatism, and extremism.48

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WEAPONS CONFISCATED AFTER KYRGYZSTAN PARLIAMENT FISTFIGHT

Security officers confiscated a number of weapons inside the Kyrgyzstan’s parliament including ten pistols and an AK-47 after a brawl between parliament deputies.49 Sparks began flying on April 1st after a heated

46 “9 Tajik nationals and two Russians stands trial for escaping from SCNS detention facility.”
49 “Kyrgyz authorities confiscate AK-47, other guns following parliament scuffle,”
session where ultra-nationalist deputy Kamchybek Tashiev, leader of the Ata-
Zhurt (Homeland) party vowed to quit the coalition if an investigation into
alleged corruption by President Roza Otunbayeva and the Respublika party’s is
not held.

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KYRGYZSTAN OPPOSITION PARTY DEMONSTRATES AND IS
CHARGED WITH COUP ATTEMPT

On April 12th Kyrgyz protesters demanded freedom for oppositional
leader of the Meken Tuu (Flag of the Homeland) party, appealing to the OSCE.
Urmat Baryktabasov and his associates called for a rally against the
government. Baryktabasov is charged with attempting a coup against the
government of Roza Otunbayeva. Baryktabasov and his associates were also
charged with illegal possession of firearms and grenades.50

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UZBEKISTAN’S CLOSURE OF BORDERS INCREASES TENSIONS

After the Uzbek-Kyrgyz violence in June 2010, the Uzbekistan
government closed its border with Kyrgyzstan and heightened security along
the Tajikistan border. The border closure with Kyrgyzstan created not only
economic but also personal problems for people living on both sides of the
border. While Uzbekistan is concerned about their security, residents in
Tajikistan and even more so in Kyrgyzstan are feeling isolated and frustrated
as a result of the border closures. Since then, there have been increasing
regional tensions and further clashes between ethnic groups. Kyrgyz
authorities report that there have been two dozen border-related skirmishes in
2010 and the frequency of such occurrences is rising.51

Most recently, one Imojon Mirsharifov, a 20 year old Tajik resident,
was trying to cross the Uzbek-Tajik border illegally when he was shot dead.
The incident occurred on April 8th or 9th. A resident of Sughd’s Zafarobod

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50 “Kyrgyz protesters demand freedom for opposition leader who threatened a coup,”
Central Asia Online, 12 April 2011, http://centralasianewswire.com/Kyrgyz-
authorities-confiscate-AK-47-other-guns-following-parliament-
scuffle/viewstory.aspx?id=3793.

district, Mirsharifov did not heed a preemptive warning shot in the air by the border guards and was then shot dead. ⁵²

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ABOUT IIPER

Islam, Islamism and politics in Eurasia report (IIPER) is a project of the Monterey Terrorism and Research and Education Program (MonTREP) at the Monterey Institute for International Studies (MIIS), Monterey, California. It focuses on all politically-relevant issues involving or bearing on Islam and ethnic Muslim communities in Russia and Eurasia writ large. All issues of IIPER can be found at http://www.miis.edu/academics/faculty/ghahn/report.

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IIPER welcomes submissions of 1,500-6,000 words on any aspect of Islamic politics in Eurasia and financial contributions to support the project. For related inquiries or to request to be included on IIPER’s mailing list, please contact gordon.hahn@miis.edu or gordon-hahn@sbcglobal.net.

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