

# 15 Rebels Killed in Dagestan

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MAKHACHKALA — Dagestani police killed at least 15 suspected Islamist rebels in two coordinated raids on insurgent hideouts Wednesday.

Ten rebels were killed in the district of Kaspiisk after police surrounded an apartment they had taken shelter in, police spokesman Vyacheslav Gasanov said.

In the provincial capital, Makhachkala, five suspected insurgents who had barricaded themselves in a home were killed in a gunfight, Gasanov said. Police returned fire when the suspects shot at police negotiators and even their own relatives who had arrived to try to persuade them to surrender, Gasanov said. Both dens were gutted in the raids, with no suspects left alive. Sappers then combed them for explosives, Gasanov said.

*(AP)*