

Police Kill 8 Suspected Militants in Caucasus

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Police officers killed eight suspected Islamist militants in the volatile North Caucasus region, Russia's anti-terrorism agency said Thursday.

Four were shot dead in a rural region of Dagestan after opening fire on security officers with automatic weapons, the National Anti-Terrorism Committee said.

Three others were killed in separate firefights in two other regions of Dagestan. An eighth suspected rebel was killed in the nearby North Caucasus region of Kabardino-Balkaria.

Deadly violence in the North Caucasus, which has its roots in two separatist wars in Russia's Chechnya and is a near daily occurrence, is a particular focus for Moscow since it is not far from Sochi, where Russia plans to hold the 2014 Winter Olympics.

(Reuters)

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