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Dagestan Leader Slams 'Fascist' Kiev Authorities

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Dagestani leader Ramazan Abdulatipov has voiced concern at the way the Ukrainian authorities are handling the ongoing crisis in the country's east and denounced the current leadership in Kiev as little more than fascists.

In a statement carried Monday by Regnum news agency, Abdulatipov expressed support for the Ukrainian people, including those in Slovyansk — where authorities on Friday embarked on an anti-terrorist operation to regain control of the separatist-held town — and in Odessa, where more than 40 people died after clashes broke out Friday between pro-Russian and pro-Ukrainian demonstrators.

Abdulatipov also criticized the inability of Ukrainian authorities to find a peaceful solution to the standoff in the east, saying they were leading the country to the brink of civil war.

"The authorities should be aware of their responsibility to the people and move away from military operations to dialogue with the population," Abdulatipov said, Regnum.ru reported.

He added that many Dagestanis support Ukrainian citizens in their fight against a government that is acting "at the beck and call of nationalist groups."

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