The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

7 Militants Killed by Russian Forces in North Caucasus

May 25, 2014

Seven militants in the North Caucasus province of Ingushetia were killed in a three-hour gun battle with Russian security forces after which their hide-out was consumed by fire, authorities said Saturday.

Among the dead was the leader of a local militant group accused of being behind the killing of a regional security chief last year and the deaths of several other security and police officers.

Russia is battling insurgents in its largely Muslim North Caucasus region where Islamist groups want to carve out an Islamic state.

Last August, Ahmed Kotiyev, head of the regional Security Council, an advisory body on security and defense, and his driver were shot dead in Ingushetia.

Russia's Anti-Terrorism Committee said in a statement that one of the militants killed, Artur Gatecrasher, was responsible for the attack.

The Committee said the militants, who had been hiding on Saturday in a house in the village of Sogopshi, had opened fire on the troops who had surrounded them.

The cause of the ensuing blaze may have been an improvised explosive device, it said in a statement.

On Friday, Russia said four militants and a member of its security service were killed during clashes in Karbadino-Balkaria, also in the North Caucasus.

In recent years militants from the North Caucasus have carried out attacks in other parts of Russia, including a suicide bombing in 2011 in Moscow's Domodedovo Airport in which scores of people were killed.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2014/05/25/7-militants-killed-by-russian-forces-in-north-caucasus-a35769