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U.S. Instructors Could Train Chechen Special Forces, Says Kadyrov

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Denis Tyrin / AP

Chechen authorities are planning to hire private U.S. contractors to train the Russian republic's special forces.

Up to 200 of "the best" foreign instructors will be employed at the region's new Gudermes special forces training facility, Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov told the Interfax news agency.

Countries including Denmark, Belgium, Italy, Canada and Norway had expressed an interest in working with the base, Kadyrov claimed.

The Chechen president would not confirm that any contract had been signed, as some countries "did not to wish to advertise" their connection with the volatile southern region, Interfax reported.

He also did not rule out the use of U.S. instructors, but said that the U.S. government was “subject to sanctions” in Chechnya.

"You cannot deny the fact that, in the United States, there are some really great guys with rich experience in overt and covert special operations in Latin America, Asia, and Africa," Kadyrov said.

The center had so far received 10 applications from private U.S. contractors, he claimed.

Chechnya's flagship Gudermes special forces center is set to open by 2018. The complex reportedly stretches some 400 hectares.

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