

Chechen Leader Kadyrov Says Human Rights Work ‘Won’t Fly’ in His Region

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Ramzan Kadyrov / Chris Ratcliffe / Bloomberg

Chechnya’s strongman leader Ramzan Kadyrov has warned that human rights activists will not be able to pursue their activities in his region, days after the arrest of a local activist and an arson attack against a human rights office in a nearby region.

Russia’s renowned Memorial human rights group said that Wednesday’s [torching](#) of its office in the North Caucasus republic of Ingushetia served as a signal to drive the NGO out of the volatile region. Last week, the head of Memorial’s branch in Chechnya, Oyub Titiyev, was [arrested](#) on drug charges his supporters say are fabricated.

Related article: [Arsonists Torch Memorial Human Rights Office in North Caucasus](#)

On Wednesday, Kadyrov called Titiyev a “drug addict” and expressed surprise that “people who consider themselves Chechen work with” human rights activists.

“They need to know that their work won’t fly in our republic,” Kadyrov was [cited](#) as saying in televised comments by the Kavkaz.Realii news outlet.

Following the attack on Memorial in the Ingush town of Nazran, Amnesty International [called](#) on Russia to investigate what it labelled a “coordinated assault” on the Russian NGO.

“Any failure to do so would raise suspicions about the authorities’ possible involvement,” said Anna Neistat, Amnesty International’s Senior Director for Research.

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