

In Photos: 20 Years After the Beslan School Siege

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On the morning of Sept. 1, 2004 — the first day of the new school year in Russia — armed terrorists took more than 1,100 civilians hostage at School No. 1 in Beslan, a town in Russia's North Caucasus republic of Ossetia. The terrorists' demands included the withdrawal of Russian troops from Chechnya and the recognition of Chechnya's independence. The hostages were forced inside the school's gymnasium rigged with explosives and kept there without food, water or proper sanitation for three days. On Sept. 3, Russian special forces stormed the building after a series of explosions inside the school. The siege ended with more than 330 civilians killed, 186 of whom were children, as well as more than 700 injured. Today, the school's ruins stand as a memorial to the victims of the siege — the deadliest terror attack in Russian history.



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