

# Press Release

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## Death of Magomed Yevloyev: North Caucasian situation as alarming as ever

Strasbourg, 09.09.2008 - The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) is deeply shocked by the violent death of Magomed Yevloyev, prominent journalist and owner of the website ingushetya.ru, which occurred on 31 August in a vehicle of the Ingush authorities (Russian Federation).

It offers its sincere condolences to the family of the deceased and urges the competent authorities to shed all possible light on the circumstances of this tragedy.

According to information confirmed by the authorities themselves, Mr Yevloyev sustained a bullet wound to the head while in the back seat of an official vehicle after being arrested at Nazran/Magas airport. He died in hospital at Nazran without regaining consciousness. According to the official version, disputed by human rights organisations, the bullet was fired accidentally during an altercation in the car, caused by Mr Yevloyev's snatching at the machine pistol of one of the police officers.

The committee recalls the strong presumption of fact that official responsibility is incurred when a person under arrest suffers injury or death. It invites the authorities to carry out a full, effective and independent investigation also taking account of the allegations by persons close to Mr Yevloyev that he feared for his life.

Magomed Yevloyev's death has aroused displays of popular solidarity on an unprecedented scale in Ingushetia.

In the view of the committee, meeting today in Paris, the affair illustrates once again how alarming the situation in the North Caucasus is. The committee reaffirms its demand that its rapporteur on the human rights situation in the North Caucasus, Dick Marty (Switzerland, ALDE), be able to visit the region as soon as possible.

[Memo on the North Caucasus situation \(PDF\)](#)

The Parliamentary Assembly brings together 318 members from the national parliaments of the 47 member states.

President: Lluís Maria de Puig (Spain, SOC) ; Secretary General of the Assembly: Mateo Sorinas.

Political Groups: EPP/CD (Group of the European People's Party); SOC (Socialist Group); EDG (European Democratic Group); ALDE (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe); UEL (Group of the Unified European Left).