

CHRONOLOGY

1990-2004

The main purpose of this chronology is to help the reader by reconstructing MSF's actions and public statements in regional and international news reports of the period. It is intended as a tool for this specific document, and not as an academic reference.

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 1990 | | Boris Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federation tells small republics of the ex- Soviet Union to “take as much independence as they could swallow”. | | |
| 1991 | | <p>1 NOVEMBER Dzhokhar Dudayev, President of the Republic of Chechnya-Ingushetia proclaims independence.</p> <p>8 NOVEMBER Moscow sends in troops then withdraws at Parliament’s request.</p> <p>DECEMBER Ingushetia officially separates from Chechnya.</p> | | |
| 1992 | | <p>JANUARY TO MARCH Dudayev refuses to sign the Russian Federation treaty. A Chechen constitution is adopted. Russia imposes an economic embargo.</p> | | |
| 1993 | | <p>JUNE Dudayev dissolves the Chechen Parliament and accords himself full powers.</p> | <p>JULY-AUGUST MSF France: Exploratory mission to Chechnya, Ingushetia, and Ossetia. Support to Nazran hospital and refugees.</p> | |
| 1994 | | <p>JANUARY Dudayev renames Chechnya “the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria.”</p> | <p>MSF France: South Ossetia: Support to Tskhinvali Hospital.</p> | |

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| 1994 | | <p>SEPTEMBER Following attempt by Russian troops to overthrow the regime, <u>President Dudayev</u> declares a state of emergency.</p> <p>11 DECEMBER 25,000 Russian soldiers cross into Chechnya.</p> <p>20 DECEMBER Grozny pounded with bombs – population flight.</p> | <p>North Ossetia (Prigorodnoye): Assistance to Ingush refugees. <u>MSF Belgium</u>: Working in Armenia and Azerbaijan for several years.</p> <p>JULY-AUGUST <u>MSF France</u>: Intervention during a cholera epidemic in East Chechnya.</p> <p>DECEMBER <u>MSF Belgium and MSF France</u> start intervention in Chechnya</p> | <p>20 DECEMBER <u>Press Release (PR) MSF Belgium</u>: 'MSF Sets Up Aid for Chechen Victims.'</p> |
| 1995 | <p>FEBRUARY <u>Human Rights Watch Helsinki Report</u>: 'Russia, Three Months of War in Chechnya.'</p> | <p>MID-FEBRUARY Russian troops take control of Grozny: destruction of the city, thousands wounded.</p> <p>MARCH Russian troops hail bombs on the towns of South Chechnya.</p> | <p>FEBRUARY <u>MSF Belgium</u>: Surgery and provision of drugs to Vedeno and Makhkety hospitals. <u>MSF France</u>: Healthcare and support to South Chechnya and Grozny hospitals, and Chechen refugees in Ingushetia.</p> <p>MARCH <u>MSF Belgium</u>: in Hospitals Nos. 9 and 10 in Grozny.</p> | <p>9 FEBRUARY <u>PR MSF Belgium</u>: 'The Conflict in Chechnya Drags on: MSF Sends Another 42 Tons of Material.'</p> <p>21 FEBRUARY <u>PR MSF Belgium</u>: 'MSF Evacuates 11 Children from Grozny Orphanage.'</p> <p>13 MARCH <u>PR MSF France</u>: 'MSF Barred from Entering Southern Chechnya.'</p> |

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| 1995 | <p>LATE MARCH OSCE: "Access conditions for humanitarian aid are improving in Chechnya."</p> | <p>MAY Bombing raids intensify in Southern Chechnya.</p> | <p>APRIL MSF Belgium: Water and sanitation in Grozny and Khasavyurt.</p> <p>MAY MSF Belgium: In Makhkety MSF France: In Shatoy, underground surgery under fire.</p> | <p>22 MARCH PR MSF Belgium: 'Whilst the International Media Loses Interest in the Chechen Conflict, 80,000 People are Wandering the Ruins of Grozny.'</p> <p>27 MARCH PR MSF Belgium: 'Massive Bombing of Several Chechen Towns, MSF Sends in a Full Charter of Supplies.'</p> <p>30 MARCH Press conference in Brussels and PR MSF Belgium/France: 'Civilians Targeted in the Fighting.' And report: 'Chechnya: the Continuation of Humanitarian Aid Relies on Transport of relief Supplies.'</p> <p>24 MAY PR MSF Belgium: 'MSF Calls on the Russian Army to Spare Medical Facilities.'</p> <p>27 MAY PR MSF France: 'MSF Calls for a Ceasefire to Evacuate Civilians.'</p> <p>30 MAY PR MSF Belgium: 'MSF Appeals to the Russian Army to Protect Medical Facilities.' PR MSF France: 'Civilians Still under the Russian Bombs in Shatoy.'</p> |

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| 1995 | | <p data-bbox="676 751 1050 828">LATE JUNE Chechen fighters take hostages in Budyonnovsk: 100 dead.</p> <p data-bbox="676 1153 1050 1259">30 JULY Ceasefire agreement signed between Russian forces and Chechen separatists. Some refugees return to Grozny.</p> | <p data-bbox="1085 271 1459 481">2 JUNE MSF France forced to evacuate Shatoy after an ultimatum and the attack of Russian forces. General Kulikov, head of Russian forces in Chechnya, is denied access to MSF in Southern Chechnya. Kulikov refuses to meet the MSF France President because of the PR.</p> <p data-bbox="1085 513 1459 587">9 JUNE MSF France Board meeting: What can we do in Chechnya?</p> <p data-bbox="1085 751 1459 828">LATE JUNE MSF Belgium team treats Budyonnovsk wounded hostages in Khasavyurt.</p> <p data-bbox="1085 916 1459 990">24 JUNE Russian tank targets an MSF Belgium car near Vedeno.</p> | <p data-bbox="1494 271 1868 399">2 JUNE PR MSF Belgium/France: <i>'Declared Persona Non Grata in the Region of Shatoy and Makhkety, MSF Is Forced to Withdraw from Southern Chechnya.'</i></p> <p data-bbox="1494 618 1868 724">16 JUNE MSF France report: <i>'Humanitarian Law Flouted in Chechnya: The Example of Shatoy.'</i></p> <p data-bbox="1494 751 1868 879">20 JUNE MSF Belgium: <i>'Info Update, Chechnya: MSF Manages to Treat Hostages.'</i> Letter from MSF France President to PACE President.</p> <p data-bbox="1494 916 1868 990">25 JUNE PR MSF Belgium: <i>'MSF Team Attacked by the Russian Army.'</i></p> <p data-bbox="1494 1026 1868 1126">JUNE MSF Belgium: Press briefing to deny accusations of arms transportation by the Russian authorities.</p> |

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| 1995 | | <p>NOVEMBER <u>Doku Zavgaiev</u> elected as <u>Head of the Republic of Chechnya</u> by the Supreme Soviet of Chechnya (pro-Russian).</p> | <p>AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 4 armed attacks against <u>MSF France</u> Grozny office and compound.</p> <p>OCTOBER <u>MSF France</u>: Retreated to Nazran (Ingushetia) <u>MSF Belgium</u>: Harassment against MSF teams at checkpoints.</p> <p>15 NOVEMBER <u>MSF Belgium</u>: Team is caught in an ambush between Russians and Chechens.</p> <p>25 DECEMBER <u>MSF Belgium</u>: Armed attacks against MSF house in Grozny.</p> | |
| 1996 | | <p>10 JANUARY 2,000 Hostages taken by Chechen rebels in Kizlyar (Dagestan). Rebels retreated to Pervomayskoye with hostages.</p> | <p>JANUARY-MARCH <u>MSF Belgium</u>: Food distribution in Grozny.</p> <p>10 JANUARY <u>MSF Belgium</u>: Team in Dagestan treated Pervomayskoye wounded hostages.</p> <p>11 JANUARY <u>MSF Belgium</u>: Expatriate is kidnapped for a few hours in Vedeno.</p> | <p>17 JANUARY <u>MSF Belgium</u>: - <u>Letter from Executive Director</u> to Russian President Boris Yeltsin: Ceasefire Request to evacuate Pervomayskoye hostages.</p> |

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| 1996 | <p>21 JANUARY <u>Council of Europe</u> parliamentary members pass a unanimous vote accepting Russia's membership</p> | <p>MARCH Chechen offensive on Grozny, the town is taken after 3 days.</p> <p>14 MARCH Ultimatum by Russian commander to Samashki population, bombing of Sernovodskoye.</p> <p>31 MARCH - <u>Sernovodskoye</u> is taken by Russian forces. - <u>Yeltsin</u> announces a peace plan, promised in mid-March.</p> | <p>30 JANUARY <u>MSF France</u>: Armed attack against Karabulak compound.</p> <p>FEBRUARY <u>MSF Belgium</u>: Opening of a surgical programme in Vedeno, closure of NozhaiaYurtandKurchaloyprogrammes for lack of access.</p> <p>27 FEBRUARY <u>MSF Belgium</u>: armed attack attempt against Vedeno compound.</p> <p>MARCH <u>MSF Belgium</u>: In Grozny, deputy logistician wounded by Russian forces.</p> <p>MID-MARCH <u>MSF Belgium</u> and <u>MSF France</u>: Teams blocked outside Sernovodskoye.</p> <p>LATE MARCH <u>MSF Belgium</u>: Bombing of Vedeno and Makhkety.</p> | <p>- <u>PR</u> asking access to hostages in Pervomayskoye</p> <p>6 MARCH <u>PR MSF Belgium</u>: '<i>Chechen Offensive on Grozny.</i>'</p> |

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| 1996 | | <p>18 APRIL Letter from Russian Interior Ministry to a Western embassy saying they decline all responsibility for the safety of its citizens present on Russian territory.</p> <p>21 APRIL Dzhokhar Dudayev is killed by Russian forces. Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev replaces him as President of the Independent Chechen Republic of Ichkeria.</p> | <p>MSF Belgium/France: Start of refugees' accounts collection process to prepare a public statement during Bill Clinton's visit to Moscow in April.</p> <p>27 APRIL MSF Belgium: Administrator, driver (quickly released) and translator kidnaped. Temporary withdrawal of expatriates from Chechnya.</p> <p>10 MAY MSF Belgium: Administrator and translator are released. Internal controversy about a possible link between the 18 April public statement and kidnapping.</p> | <p>5 APRIL PR MSF Belgium/MSF France: <i>'Samashki Razed to the Ground by the Russian Army - Vedeno also Under Threat.'</i></p> <p>18 APRIL MSF Belgium/France: - Press conference in Moscow and Brussels. PR and report: <i>'The Chechen Republic, Far from Peace.'</i> - Letter to Bill Clinton and all Heads of State attending the summit in Moscow.</p> |

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| 1996 | | <p>10 JUNE Ceasefire agreement between Russian forces and separatists.</p> <p>EARLY JULY - <u>Boris Yeltsin</u> is re-elected as President of the Russian Federation. - Federal forces attacks on villages under rebel control contributed to break in ceasefire.</p> <p>6 AUGUST Rebel offensive on Grozny.</p> <p>19 AUGUST 48-hour Russian ultimatum to Grozny civilians to leave or endure intense bombing, - massive flight of civilians.</p> <p>22 AUGUST Ceasefire agreement and start of Russian troops' withdrawal from Grozny.</p> <p>31 AUGUST Peace treaty is signed by Russians and Chechens in Khasavyurt, Russian troops start to withdraw from Chechnya.</p> | <p>JULY <u>MSF France</u>: - Exploratory mission to Shatoy (Chechnya). - Round trips between Chechnya and Ingushetia to deliver drugs.</p> <p>27 JULY 2 <u>ACF</u> volunteers kidnapped in Grozny. They are released in August and picked up by <u>MSF France</u> team.</p> | |

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| 1996 | | <p>NIGHT OF 16 DECEMBER Murder of 6 ICRC employees in Novye Atagi hospital.</p> | <p>SEPTEMBER MSF Belgium: Activity in Grozny resumes, maternity hospital, 5 general hospitals and water distribution. MSF France: Support to Shatoy hospital.</p> <p>25 SEPTEMBER MSF Belgium: Violent kidnapping of 3 volunteers in Grozny for a few hours, money stolen from safe.</p> <p>NOVEMBER MSF Belgium house in Grozny is burgled.</p> <p>20 NOVEMBER - MSF France: Incident at a checkpoint, confusion with ICRC. - Kidnapping of ICRC employees for several hours.</p> <p>14 DECEMBER MSF Belgium and UNHCR cars are detained during a battle between a group of Chechen fighters and Russian forces.</p> <p>LATE DECEMBER MSF Belgium: Expatriates retreat to Dagestan, leaving none in Chechnya.</p> | <p>NOVEMBER Publication of MSF book <i>Population in Danger</i> with an essay denouncing the Russian forces' conduct in Chechnya.</p> |

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| 1997 | | <p>5 JANUARY Last Russian troops officially leave Chechnya.</p> <p>27 JANUARY Aslan Maskhadov is elected President of the independent Chechen Republic of Ichkeria, he refuses to sit on the Federal Council.</p> <p>12 MAY Signature of a formal peace treaty between Chechnya and the Russia Federation = - pledge to renounce violence, - Duma refuses to ratify the treaty.</p> | <p>LATE FEBRUARY MSF France: Resumption of Shatoy programme.</p> <p>APRIL MSF France: Official resumption of activities in Ingushetia.</p> <p>NIGHT OF 1 JULY MSF France: Kidnapping of Christophe André, Nazran-based administrator. Expatriates withdraw from MSF France programmes in North Caucasus.</p> <p>21 JULY Proof that Christophe André is still alive.</p> <p>5 AUGUST 4 employees of Equilibre are kidnapped in Dagestan.</p> | |

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| 1997 | <p>8 SEPTEMBER During a visit to Moscow, <u>Hubert Vedrine</u>, French Minister of Foreign Affairs brings up the fate of the hostages.</p> <p>25 TO 27 SEPTEMBER During a visit to Moscow, French President <u>Jacques Chirac</u> brings up the fate of the hostages.</p> | <p>SUMMER Increased kidnappings of foreigners in North Caucasus.</p> | <p>29 AUGUST MSF France: Board meeting discussion on question of communicating with kidnappers via media.</p> <p>26 SEPTEMBER MSF France: Discussion on relevance to manage the kidnapping in the media.</p> <p>21 OCTOBER MSF France: <u>Christophe André</u> escapes. MSF Belgium: Expatriates withdrew from Dagestan.</p> <p>NOVEMBER MSF France: Closure of Shatoy programme.</p> | <p>24 SEPTEMBER MSF France: <u>François Jean</u> (Foundation) holds interviews with Moscow press, calls on French President <u>Jacques Chirac</u> to take position on hostage issue.</p> <p>23 OCTOBER TO 1 NOVEMBER Account of <u>Christophe André's</u> escape in the French media.</p> |
| 1998 | | <p>JANUARY <u>Aslan Maskhadov</u> nominates <u>Shamil Basayev</u> as Prime Minister.</p> | | |

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| 1998 | | <p>JUNE Aslan Maskhadov declares a state of Emergency.</p> <p>JULY Aslan Maskhadov escapes an assassination attempt.</p> <p>OCTOBER - Aslan Maskhadov's authority waning. - Shamil Basayev's (under al-Khattab's influence) authority on the rise. - Heads of 3 kidnapped British citizens are found.</p> <p>12 DECEMBER Vincent Cochetel is released through violent intervention of Russian Special Forces.</p> | <p>29 JANUARY Kidnapping of Vincent Cochetel (UNHCR) in North Ossetia.</p> | |
| 1999 | | <p>JANUARY Aslan Maskhadov announces the introduction of Sharia (Islamic law) in Chechnya within 3 years.</p> <p>MAY Kidnapping of Moscow's special envoy in Chechnya.</p> <p>JUNE Closure of several border posts after clashes in North Caucasus.</p> | | |

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| 1999 | | <p>7 AUGUST - <u>Shamil Basayev</u> and <u>al-Khattab's</u> forces, without <u>Aslan Maskhadov's</u> agreement, attacked Dagestan to "chase the Russians out". - <u>Vladimir Putin</u>, <u>Russian Prime Minister</u>, vows to stamp out the rebellion in less than a fortnight.</p> <p>15 AUGUST <u>Aslan Maskhadov</u> declares a state of emergency in Chechnya.</p> <p>LATE AUGUST - EARLY SEPTEMBER - 300 deaths by blasts in Moscow and Dagestan attributed to Chechen leaders by the Russians and to the FSB by Chechens. - Redeployment of Russian federal troops in Chechnya. - New forays of Chechen rebels in Dagestan.</p> <p>6 SEPTEMBER Russian troops heavily bomb the border between Chechnya and Dagestan.</p> <p>11 SEPTEMBER <u>Aslan Maskhadov</u> gives the order for a general mobilisation.</p> | <p>JULY MSF France: Closure of the North/South Ossetia programme because of kidnapping threats.</p> | |

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| 1999 | <p>EARLY OCTOBER <u>US State Department</u> calls for a halt to the bombing. <u>Moscow</u> compares its intervention in Chechnya to <u>NATO's intervention in Kosovo</u>.</p> | <p>23 SEPTEMBER The Russian forces continue bombing Chechnya. Chechen civilians flee to Ingushetia and Dagestan.</p> <p>NIGHT OF 3 OCTOBER Russian forces occupy Northern Chechnya. Russian authorities no longer recognise the government of the elected President Aslan Maskhadov.</p> <p>24 OCTOBER Closure of the border between Ingushetia and Chechnya, total blockade, and intensified bombing.</p> | <p>30 SEPTEMBER <u>MSF Belgium: Project Committee</u> - security situation does not allow humanitarian intervention in Caucasus.</p> <p>OCTOBER <u>MSF Holland</u>: 'Scanning' team in Nazran, internal discussions about risks of an intervention in Chechnya.</p> <p>29 OCTOBER <u>MSF France</u>: Board meeting, "we could reconsider being present in Chechnya if the conflict lasts [...] we got in touch with our contacts in Georgia."</p> | <p>10 OCTOBER The <u>Nobel Peace Prize</u> is awarded to MSF.</p> <p>OCTOBER-NOVEMBER MSF to the international press: MSF's lack of intervention in Caucasus is due to high security risks.</p> |

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| 1999 | <p>NOVEMBER OSCE delegation in Chechnya is turned back from Chechnya by the Russian authorities.</p> <p>12 NOVEMBER - <u>Knut Vollebaek</u>, OSCE President “The OSCE powerless in Chechnya.” - <u>Kofi Annan</u>, UN Secretary General, declares that he is monitoring the events in Chechnya with concern. He has no support from the Security Council’s permanent members.</p> | <p>4 NOVEMBER - Reopening of the border crossings between Ingushetia and Chechnya. - UNHCR visit to Ingushetia and Dagestan. Grozny is encircled and bombed by Russian forces.</p> <p>5 NOVEMBER <u>Igor Sergeev</u>, Russian Defence Minister, admitted that “the aim of the operation was to bring Chechnya back into the Russian Federation’s fold”.</p> <p>NOVEMBER Russian forces take Gudermes, 3,000 Chechen refugees in Georgia.</p> | <p>EARLY NOVEMBER <u>MSF France</u>: Internal discussions on a possible public statement calling to increased guarantees for aid and protection for the Chechen civilians.</p> <p>NOVEMBER <u>MSF France</u>: - 3 convoys into Chechnya from Georgia, - consultations and surgical references in the Pankisi Valley (close to Georgia/Chechen border).</p> | <p>8 NOVEMBER <i>Le Monde</i> (France): “200,000 civilians in the southern Chechen mountains trying to escape the bombings of the villages.” MSF is quoted.</p> <p>17 NOVEMBER <u>MSF</u>: ‘Open Letter from MSF’ to the Presidents and Prime Ministers of the OSCE Member States (Istanbul summit), <u>MSF Belgium</u> questions letter.</p> |

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| 1999 | <p>17 - 20 NOVEMBER <u>OSCE Summit</u> in Istanbul.</p> <p>5 DECEMBER Hubert Vedrine, French MoFA declares that the West would maintain pressure on Russia to call a halt to its military operation.</p> <p>7 DECEMBER <u>Bill Clinton, President of the United States</u>, condemns the Russian strategy to bring Grozny to its knees.</p> <p>8 DECEMBER European and Canadian Ministers declares the ultimatum on Grozny inadmissible and brandished the threat of sanctions against Russia.</p> <p>9 DECEMBER <u>Boris Yeltsin</u> reminds the United States that Russia is a nuclear power.</p> | <p>4 DECEMBER Russian Forces air attack totally cuts off Grozny.</p> <p>5 DECEMBER - <u>Russian ultimatum to Grozny</u>: all persons remaining in the town after 11 December to be considered terrorists and annihilated by artillery and aerial fire. - 200,000 civilians have already fled Chechnya.</p> | <p>19 NOVEMBER <u>MSF France</u>: Board meeting suggests a public statement during the Nobel Peace Prize reception.</p> <p>DECEMBER <u>MSF Belgium</u>: Decision to remote control project in Ingushetia from Moscow. <u>MSF Holland</u>: Kenny Gluck recruited as coordinator/ consultant, opens an office in Nazran and recruits a local team.</p> | |

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| 1999 | <p>20 DECEMBER - <u>Human Rights Watch Open Letter to UN Secretary General</u> requested an independent investigation on violations of war law by Russian forces in Chechnya.</p> | <p>10 DECEMBER Moscow postpones the ultimatum deadline and says it would consider dialogue with Maskhadov.</p> <p>13 DECEMBER Closure of the Chechnya/Georgia border.</p> | | <p>10 DECEMBER <u>MSF accepts the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo:</u> - <u>MSF President's speech</u> begins with a call to President Yeltsin to stop bombing Chechnya's civilians and MSF representatives, wearing T-shirts emblazoned with "Grozny" in red, demonstrate in front of the Russian embassy. - <u>PR MSF: 'Russia Must Stop Indiscriminate Attacks Against Civilians in Chechnya - the People of Chechnya Must be Given Access to Humanitarian Aid.'</u> - MSF France: Launches a petition urging the French President and Prime Minister to take heed of these calls.</p> <p>14 DECEMBER <i>Le Monde</i> (France): <i>'Refugees are broken.'</i> MSF France quoted.</p> <p>17 DECEMBER <u>MSF France: Letter from MSF President to the President of Georgia</u> asking for the reopening of the border.</p> |

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| 1999 | <p>- <u>UN Secretary General for displaced persons</u> reminds Russia of its responsibilities to assist and protect the Chechens displaced by the fighting.</p> <p>22 DECEMBER Letter from <u>Bill Clinton</u> to MSF: US administration is striving to find a political solution in Chechnya.</p> | <p>LATE DECEMBER Pressure from <u>Russian Minister of Emergencies</u> to force Chechen refugees to return to Russian-controlled areas in Chechnya. - Forced repatriation of 2,000 refugees to Sernovodskoye.</p> | <p>LATE DECEMBER <u>MSF Holland</u>: First distribution of drugs in Ingushetian hospitals welcoming displaced Chechens.</p> | <p>23 DECEMBER - PR <u>MSF France</u> <i>MSF calls for Immediate Re-opening of Border between Georgia and Chechnya.</i> - <u>MSF France Report</u>: <i>'The Tracking of Civilians.'</i> - <u>MSF Holland/Amnesty International</u>: Demonstration in front of the Russian embassy in The Hague.</p> |
| 2000 | <p>EARLY JANUARY <u>US President</u> and several administration officials declare that the political future of <u>Vladimir Putin</u> is tied to a peaceful resolution of the Chechen crisis.</p> | <p>JANUARY Increased Russian artillery fire and aerial bombing of Grozny.</p> | <p>JANUARY <u>MSF Switzerland</u>: Exploratory mission in Dagestan from Azerbaijan.</p> | <p>JANUARY Last article from <u>François Jean</u> (MSF France Foundation) on Chechnya is published in the French magazine <i>Esprit</i>.</p> |

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| 2000 | <p>13 JANUARY Vladimir Putin is declared official candidate to the presidential election in Russia.</p> <p>24 JANUARY - <u>George Robertson</u>, NATO Secretary General, "NATO understands but does not accept Russia's action in Chechnya." - <u>European Union</u> reaffirms its opposition to Russia's war conduct but "preserved dialogue with Russia".</p> <p>27 JANUARY - <u>Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE)</u> refuses to sanction the Russian delegation but asks for a peaceful in Chechnya. - <u>Igor Ivanov</u>, Russian MoFA: In Chechnya we are pursuing an 'anti-terrorist' operation, not a war.</p> | <p>16 JANUARY <u>Andrei Babitsky</u>, Radio Free Europe correspondent in Russia, is kidnapped.</p> | | <p>12 JANUARY <u>The New York Times</u>: <u>MSF Open Letter to President Clinton and Secretary of State Albright</u>, 'Humanitarian law must be respected in Chechen Conflict.'</p> <p>13 JANUARY - <u>BBC</u>: MSF accuses the Russian state of committing war crimes in Chechnya, - 18,000 signatures on <u>MSF France</u> petition delivered to French President and Prime Minister. - MSF diplomatic steps with the American and Canadian governments.</p> <p>27 JANUARY - <u>MSF Open Letter to the Council of Europe</u>: 'Member States Must Recognize the State of War in Chechnya and Demand the Application of International Humanitarian Law.'</p> |

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| 2000 | <p>- <u>Kofi Annan</u>, UN Secretary General calls for a ceasefire in Chechnya.</p> <p>11 FEBRUARY <u>Poul Nielsen</u>, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, calls on Russian and Ingush authorities to allow humanitarian aid operators free access to the region's populations and to guarantee their safety.</p> | <p>3 FEBRUARY - Russian forces take Grozny, access barred to humanitarian teams, wounded and medical staff harassed. - <u>Omar Khanbiev</u>, Chechen Ministry of Health (MOH) is detained in a filtration camp. - Forced repatriation of Chechen refugees to Sernovodskoye.</p> <p>4 FEBRUARY <u>Andrei Babitsky</u> is exchanged for 3 Russian soldiers but does not appear.</p> <p>11 FEBRUARY Aslan Maskhadov announces the start of a guerrilla war against the Russian forces from the mountains of Chechnya.</p> | <p>8 TO 19 FEBRUARY <u>MSF France</u>: Discussion on possible public statement regarding the arrest of Omar Khanbiev, Chechen MOH.</p> <p>9 FEBRUARY <u>MSF Holland</u>: Programme for IDPs in Ingushetia and their distribution in Western Chechnya from Ingushetia.</p> | <p>- <u>MSF</u> press conference in Strasbourg. Call to qualify the situation in Chechnya as an internal war is queried by some in MSF Holland.</p> |

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| 2000 | <p>16 FEBRUARY <u>Mary Robinson</u>, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, publicly calls for the Russian authorities to allow human rights observers access to Chechnya.</p> | <p>18 FEBRUARY <u>Omar Khanbiev</u> and his team are released and kept under house arrest in Gudermes.</p> <p>23 FEBRUARY Anniversary of the Chechen deportation by Stalin in 1944.</p> <p>24 FEBRUARY <u>Andrei Babitsky</u> resurfaces, claiming he was held prisoner and beaten in a filtration camp.</p> | <p>25 FEBRUARY <u>MSF Belgium Project Committee</u>: - Opens a remote-control programme in Chechnya, - limits public testimony for security reasons, - strengthens communication in Russia.</p> <p>28 FEBRUARY Meeting of <u>MSF North Caucasus programme managers</u>: Disagreement on communication approaches.</p> | <p>22-23 FEBRUARY <u>MSF Belgium/MSF France</u> sign a petition with human rights organisations, '<i>Crime without Punishment in Chechnya: Putin Is Pursuing Stalin's work</i>,' and participate in demonstrations in Brussels and Paris.</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2000 | <p>13 MARCH After a visit to Chechnya, <u>PACE</u> calls for a bilateral ceasefire and urges the Russian authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to investigate human rights violations and war crimes, - to allow humanitarian organisations free access to the region, - and to open negotiations with elected Chechen representatives. | <p>EARLY MARCH First aid convoy (UNHCR) arrives in Grozny.</p> | <p>4 TO 18 MARCH <u>MSF France</u>: Exploratory mission in Ingushetia.</p> | <p>29 FEBRUARY <u>MSF Belgium</u>: in <i>La Dernière Heure</i> (Belgium): "We've rarely seen a criminal organisation like it [...] revolving around the kidnapping of Westerners." According to <u>REN TV</u>, the Russian Minister of Justice suggested that MSF had delivered medicines to the separatist fighters.</p> <p>1 MARCH MSF declines to be interviewed on <u>REN TV</u>.</p> <p>4 MARCH <u>General Vladimir Shamanov</u>, commander of Russian forces in Chechnya, on Russian TV: "<i>MSF Has Interests that Are Harmful to the Russian State.</i>" Disagreement between sections on whether or not to answer this accusation.</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2000 | <p>EARLY APRIL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>PACE</u> votes unanimously in favour of Russia's suspension should it not immediately begin seeking a means to achieve peace in Chechnya and put an end to human rights violations. Moscow replies that it should mind its own business. - <u>UN/Russian Federation</u> agreement defines a framework for humanitarian operations in Chechnya and Ingushetia, imposes armed escorts. | | <p>MID - APRIL</p> <p><u>MSF Holland</u>: Closure of programmes in Georgia.</p> <p><u>MSF France</u>: Opening of a support programme to Nazran hospital.</p> | <p>16 MARCH</p> <p><u>MSF</u> letter to <u>Sergey Lavrov</u>, Russian Federation Ambassador to the UN, "MSF considers this statement made by General Shamanov [...] to constitute both slander and a threat."</p> <p>MARCH</p> <p><u>MSF Austria</u> advocacy campaign for OSCE presence in North Caucasus.</p> <p>22 MARCH</p> <p><u>ITAR TASS</u> (Russian state news agency): "MSF office in the Pankisi Valley in Georgia was opened as a base for transporting humanitarian materials and arms to Chechen fighters."</p> <p>11 APRIL</p> <p><u>PR MSF Holland/MSF USA</u>: '<u>MSF calls for Independent Monitoring Presence in Chechnya.</u>'</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2000 | <p>22 APRIL EU Troika visit to Ingushetia: "Russia's humanitarian efforts towards Chechen civilians are insufficient." Ruslan Auchev, President of Ingushetia, pleads for dialogue between Putin and Maskhadov.</p> <p>9 JUNE Resolution of the US Senate - condemns the Russian forces' brutal policies in Chechnya, - calls for the immediate cease of military operations and access for international humanitarian organisations,</p> | <p>JUNE Vladimir Putin places Chechnya's civil administration directly under his control and appoints Akhmed Kadyrov, a religious leader, clan chief and erstwhile separatist fighter as its head.</p> | <p>26 APRIL MSF Belgium: Project Committee proposes a remote-control programme in Chechnya.</p> <p>EARLY JUNE MSF Holland: Kenny Gluck takes over coordination of programmes in North Caucasus after his predecessor is dismissed.</p> | <p>30 MAY MSF Austria annual press conference is dedicated to Chechnya.</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2000 | - calls upon the Clinton administration to meet with elected representatives of the Chechen government. | <p>JULY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in zachistkas (roundups) in Chechnya. - Suicide attacks on Russian army posts. - Flux of displaced civilians from Chechnya to Ingushetia. | <p>JULY</p> <p><u>MSF Holland</u>: Coordinator and 6 national staff are detained at a checkpoint for 4 hours.</p> <p><u>MSF France</u>: Start supporting Sernovodskoye refugee camp and Grozny maternity.</p> <p>8 JULY</p> <p><u>MSF Belgium</u>: Programme opening in Chechnya delayed for operational reasons.</p> <p>18 JULY</p> <p><u>MSF Belgium/France/Holland/Switzerland</u>: Programme managers agreement on a communication strategy for North Caucasus based on collection of patients accounts and development of contacts with the Russian press.</p> | <p>6 JULY</p> <p><u>British actor and activist Vanessa Redgrave</u> at the presentation of her film on Chechnya to the British House of Commons with a speech consisting of extracts from MSF Holland's collected accounts.</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2000 | <p>MID-SEPTEMBER PACE representatives visit Chechnya.</p> | <p>SEPTEMBER Akhmed Kadyrov declares, "Aid from Moscow is totally inconsequential" and "Chechens should rise up against the abusive policies being pursued by the Russian forces."</p> | <p>MID - AUGUST MSF Belgium: 2 teams in Moscow work on 2 different programmes: - North Caucasus - Moscow homeless and Siberia TB programmes.</p> <p>LATE AUGUST MSF France: Exploratory mission opens a programme in Shatoy.</p> <p>LATE SEPTEMBER MSF France/Holland: - Start to prepare a communication campaign during Putin's visit to Paris. - MSF Holland's disagreement with MSF France over proposal to describe the events in Chechnya as a war.</p> | <p>21 JULY <i>The Washington Post</i> (USA) Kenny Gluck, HOM MSF Holland, describes the disastrous situation of Chechen hospitals.</p> <p>1 AUGUST MSF International website, <i>'The Unlimited Cost of the War,'</i> by Kenny Gluck, HOM MSF Holland.</p> <p>15 AUGUST MSF Belgium anonymously circulates the 'Chechen Refugees in Ingushetia,' survey, to the press.</p> <p>22 SEPTEMBER <i>Harvard International Review: 'Chechnya, Moscow's Revenge,'</i> by François Jean (MSF France Foundation).</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2000 | <p>30 OCTOBER TO 1 NOVEMBER Results of <u>Vladimir Putin's</u> visit to Paris' EU summit: - <u>Russia/EU</u> long-term strategy partnership to ensure energy supplies. - European representatives remain silent on the Chechnya question.</p> <p>22-23 NOVEMBER After a visit to refugee camps in Ingushetia, members of PACE declare their shock at the inhumane conditions of life in these camps.</p> | | <p>- Agreement on need to document the situation more thoroughly. - Start collection of refugees' personal stories.</p> <p>OCTOBER <u>MSF Switzerland:</u> Opens an office in Dagestan.</p> <p>NOVEMBER <u>MSF Switzerland:</u> The coordinator in Dagestan questioned MSF's public stance on the Caucasus crisis.</p> <p>29 NOVEMBER <u>MSF Holland:</u> Team is detained and threatened at a Russian army check-point, then accused of spying.</p> | <p>EARLY OCTOBER <u>MSF Holland</u> declines a request by <u>Vanessa Redgrave</u> to visit its mission in the Caucasus.</p> <p>LATE OCTOBER – EARLY NOVEMBER <u>MSF France/Holland:</u> Communication campaign during Vladimir Putin's visit to Paris. Interviews of the 2 coordinators in the press.</p> <p>22 NOVEMBER <u>MSF's hearing by the Council of Europe on humanitarian situation</u> in Chechnya. Press conference in Brussels, MSF report: '<i>Chechnya, the Politics of Terror.</i>' PR MSF: '<i>MSF Denounces Politics of Terror on Civilian Populations of Chechnya.</i>'</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2000 | <p>MID-DECEMBER <u>Vladimir Putin</u> visits Canada.</p> | | <p>2 DECEMBER <u>MSF Holland</u>: A local employee is interrogated about Kenny Gluck by the FSB (Russian intelligence services).</p> <p>8 DECEMBER <u>MSF Holland</u>: Local team is attacked and detained by masked men in battledress looking for an expatriate to kidnap.</p> | <p>MID-DECEMBER <u>MSF Canada</u> publicly asks the Canadian Prime Minister to question Vladimir Putin about the situation in Chechnya. During a conference in Berlin, <u>MSF Germany</u> asks questions of the Operations Controller of the Russian army in Chechnya.</p> <p>21 DECEMBER <i>Chicago Tribune</i> (USA): 'Chechnya in Clutches of Quicksand Conflict,' Kenny Gluck is quoted.</p> <p>22 DECEMBER NTV (Russia): Broadcast on humanitarian situation in Chechnya with Kenny Gluck, MSF Holland Chechen surgeon and Akhmed Kadyrov.</p> |
| 2001 | | | <p>9 JANUARY <u>Kenny Gluck</u>, MSF Holland's coordinator in North Caucasus is <u>abducted</u> in Starye Atagi, Chechnya. ACF's coordinator escapes. Suspension of all MSF Holland activities in the region.</p> | |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2001 | <p>11 JANUARY EU asks NGOs to suspend operations in Chechnya. UNHCR suspends activities in Chechnya.</p> | <p>10 JANUARY Aslan Maskhadov gives order to look for Kenny Gluck.</p> | <p>10 JANUARY Amsterdam/New York /Paris Crisis Cell on Kenny Gluck abduction is set up.</p> | <p>10 JANUARY PR MSF: '<i>MSF condemns attack on humanitarian relief workers.</i>'</p> <p>11 JANUARY - <u>Sergey Yastrzhembsky</u>, Kremlin spokesperson: "MSF employees were moving about in flagrant breach of the rules." - Putin's envoy in South Russia, "Kenny Gluck has organised his own kidnapping." - <u>Chechen pro-Russian authorities</u>, "Kenny Gluck is detained in a Southern area outside Russian control."</p> <p>12 JANUARY - PR MSF: '<i>MSF Urges Immediate Release of Abducted Aid Worker in Chechnya, Kenneth Gluck Medically at Risk.</i>' - MSF USA <u>Press conference</u> with Daniel Gluck, Kenny's brother. - <u>Council of Europe</u> calls for Kenny Gluck's immediate release.</p> <p>15 JANUARY <u>Lord Judd</u>, PACE rapporteur on Chechnya, "Kenny Gluck's abduction will have serious consequences for the Chechen populations."</p> <p>16 JANUARY <i>Moskovskiye Novosti</i> (Russia) publishes an interview with Kenny Gluck from 10 days before his abduction: "officially the war has been over for a long time, but nothing has changed for Chechen civilians."</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2001 | <p>25 JANUARY PACE cancels sanctions imposed on Russia 9 months earlier for its conduct of the war in Chechnya.</p> | <p>22 JANUARY <u>Vladimir Putin</u> transfers the management of operations in Chechnya to the Russian security services.</p> | <p>19 - 21 JANUARY <u>MSF France</u> receives letters from Nazran and Moscow teams to the programme manager, questioning the suspension of activities in Ingushetia.</p> <p>26 JANUARY MSF France: Board against MSF expatriates being continuously present in Chechnya and Ingushetia.</p> | <p>18 JANUARY <u>Rushailo</u>, Minister of the Interior of the Russian Federation to the press, "Gluck is detained in the Vedeno region by Khattab's radical Islamic group. Russian troops are carrying out searches to find him."</p> <p>23 JANUARY <u>Aslan Maskhadov</u> accused Kadyrov's bodyguards of Kenny Gluck's abduction.</p> <p>25 JANUARY <u>Lord Judd</u> launches an appeal for <u>Kenny Gluck's</u> release.</p> <p>27 JANUARY <u>Aslan Maskhadov</u> "does not rule out involvement of the Russian forces in Kenny Gluck's abduction."</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2001 | | | <p>4 FEBRUARY - <u>Kenny Gluck</u>'s release was 'officially' during an operation led by members of the FSB. - In reality, he is dropped at an MSF surgeon's house, - his abductors give him a <u>letter of apology</u> from Shamil Basayev.</p> <p>5 FEBRUARY <u>Kenny Gluck</u> is detained at a Russian army base.</p> | <p>1 FEBRUARY <i>Novaya Gazeta</i> (Russia), <u>Vyacheslav Izmailov</u>, "the political objectives of Gluck's kidnapping have been achieved. It is time to release him."</p> <p>2 FEBRUARY NTV (Russia): <u>Vyacheslav Izmailov</u> accuses Russian special services of detaining <u>Kenny Gluck</u>, who himself could be linked to the secret services.</p> <p>3 FEBRUARY <i>Le Monde</i> (France) mentions internal disagreements within MSF on suspension of programmes in North Caucasus.</p> <p>4 FEBRUARY PR MSF: '<i>MSF Relief Worker released in Chechnya.</i>'</p> <p>5 FEBRUARY <i>Kommersant</i> (Russia): - according to an FSB source, Kenny Gluck was not released by the Russian services but by his abductors. - <u>US State Department</u> doubts the official version of the Gluck affair. - <u>Aslan Maskhadov</u> says he is very pleased with Kenny Gluck's release and accuses the Russian secret services of the abduction.</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2001 | <p>15 FEBRUARY PACE resolution calling for a ceasefire, negotiations in the presence of international observers and NGO access to IDPs.</p> | <p>14 FEBRUARY Akhmed Kadyrov announces that NGOs will no longer be allowed to operate independently in Chechnya.</p> <p>15 FEBRUARY Resumption of international aid in Chechnya.</p> <p>EARLY MARCH OCHA requests NGOs sign a protocol subjecting humanitarian activities to the arbitrary control of the FSB.</p> | <p>6 FEBRUARY Kenny Gluck arrives in Nazran.</p> <p>6 MARCH MSF to Vladimir Kalamonov, Kremlin Envoy for Human Rights in Caucasus during a meeting:</p> | <p>- Vladimir Putin congratulates himself on Kenny's release.</p> <p>8 FEBRUARY Kenny Gluck gives quick press conference in Moscow: no clue about his abductors. PR MSF: 'Kidnapped Aid Worker Kenneth Gluck Relates Details of Captivity.'</p> <p>LATE FEBRUARY Kenny Gluck's press conference and interviews in New York.</p> <p>6 MARCH <i>Interfax</i> (Russia): Vladimir Kalamonov announces that MSF is resuming its activities in Chechnya.</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2001 | <p>22 APRIL UN Commission on Human Rights resolution condemns the brutal conduct of the Russian war in Chechnya.</p> | <p>EARLY APRIL According to a poll, the number of Russians worried by Putin's inability to stop the war in Chechnya has doubled within a year.</p> <p>APRIL 120 people are taken hostage by pro-Chechen activists in Istanbul.</p> <p>MAY - Russian authorities reduce aid to Chechen IDPs in Ingushetia. - Announcement of total withdrawal of Russian troops from Chechnya, while 5,000 soldiers remain.</p> | <p>- MSF never uses armed escorts and - MSF has not yet decided to resume activities in Chechnya.</p> <p>MARCH MSF Holland: - rehabilitation of Gudermes maternity and - mobile surgeries with armed escorts for expatriates.</p> <p>EARLY APRIL MSF diplomatically declines request to support <u>President Auev's</u> (Ingushetia) candidacy for the Nobel Peace Prize.</p> <p>MAY MSF Holland: Is urged by the pro-Russian Chechen administration to refocus all its aid on Chechnya.</p> | <p>- MSF denies the claim, but not publicly.</p> <p>11 MARCH NTV (Russia) announces the arrest of 2 fighters close to <u>Basayev</u> who are accused of Kenny Gluck's abduction.</p> <p>12 MARCH <u>Shamil Basayev's</u> letter to Kenny Gluck is posted on <i>Kavkaz Center</i> (website).</p> <p>14 MAY - <u>FSB</u> alleges that a Russian Chechen citizen, arrested for spying, was travelling as an MSF representative. - <u>PR MSF Belgium</u>: <i>'MSF Indignant about the Defamatory Assertions of the FSB Spokesperson.'</i></p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2001 | <p>16 TO 19 MAY <u>EU/Russia summit</u>: Wait and see climate regarding Chechen issues.</p> <p>MID-JUNE Moscow presents the reopening of the <u>OSCE</u> offices in Chechnya as sign of normalisation.</p> | <p>30 MAY Pro-Russian Chechen administration's <u>resolution 22</u>: drastic limitation of international NGOs' working conditions in Chechnya.</p> <p>16 JUNE Russian forces' zachistka in Kurtchaloy.</p> <p>EARLY JULY Russian forces' zachistkas in Sernovodskoye and Assinovskaya.</p> <p>9 JULY <u>Akhmed Kadyrov</u> accuses Russian troops of targeting civilians in Sernovodskoye and Assinovskaya.</p> | <p>END MAY <u>MSF Belgium</u>: Intervention for flood victims in Lensk (Siberia).</p> <p>15 JUNE <u>MSF France</u>: President and programme managers meet exiled members of Chechen independent government to get security guarantees for MSF staff in Caucasus.</p> <p>EARLY JULY <u>MSF France</u>: Nazran team collected first-hand testimonies on Sernovodskoye and Assinovskaya zachistkas. They try in vain to enter Chechnya to treat the wounded and collect accounts.</p> | <p>28 MAY <u>PR MSF Belgium</u>: '<i>Help to Flood Victims!</i>'</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2001 | <p>10 JULY Council of Europe asks Russia to provide a complete report on torture allegations in Chechnya.</p> <p>12 JULY Lord Russell-Johnston, President of PACE condemns the sweeps of Chechen villages by the Russian forces and calls on Western leaders to put pressure on the Russian authorities.</p> <p>11 SEPTEMBER - Attacks on the World Trade Center Towers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington increase the 'fight against terrorism' campaign.</p> | <p>10 JULY Moscow announces that a preliminary enquiry has been initiated into the accusations of abuses committed by Russian soldiers in Chechnya.</p> <p>11 JULY Vladimir Moltensky, Acting Commander of the Russian forces in the Caucasus, admitted that "large-scale crimes" were committed against civilians in Sernovodskoye and Assinovskaya.</p> <p>JULY-AUGUST Tensions between federal forces and Akhmed Kadyrov's pro-Russian Chechen government.</p> <p>28 AUGUST Russian National Security Council calls on refugees in Ingushetia to return to Chechnya.</p> | <p>11 JULY MSF France: President sends a letter to <u>Shamil Basayev</u> requesting a meeting.</p> <p>SEPTEMBER <u>MSF Holland</u>: Opens a mental health programme in Ingushetia.</p> | |

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| 2001 | <p>14 SEPTEMBER Moscow proposes to cooperate with Washington in fight against terrorism.</p> <p>4 OCTOBER <u>Vladimir Putin</u> is committed to fight against terrorism, together with the EU.</p> <p>4 DECEMBER <u>Lord Judd</u> (PACE) announces that the human rights situation is improving in Chechnya.</p> <p>MID-DECEMBER <u>Lord Judd</u> (PACE) denounces “the terrible conditions of life of civilians in Chechnya.”</p> | <p>MID-SEPTEMBER - Rebel offensive in Eastern Chechnya. - Attacks against headquarters of the pro-Russian administration, - Increased bombing and sweeps by Russian forces.</p> <p>DECEMBER Offensive by Chechen separatists, <u>Aslan Maskhadov</u> announces a 1-year extension of his mandate as President of the Independent Chechen Republic of Ichkeria.</p> | <p>NOVEMBER <u>MSF Belgium/France/Holland</u>: Survey and collection of personal accounts of the precarious conditions of IDPs in Ingush camps. <u>MSF Holland</u>: Resumes activities in Chechnya.</p> | <p>MID-DECEMBER <u>MSF Moscow</u>: Photo exhibition on refugee camp in Ingushetia and distribution of a report with the survey results, showing the poor quality of assistance.</p> <p>21 DECEMBER <u>PR MSF France</u>: ‘<i>Thirty Years of Service in the Name of Victims, not Regimes</i>,’ focusing on Chechen IDPs in Ingushetia.</p> |

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| 2001 | | <p>28 DECEMBER <u>Ruslan Aushev</u>, President of Ingushetia since 1993, is forced to resign.</p> | | |
| 2002 | <p>10 JANUARY <u>US State Department</u> declares that Russia's military actions and human rights violations in Chechnya encourage terrorism.</p> <p>15 JANUARY - <u>Ruud Lubbers</u> (UNHCR) in Ingushetia and Moscow, notes improvement in resolving IDP problems, raised concerns about human rights violations committed by Russian soldiers in Chechnya and says that Aslan Maskhadov not a terrorist. - <u>Vladimir Putin</u> in Paris, "All means could be used against the criminal Chechen regime."</p> <p>23 JANUARY <u>Council of Europe</u> announces it does not envisage sanctions against Russia.</p> | <p>23 JANUARY Russian government takes control of TV6, the last independent Russian TV channel.</p> | | <p>15 JANUARY PR <u>MSF France</u>: '<u>Vladimir Putin in Paris: MSF Denounces Living Conditions of Chechen Refugees.</u>'</p> <p>16 JANUARY PR <u>MSF Belgium</u>: '<u>Chechens still Fleeing Violence.</u>'</p> <p>22 JANUARY MSF hearing by the Refugee and Migration <u>Committee of PACE</u>, "a new episode of attempts to wipe out a people."</p> |

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| 2002 | <p>15 FEBRUARY Igor Ivanov Russian MoFA visits Paris.</p> <p>LATE FEBRUARY European civil society and political figures publicly express their support for the Chechens.</p> | <p>4 MARCH Akhmed Kadyrov, head of pro-Russian Chechen administration criticises Russian forces' sweeps in Grozny.</p> | | <p>24 JANUARY PR MSF France: '<i>MSF's Reaction to the Council of Europe Vote on Chechnya, Council of Europe from Cooperation to Collaboration.</i>'</p> <p>25 JANUARY MSF France: Press conference in Paris with Sergey Kovalev (Duma and Memorial). MSF report: '<i>Chechnya-Ingushetia: a Deliberate Strategy of Non-Assistance to People in Crisis.</i>'</p> <p>FEBRUARY MSF USA: Communication campaign based on report: '<i>Chechnya-Ingushetia: a Deliberate Strategy of Non-Assistance to People in Crisis.</i>'</p> <p>15 FEBRUARY PR MSF: '<i>Visit by Igor Ivanov to Paris: Chechnya at the Heart of the Debate.</i>'</p> <p>MARCH MSF France: Diplomacy campaign in anticipation of the UN Commission for Human Rights session.</p> <p>4 MARCH PR MSF Belgium: '<i>Civilians Continue to Flee Violence in Chechnya.</i>'</p> |

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| 2002 | <p>10 APRIL Resolution of the <u>European Parliament</u> on Chechnya: Refrains from condemning Russia and demands both parties negotiate a political solution to resolve the conflict.</p> | <p>APRIL - <u>Sergey Yastrzhembsky</u>, Kremlin spokesperson on Chechnya: HRW and MSF reports are “biased”. - <u>Stanislav Ilyasov</u>, Prime Minister of the <u>pro-Russian Chechen government</u>: All IDP camps in Chechnya will be dismantled by 15 April. - Vehicles transporting medicines are subjected to stricter administrative inspections.</p> | <p>MID-APRIL <u>MSF Belgium/France/Holland</u>: Plan to replace tents in Ingush refugee camps. Discussion about communication strategy on North Caucasus.</p> | <p>14 MARCH <u>International Herald Tribune</u>: <u>MSF Open Letter</u> to the Council of Europe: ‘<i>No end in sight to the war in Chechnya.</i>’</p> <p>15 MARCH <u>Open Letter</u> from Peter Schieder, President of <u>PACE</u> to MSF.</p> <p>2 APRIL <u>MSF briefing</u> before the <u>UN Commission for Human Rights</u>: “Faced with such an abdication of responsibility, which international body is today able to put an end to the large-scale violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Chechnya?”</p> <p>11 APRIL <u>PR MSF France</u>: ‘<i>Chechnya: The Cosmetic Recommendations of the European Parliament.</i>’</p> |

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| 2002 | <p>20 APRIL UN Commission for Human Rights rejects a resolution condemning abuses by Russian troops in Chechnya.</p> <p>26 JUNE G8: - <u>Aslan Maskhadov</u> asks, in vain, for the members of G8 to put pressure on Russia to open negotiations.</p> | <p>MAY <u>Murat Zyazikov</u>, supported by Moscow, elected President of Ingushetia.</p> <p>29 MAY 20-step <u>repatriation agreement</u> on the return of IDPs to Chechnya is signed by the Kremlin and <u>Murat Zyazikov</u>, the new President of Ingushetia.</p> | <p>24 APRIL <u>MSF Switzerland</u>: 2 national staff detained at a checkpoint near Gudermes.</p> <p>8 MAY The Chechen Republic's government commission for IDPs requests that <u>MSF Holland</u> supply 200 tents to the refugees returning to Chechnya rather than to those remaining in Ingushetia.</p> | <p>3 JUNE <u>PR MSF</u>: '<i>MSF Concerned over New Pressures Exerted on Chechen Refugees in Ingushetia to Return to Chechnya.</i>'</p> <p>JUNE MSF diplomacy campaign on forced repatriation of IDPs in Chechnya.</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2002 | - Vladimir Putin declares the war in Chechnya a “tragedy” and announces a “normalisation”. | <p>EARLY JULY Coercive and violent closure of the tent camp of Znamenskoye (northern Chechnya). Refugees are forcibly repatriated to Chechnya.</p> <p>10 JULY FSB informs <u>UNSECOORD</u> (Office of the UN Security Coordinator in the Russian Federation) that due to threats of kidnapping, visits by international staff to Chechnya must be suspended.</p> | <p>27 JUNE <u>MSF Belgium</u>: Intervention to help the victims of the Stavropol floods (south Russia).</p> <p>4 JULY <u>MSF Belgium/France/Holland</u>: Joint reaction strategy to the 20-step plan for the repatriation of the displaced Chechens.</p> <p>12 JULY <u>MSF Holland</u>: Is informed by Ingush MOH that the latter are reneging on the agreement authorising the opening of a hospital to treat refugees suffering from TB.</p> | <p>27 JUNE <u>PR MSF Belgium</u>: ‘<i>MSF’s Reaction to the Floods Which Have Struck the South of Russia.</i>’</p> <p>9 JULY <u>PR MSF</u>: ‘<i>MSF condemns relocation of displaced Chechens.</i>’</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2002 | <p>19 AND 20 JULY France-Russia summit in Sochi (Russia).</p> <p>23 JULY UN activities are suspended for 6 months due to Davidovich kidnapping.</p> | <p>20 JULY Abdul-Khakim Sultygov, Putin's representative for human rights in Chechnya, describes the situation as unacceptable.</p> <p>23 JULY Abduction of Nina Davidovich, aid worker for the humanitarian organisation Druzhba.</p> <p>26 JULY The director of the Ingush federal migration service announces that the camps are to be closed by the end of the year.</p> <p>EARLY AUGUST Dagestan authorities warn the MSF Swiss section that serious threats of kidnapping have been made against foreigners in the North Caucasus.</p> | | <p>16 JULY MSF France: Letter to French MoFA, Dominique de Villepin, denouncing Russian pressure on IDP repatriation.</p> <p>26 JULY MSF Belgium/France/Holland: Letter to leaders of OSCE members calling on them to put pressure on Russia to stop IDP forced repatriation in Chechnya.</p> <p>29 JULY MSF letter to UN calling for pressure on Russia to stop IDP forced repatriation in Chechnya.</p> <p>6 AUGUST PRMSF Moscow: 'MSF Strongly Condemns Kidnapping of Head of Druzhba, Operations Inside Chechnya Continue to Be Suspended.'</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2002 | | <p>8 AUGUST Abduction of an <u>ICRC</u> team in the Pankisi Valley (Georgia).</p> <p>15 AUGUST Evacuation of <u>ICRC</u> teams from Caucasus.</p> | <p>12 AUGUST Abduction of Arjan Erkel, <u>MSF Switzerland</u> Coordinator in Dagestan.</p> <p>13 AUGUST AND FOLLOWING DAYS - Suspension of MSF activities in North Caucasus. - Contacts with Russian authorities and exiled representatives of the independent Chechen government to ask for support. - Setting up of the Arjan Erkel Crisis Cell in MSF Switzerland.</p> | <p>8 AUGUST <u>PR MSF France</u>: '<i>MSF Suspends Its Activities in the Pankisi Valley (Georgia).</i>'</p> <p>13 AUGUST <u>PR MSF Switzerland</u>: '<i>MSF Confirms Kidnapping of Its Staff Member.</i>'</p> <p>14 AUGUST <u>PR MSF Switzerland</u>: '<i>Following the abduction of a member of our personnel in Dagestan, MSF suspends activities in Dagestan, Chechnya, and Ingushetia.</i>' <u>PR MSF</u>: '<i>MSF Condemns the Kidnapping of a Member of Its Personnel and Suspends Activities.</i>' <u>UN</u> condemns the kidnapping of <u>Arjan Erkel</u>.</p> <p>19 AUGUST <u>PR MSF, Geneva</u>: '<i>MSF Demands Unconditional Release of Arjan Erkel - MSF Offices in Dagestan Remain Open, Operations Continue to Be Suspended.</i>'</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2002 | <p>9 SEPTEMBER UN resumes humanitarian activities in Ingushetia.</p> <p>MID-OCTOBER <u>PACE</u> report after delegation's visit to Caucasus: 'sweeps' operations continued, demands investigations, and calls on NGOs to increase aid in Chechnya.</p> | <p>23 OCTOBER EVENING <u>700 people taken hostage</u> by Chechen rebels in the Dubrovka Theatre in Moscow.</p> | <p>MID-OCTOBER <u>MSF</u> sections unanimously decide to make no public comment on the <u>PACE</u> report.</p> <p>21 OCTOBER <u>MSF Belgium/France/Holland/Switzerland</u>: Directors of Operations discuss the suspension of operations in Chechnya.</p> | <p>22 AUGUST <u>PR MSF, Geneva/Moscow</u>: '<i>MSF Maintains Suspension of Activities in North Caucasus.</i>'</p> <p>26 AUGUST <u>EU</u> condemns kidnappings of humanitarian actors and calls for Arjan Erkel's release.</p> <p>11 SEPTEMBER <u>PR MSF</u>: '<i>MSF Coordinator Remains Missing – Relief Operations Resume in Ingushetia.</i>'</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2002 | <p>30 OCTOBER United States ambassador to Moscow queries the assault conditions on the Dubrovka Theatre.</p> | <p>NIGHT OF 26 OCTOBER Russian special forces launch an assault on the theatre, putting neuroleptic gas through the ventilation system.</p> | <p>24 OCTOBER MORNING - MSF says no to Russian authorities' request to bring medicines inside the theatre and - act as a mediator with the hostage takers. - An MSF team remains on the spot, ready to intervene should there be medical need.</p> <p>26 OCTOBER - An MSF team brings support to the medical staff of 2 hospitals in Moscow to treat victims of the assault. - MSF decides not to communicate on its intervention.</p> <p>29 OCTOBER MSF International President meets high-ranking FSB official who says - Arjan Erkel is alive, - and the person responsible for his kidnapping is a 'local commander'.</p> <p>30 OCTOBER Thank you letter from the Chief Doctor of Moscow City Clinic Hospital no. 13 to MSF.</p> | <p>4 NOVEMBER PR MSF France: 'MSF Strongly Condemns Kidnapping of ICRC Employees and Expresses Its Solidarity with the ICRC and the Abductees' Families.'</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2002 | | <p>13 NOVEMBER Kidnapping of 2 <u>ICRC</u> employees near Grozny.</p> <p>2 DECEMBER The Aki Yurt camp is forcibly emptied by Russian Forces.</p> | <p>MID-NOVEMBER - <u>MSF international monitoring committee</u> is set up to provide support and advice to the Swiss section. - Closure of the investigation by the Dagestan authorities on the Arjan Erkel abduction. MSF not informed. - A diplomat, formerly posted to Moscow, advises MSF France President to remain extremely firm with the Russian authorities.</p> <p>3 DECEMBER <u>MSF Belgium</u>: Despite threats from the authorities, team continues to provide medical care to the Aki Yurt refugees.</p> <p>10 DECEMBER The Erkel Crisis Cell draws up a communications plan designed to maintain pressure on the Russian authorities.</p> | <p>20 NOVEMBER <u>PR MSF</u>: '<i>Head of Mission of MSF in Dagestan Remains Missing After 100 Days – Efforts by Authorities Fail to Secure Release.</i>'</p> |
| 2003 | | <p>10 JANUARY Liberation of <u>Nina Davidovich</u>, abducted several days before Arjan Erkel.</p> | | <p>10 JANUARY <u>PR MSF</u>: '<i>MSF Welcomes the Release of Nina Davydovich - Head of MSF Mission in Dagestan Remains Missing – MSF Demands his Immediate Release.</i>'</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2003 | <p>16 JANUARY European Parliament calls on the Russian authorities to do everything in their power to secure the release of Arjan Erkel.</p> <p>31 JANUARY The President of <u>the European Union</u> calls on the Russian authorities to do everything in their power to secure the release of Arjan Erkel.</p> | | <p>13 JANUARY The Erkel Crisis Cell launches the second phase of its communications strategy: claiming the Russian authorities are capable of helping secure Arjan's release.</p> <p>29 JANUARY In a meeting with MSF and the Dutch MoFA the Erkel family asks that no public criticism of the Russian authorities be made.</p> <p>3 TO 16 FEBRUARY <u>MSF Belgium/France/Holland</u> survey of Chechen refugees living in 8 tent camps in Ingushetia.</p> | <p>29 JANUARY In a letter to MSF International President, <u>the Dutch MoFA</u> expresses surprise at remarks allegedly made by the President of MSF France to the French MoFA suggesting that Russian services are involved in the abduction of Arjan Erkel and deploring the Dutch authorities' lack of commitment to resolving the situation.</p> <p>3 FEBRUARY <u>PR MSF Belgium</u>: <i>'The Duma Launches an Information Campaign for the Homeless.'</i></p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2003 | <p>10 FEBRUARY <u>Vladimir Putin</u> is received by the President of the French Republic.</p> | | <p>EARLY MARCH MSF receives Arjan's mobile phone bill.</p> <p>MARCH - <u>Dutch MoFA</u> receives pictures showing Arjan holding a recent newspaper, 2 letters for his family and for MSF. - People close to <u>Basayev</u> inform MSF that Arjan's abductors work for the Russian secret services and have tried to sell them the hostage.</p> | <p>5 FEBRUARY - <u>PR MSF</u>: '<i>MSF Welcomes European Union Call for Release of Kidnapped Aid Worker</i>' - MSF International President sends a <u>response letter</u> to the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs.</p> <p>10 FEBRUARY <i>Le Figaro</i> (France), interview with MSF France President: 'Putin's Russia Is a Bermuda Triangle.'</p> <p>12 FEBRUARY - <u>Press conference</u> Moscow: MSF/Erkel family/Dutch embassy. - <u>PR MSF</u>: '<i>Arjan Erkel, Abducted Six Months Ago in Dagestan, Still Missing: MSF Calls on the Russian and Dagestani Governments to Give High Political Priority to the Case.</i>'</p> <p>7 MARCH - <u>PR MSF</u>: '<i>Birthday of Arjan, an MSF Volunteer Who Has Been Held Hostage for Seven Months in the Caucasus, marked by an International Appeal for His Release – Russian Authorities Not Facing Up to Their Responsibilities.</i>' - MSF launches an <u>international petition</u> demanding that Russian and Dagestani authorities do everything to secure Arjan's release.</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2003 | <p>MARCH US offensive begins in Iraq.</p> | <p>23 MARCH Russian referendum to adopt a new constitution re- integrating Chechnya into the Federation: - In the opinion of observers, the referendum was rigged. According to the authorities, - more than 80% of the Chechens participated and - a process for political settlement was declared in Chechnya.</p> | <p>MID-MARCH Meeting MSF/Erkel family/Dutch MoFA: - MSF reaffirms its aim of keeping pressure on the Russian authorities. - Erkel family and MoFA are opposed to this strategy.</p> | <p>12 MARCH MSF France: Letter to the Ingush President Murat Zyazikov asking him to allow Chechen refugees to occupy housing that its team was building.</p> <p>26 MARCH - PR MSF France: <i>'Order to Destroy Shelters for Displaced Chechens Constitutes New Obstruction of Rights.'</i> - Letters from MSF sections to Western leaders so they could back the request.</p> <p>2 APRIL - PR MSF: <i>'MSF Demands Putin Help Obtain Release of Kidnapped Aid Worker.'</i></p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2003 | | <p>APRIL More and more refugees return to Chechnya, pressed by the Russian and Ingush authorities.</p> <p>11 APRIL Report of the pro-Russian Chechen government on atrocities perpetrated</p> | <p>4 APRIL Dutch MoFA asks MSF to stop distributing the petition. MSF refuses with the agreement of Erkel family.</p> <p>10 APRIL Meeting between MSF and Ingush President Murat Zyazikov: MSF asks him to withdraw threats to destroy shelters.</p> <p>APRIL Security tensions for MSF teams in Moscow.</p> | <p>- Signed petitions were given to Russian embassies throughout the world and to the Kremlin by Arjan's father and MSF Secretary General.</p> <p>- Press conference by Arjan's father and MSF Secretary General.</p> <p>3 APRIL PR MSF Moscow/Amsterdam: '<i>MSF Shocked by Brutal Murders in Grozny.</i>'</p> <p>5 APRIL <i>NRC Handelsblad</i> (Netherlands): Coen van Zwol: '<i>A Young Fair-Haired Man Is Worth Millions in Dagestan,</i>' quotes MSF Holland HoM and MSF Information Officer in Moscow,</p> <p>- links Erkel's abduction and Russian reluctance to NGO presence in Caucasus, and</p> <p>- explains MSF silence in the aftermath of the Dubrovka assault as due to its concern not to cause harm to Arjan.</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2003 | <p>16 APRIL UN Commission on Human Rights does not adopt a draft resolution condemning Russia for atrocities.</p> | <p>by Russian forces against civilians.</p> <p>14 MAY Attack against an FSB building in Znamenskoye in Chechnya.</p> | <p>LATE APRIL MSF is informed that at the time of his abduction, Arjan was tailed by FSB.</p> <p>12 MAY A go-between provides investigators with a video proving that Arjan Erkel is still alive.</p> | <p>6 MAY MSF Moscow: Press conference. PR MSF and report: '<i>Left Without a Choice – Chechens Forced to Return to Chechnya</i>,' "89% of refugees don't want to return to Chechnya."</p> <p>8 MAY <i>Novaya Gazeta</i> (Russia) Vyacheslav Izmailov: '<i>Arjan Erkel Might Still Be Alive</i>.'</p> <p>12 MAY PR MSF: '<i>Russian Investigators Assure That Kidnapped Aid Worker Is Alive, MSF Welcomes News, Demands More Be Done to Secure His Release</i>.'</p> <p>14 MAY PR MSF: '<i>MSF Sends Medical Teams to Help Civilians Wounded in Znamenskoye in Chechnya</i>.'</p> <p>MAY - MSF calls on European and US MoFAs to talk about Arjan Erkel's case during the G8 summit in St Petersburg.</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2003 | <p>31 MAY St Petersburg/EU/Russia Summit: - need for a political resolution to the Chechen question. - Dutch prime minister publicly raises the question of Arjan Erkel. Putin declares that he is dealing with Arjan Erkel case.</p> | <p>21 MAY FSB advises UN and international NGO staff not to circulate in Chechnya</p> | <p>19 MAY Start of the trial of the 2 men accused of Kenny Gluck's abduction - Kenny declines an invitation to appear in court.</p> <p>LATE MAY MSF discovers that the investigation into Arjan's abduction was closed in November 2002. The investigation resumes.</p> <p>JUNE MSF France: HoM is arbitrarily prevented from leaving Russian territory.</p> | <p>- UNHCR accuses MSF of fake figures (news circulated by a Russian Press Agency).</p> <p>17 MAY MSF France: General Assembly meeting, annual report of the President, "Persons who are working on the Arjan case on a daily basis, who have led the investigations are convinced that we are facing hostility from the Russian state and its security services."</p> <p>10 JUNE MSF Hearing: At the Caucasus Commission of the US Congress and the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2003 | <p>3 JULY <u>European Parliament</u> resolution - describes violations of human rights by Russian forces in Chechnya as “war crimes and crimes against humanity”, and - calls on the Russian authorities to intensify efforts to find Erkel.</p> | <p>4 JULY Akhmed Kadyrov, head of pro-Russian <u>Chechen administration</u> declares that all IDPs must return to Chechnya by September.</p> | | <p>PR MSF USA: '<i>Displaced Chechens Forced Back to War Zone.</i>' MSF meetings with officials of the <u>US administration</u> about the fate of IDPs and Arjan Erkel.</p> <p>12 JUNE PR MSF: '<i>Arjan Erkel Kidnapped 10 Months Ago.</i>'</p> <p>16 JULY <i>NRC Handelsblad</i> (Netherlands) Coen van Zwol: '<i>Identity of the US Attachés Was Unknown to Erkel.</i>'</p> <p>29 JULY A representative of <u>Dutch MoFA</u> shows a video of Erkel to journalists and says MSF was acting irresponsibly in the management of the case.</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2003 | <p>12 AUGUST US and EU urge Putin to act in aid worker kidnap case.</p> <p>19 AUGUST Attack on UN Headquarters in Baghdad (Iraq).</p> | | <p>12 AUGUST Dutch MoFA breaks off all contact with MSF for several weeks.</p> | <p>11 AUGUST PR MSF: <i>'One of the Three Largest Camps in Ingushetia, Bella, Is Being Emptied under the Indifferent Watch of the International Community.'</i></p> <p>12 AUGUST - PR MSF: <i>'One Year After Arjan Erkel's Kidnapping, MSF Considers the Investigation to Be a Failure and Calls for More Action by the Russian Authorities to Resolve the Case.'</i> - <u>MSF demonstrations</u> in Moscow, Amsterdam and Geneva. - <u>Interviews</u> with MSF in international press on Russian authorities' inaction.</p> <p>13 AUGUST <i>The Independent</i> (UK): <u>Open letter</u> from <u>Kenny Gluck</u> and <u>Vincent Cochetel</u>, former hostages in Caucasus, <i>'Russia Must Act to Protect Aid Workers in the Caucasus.'</i></p> <p>18 AUGUST MSF International President: <u>Letter</u> to the President of the United States asking him to raise Erkel case during his forthcoming meeting with Vladimir Putin in Camp David.</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2003 | <p>26 AUGUST Following UN HQ attack in Baghdad, the <u>UN Secretary General Kofi Annan</u> announces the adoption of a resolution on the protection of humanitarian workers in conflict zones.</p> <p>26 AND 27 SEPTEMBER - <u>George W. Bush</u> and <u>Vladimir Putin</u> meet in Camp David. - <u>Vladimir Putin</u> at the <u>UN</u>.</p> | | <p>LATE SEPTEMBER <u>MSF Belgium</u>: Closes TB programme in Siberia following its rejection by the Russian authorities.</p> | <p>28 AUGUST <u>PR MSF</u>: '<i>Now Is the Time to Act – After the UN Security Council Resolution on the Safety of Aid Workers, MSF Presses Russia to Secure Arjan Erkel's Release.</i>'</p> <p>25 SEPTEMBER - <u>PR MSF</u>: '<i>President Putin Called on to Fulfill Obligation to Ensure the Release of Abducted MSF Aid Worker Arjan Erkel – UN Members Urged to Hold Russian President Accountable for Resolution of the Case.</i>' - <u>MSF USA</u>: Press conference for the UN, New York, - demonstration on a cruise boat on the <u>Hudson River</u> near the <u>UN</u> building, - continued lobbying of American and European leaders.</p> <p>26 SEPTEMBER <u>PR MSF</u>: '<i>President Bush Urged to Press President Putin for Aid Worker's Freedom.</i>'</p> <p>30 SEPTEMBER <u>PR MSF Belgium</u>: '<i>MSF Ends Tuberculosis Treatment in Kemerovo Region, Russia.</i>'</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2003 | | <p>1 OCTOBER Ingush authorities definitively close the Bella camp for displaced persons.</p> <p>5 OCTOBER <u>Akhmed Kadyrov</u>, head of pro-Russian Chechen administration is elected President of Chechnya and pledges to get rid of Maskhadov and Basayev within 2 months. Observers report that the election was manipulated.</p> | <p>OCTOBER MSF is provided with proof of that Arjan is alive and contracts the FSB Veterans Association to search for him.</p> <p>19 OCTOBER Russian MoFA declares to Swiss MoFA that Arjan Erkel is alive and that Russia is doing everything to secure his release.</p> <p>LATE OCTOBER <u>MSF Switzerland</u> moderates the MSF movement's proposal for communication so as to avoid compromising the progress being made with some leads to get Arjan's release.</p> | <p>3 OCTOBER PR MSF: '<i>Camps Closed, People Expelled: Displaced Chechens Must Have Option to Be Re-Located in Ingushetia.</i>'</p> <p>6-8 OCTOBER <i>Novaya Gazeta</i> (Russia) <u>Vyacheslav Izmailov</u>: '<i>Vladimir Putin, Release of Arjan Erkel Is in Your Hands.</i>'</p> <p>19 OCTOBER PR MSF Switzerland: '<i>The Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs States that Arjan Is Alive.</i>'</p> <p>27 OCTOBER <i>Novaya Gazeta</i> (Russia): <u>Vyacheslav Izmailov</u> accuses a businessman and member of the Dagestani parliament of Arjan Erkel's kidnapping.</p> |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2003 | <p>5 NOVEMBER <u>EU/Russia</u> summit in Rome.</p> <p>7 NOVEMBER - At the end of his visit, <u>Vladimir Putin</u> is accompanied to the airport by the President of the French Republic. - Damning report of the <u>UN Commission on Human Rights</u> on violations in Chechnya.</p> | <p>5 NOVEMBER The head of the migration service in Ingushetia declares that the humanitarian organisations working in the displaced persons' camps are openly using propaganda to dissuade people from returning to Chechnya.</p> | <p>NOVEMBER MSF and Dutch MoFA are informed that FSB has transferred the responsibility of the investigation to the Russian Ministry of Interior.</p> <p>EARLY DECEMBER A lead in Arjan's release, through the <u>Veteran's Association of the Russian Secret Services</u>, recruited by MSF and Dutch MoFA seems to be on the verge of succeeding.</p> | <p>1 NOVEMBER Launch of a poster campaign with portraits of Arjan in Moscow's airports.</p> <p>5 NOVEMBER <u>MSF Italy</u>: Press conference in Rome. <u>PRMSF</u>: '<u>EU President Berlusconi Called to Push President Putin to Secure the Release of Arjan Erkel, MSFAid Worker in Captivity in the Caucasus Since August 2002.</u>' <u>NRC Handelsblad</u> (Netherlands): <u>Coen van Zwol</u>, '<u>Identity of Arjan Erkel's Kidnapper Is Known.</u>' Return to the hypothesis of Izmailov in <u>Novaya Gazeta</u> on 27 October.</p> <p>7 NOVEMBER <u>Le Monde</u> (France): '<u>MSF Demonstration in Paris for Arjan Erkel.</u>' MSF calls on French President to raise Arjan's issue with Vladimir Putin.</p> <p>16 NOVEMBER <u>NRC Handelsblad</u> (Netherlands) <u>Coen van Zwol</u>, '<u>Death for the Living.</u>' Again, a return to Izmailov's hypothesis in <u>Novaya Gazeta</u> on 27 October.</p> |

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| 2003 | | <p>7 DECEMBER Vladimir Putin's party wins the elections for the Russian Federation's Duma.</p> <p>10 DECEMBER Alina IDP camp in Ingushetia is closed and IDPs sent back to Chechnya.</p> | <p>10 DECEMBER Arrest of Imamutdin Temirbulatov, Dagestani Officer-in-charge of the investigation on Arjan Erkel's case. Confusion and blocking of the Veterans' lead.</p> <p>25 DECEMBER 500 days of captivity for Arjan Erkel.</p> | <p>15 DECEMBER <i>Novaya Gazeta</i> (Russia): '<i>Sensation or Fabrication.</i>' Vyacheslav Izmailov defends Temirbulatov.</p> <p>16 DECEMBER Mistaken announcement in <i>Chechen Times</i> (Chechnya): '<i>Special Operation by Chechen Special Forces to Liberate Arjan Erkel.</i>'</p> <p>25 DECEMBER PR MSF: '<i>August 12, 2002 - December 25, 2003 Arjan Erkel, 500 Days in Captivity, Still Missing.</i>' Candlelight vigil in Amsterdam for Arjan Erkel.</p> |
| 2004 | | | <p>28 JANUARY Erkel family urges MSF and Dutch MoFA to maintain strict confidentiality around the leads followed in efforts to secure Arjan's release.</p> | |

| | International | Russian Federation / North Caucasus | MSF in North Caucasus | MSF in public arena: speaking out, diplomacy / lobby, media |
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| 2004 | <p>26 FEBRUARY <u>European Parliament Report</u> on EU-Russia relations: Concern over failure to resolve Erkel case.</p> | | <p>26 FEBRUARY <u>Letter</u> from Erkel family's lawyer threatening MSF with legal action if it does not halt its communications campaign.</p> <p>27 FEBRUARY <u>MSF France</u>: Board meeting discussion on staff security in Caucasus.</p> <p>4 MARCH <u>MSF Switzerland</u>: <u>Letter</u> from Thomas Linde, Executive Director to Dick Erkel, MSF understands his reservations but intends to step up communication pressure on Russian authorities (but he does not make clear the nature of MSF statements).</p> | <p>12 FEBRUARY <u>PR MSF</u>: <i>'After 18 Months of Captivity, Arjan Erkel Still Missing - Ongoing Violence Limits Relief Efforts to Thousands of Displaced People.'</i></p> <p>16 FEBRUARY <u>Novaya Gazeta</u> (Russia): <i>'Khattab's Financier.'</i> Once again <u>Vyacheslav Izmailov</u> points to a businessman and member of the Dagestan parliament as being responsible for Erkel's kidnapping.</p> <p>1 MARCH <u>MSF dossier</u> to media and political leaders <i>'Arjan Erkel, Hostage in the Russian Federation since August 12, 2002.'</i></p> |

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| 2004 | <p>9 MARCH <u>European Council</u> meeting in Rome.</p> | | <p>9 MARCH Arjan Erkel's birthday.</p> <p>10 MARCH MSF France: President's statements on Russian officials' responsibility for Arjan Erkel's abduction were criticised within the MSF movement by those who felt they could be dangerous for Arjan. US administration officials advise MSF to make more noise about Erkel case.</p> <p>11 MARCH MSF International President, General Secretary, MSF Switzerland General Director sent a letter to the movement's directors asking them to support the Crisis Cell communication lines.</p> | <p>8 MARCH CNN (United States): Interview with MSF USA Executive Director: "The balance of power and profit motives in the Caucasus region seem to take priority over Arjan's life."</p> <p>9 MARCH AFP (France): '<i>MSF: Officials Implicated in the Kidnapping of the MSF Representative in Dagestan,</i>' <u>MSF France President</u> quoted. PR MSF: '<i>European Council Must Act to Save Arjan Erkel.</i>'</p> <p>10 MARCH <i>Le Monde</i> (France) <u>Marie Jégo</u>: '<i>MSF Accuses Russian Officials of Holding Arjan Erkel Hostage.</i>' J.-H. Bradol, President of MSF France, is quoted.</p> <p>11 MARCH <i>Le Temps</i> (Switzerland) Pierre Hazan: '<i>MSF Accuses Moscow of Doing Nothing to Free Its Head of Mission Currently Held Hostage,</i>' Thomas Nierle and Jean-Christophe Azé, members of the Erkel Crisis Cell, are quoted. AP (United States) <u>Judith Ingram</u>: '<i>MSF accuses Russian authorities of complicity in abduction of aid worker,</i>' <u>MSF France President</u> is quoted.</p> |

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| 2004 | | | | <p>AFP (France): '<i>Russia Denies Involvement in the Kidnapping of MSF Worker.</i>' <i>Nezavisimaya Gazeta</i> (Russia): '<i>Russia Officially Accused over Kidnapping – MSF Makes Unpleasant Statements.</i>'</p> <p>12 MARCH <i>Le Figaro</i> (France) <u>Patrick de Saint-Exupéry</u>: '<i>The deliberate and systematic practice of kidnapping.</i>' interview with MSF France President. Radio 1 (Netherlands): interview with <u>Dick Erkel</u>, who criticises MSF's communications campaign. <i>Gazeta.ru</i> (Russia) <u>Maria Tsvetkova</u>: interview with <u>Mark Walsh</u>, MSF Regional Information Officer in Moscow: "Bradol [MSF France President] was referring to a newspaper article written by Vyacheslav Izmailov." PR UN Commission for Human Rights: '<i>Acting UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Appeals for Release of Arjan Erkel.</i>'</p> <p>14 MARCH <i>Le Journal du dimanche</i> (France) <u>Karen Lajon</u>: '<i>An MSF Member under Threat of Death.</i>'</p> <p>16 MARCH <i>Libération</i> (France) <u>Pierre Hazan</u>: '<i>An MSF Member under Threat of Death.</i>' Thomas Nierle, Arjan Erkel Crisis Cell quoted.</p> |

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| 2004 | | | <p>17 MARCH <u>Fax</u> from Erkel family's lawyer threatening MSF with legal action if MSF does not stop its communications campaign.</p> <p>25 MARCH <u>Dutch MoFA</u> declares that MSF public statements have upset the Russian authorities and brought all the efforts undertaken to secure Erkel's freedom to a standstill, thus MSF will be cut off from their information.</p> | <p>- <u>Statement of President of MSF International, MSF Holland, MSF Switzerland and MSF International Secretary General: 'Médecins Sans Frontières Confirms Implication of Russian and Dagestani Authorities in Arjan Erkel.'</u></p> <p>17 MARCH - <u>The Washington Post</u> (USA): Editorial, 'Where is Arjan Erkel?' - Dutch MoFA calls on the Russian authorities, before the UN Commission for Human Rights, to secure Arjan Erkel's release.</p> <p>18 MARCH - <u>PR MSF 'Arjan Erkel, Nineteen Months in Captivity - MSF Denounces Inaction and Indifference of Russian Authorities.'</u> - MSF Moscow <u>Press conference</u>. - <u>MSF Switzerland/MSF Holland Directors of Operations on Radio Echo of Moscow: Strong suspicions concerning Russian officials' involvement in Arjan Erkel's prolonged captivity.</u> - Minister of Interior of Dagestan states to <u>ITAR TASS</u>: he is monitoring the Erkel case daily. - <u>MSF to media: 'Arjan Erkel Is Sick and under Threat of Execution.'</u></p> |

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| 2004 | | | <p>26 MARCH MSF France: Board meeting discussion about public statements regarding Arjan Erkel's abduction.</p> <p>8 APRIL Arjan Erkel's Crisis Cell asks all MSF communication departments to stay silent on the Erkel affair for tactical reasons related to operations underway.</p> <p>NIGHT OF 10 APRIL Arjan Erkel is released and left in a room at the FSB headquarters in Makhachkala.</p> <p>13 APRIL MSF USA: Executive Director asks the MSF movement to be more proactive and issue a position on Arjan Erkel's abduction and release.</p> | <p>26 MARCH ANP (Netherlands): '<i>MSF must stop the Erkel media campaign,</i>' Dutch MoFA quoted as having warned MSF.</p> <p>29 MARCH <i>Novaya Gazeta</i> (Russia) Dagestani Minister of Interior to journalist Vyacheslav Izmailov "we have reasons to consider Arjan Erkel alive" and "you are close to the truth in your journalist's investigation."</p> <p>11 APRIL PR MSF: '<i>Arjan Erkel Is Free.</i>'</p> <p>13 APRIL <i>Le Monde</i> (France), Natalie Nougayrède: '<i>Arjan Erkel, MSF Representative in Dagestan, Has Been Freed – NGOs Aiding Displaced Chechens Are Convinced His Abduction Was Intended to Intimidate Them.</i>'</p> <p>15 APRIL PR MSF: '<i>MSF Expresses Relief at Release of Kidnapped Aid Worker Arjan Erkel, [...] Highlights the Continued Acceptance by the Government of the Russia Federation [...] of a Climate of Violence in the Region.</i>'</p> |

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| | | | | <p>- <i>The Moscow Times</i> (Russia): 'Light Is Shed on Erkel's Release.'</p> <p>AUGUST MSF Holland: Report 'The Trauma of Ongoing War in Chechnya.'</p> |
| 2005 | <p>21 DECEMBER <u>Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation:</u> 'The War in Chechnya Was over Three Years Ago.'</p> | | <p>Closure of last MSF programmes in Chechen IDP camps in Ingushetia.</p> | |