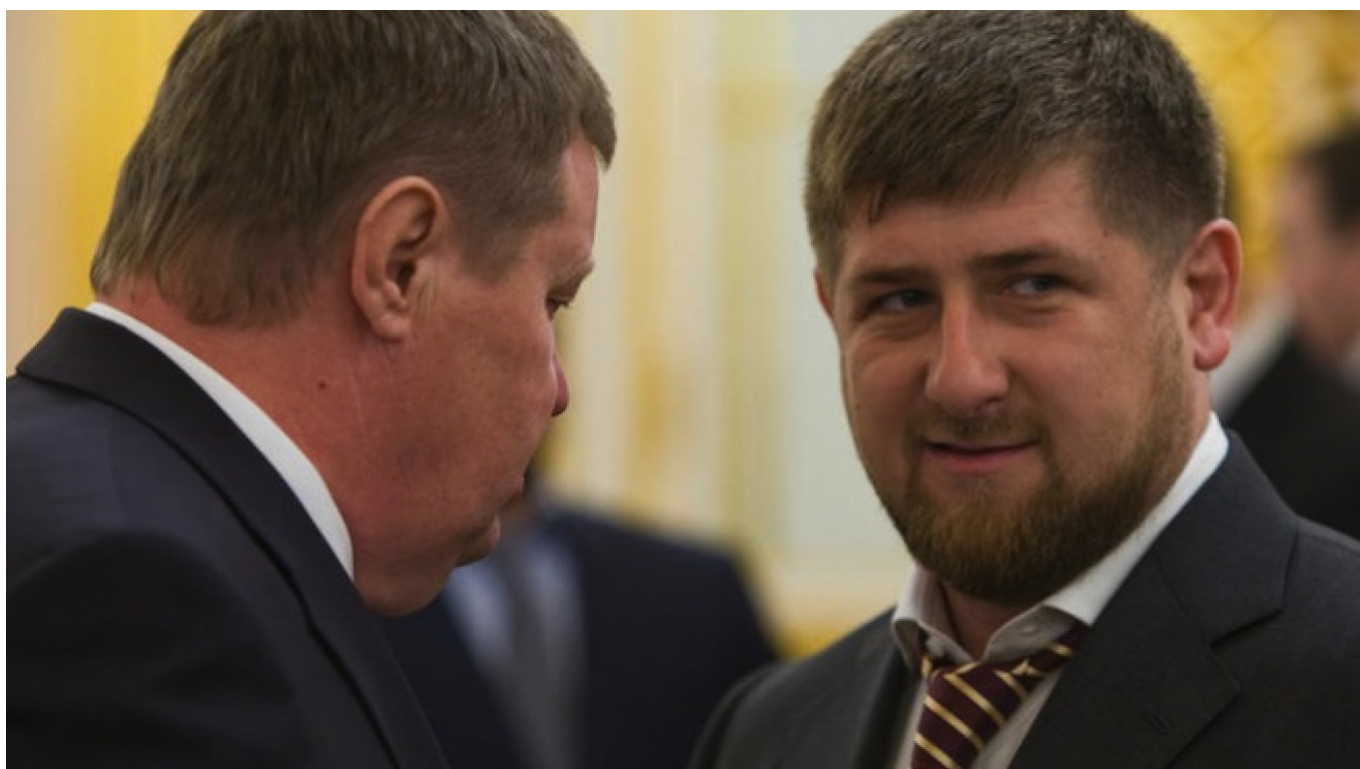


Man Whose House Was Torched Apologizes for Criticism of Kadyrov

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov (R)

A man who saw his house burnt down after he criticized the authorities in Russia's Chechen Republic has publicly apologized for making the complaints.

Ramazan Dzhaldinov also accused the media of distortion in the message broadcast by Chechnya's state television company Grozny.

“I apologize to [Chechen leader] Ramzan Kadyrov that this has happened. I apologize to the entire people [of Chechnya] and ask others like me not to do the wrong things,” he said.

In the message, Dzhaldinov compared Kadyrov to the “shining of the sun” and said that 99 percent of media information on his story was lies. He maintained that nobody asked him to apologize.

Dzhaldinov filmed the video in city of Makhachkala in the neighboring Russian republic of

Dagestan. He had previously said that he had fled from Chechnya after receiving threats linked to his public complaints. In the message, Dzhaldinov denied that any threats took place.

On April 14, the day of President Vladimir Putin's annual phone-in marathon, Dzhaldinov posted an online video message to the Russian head of state. In the clip, he accused local authorities of extortion and complained about the living conditions in his village of Kenkhi, using the video to show half-ruined houses.

In the days after he made the statement, his house was burnt down and his wife and children were expelled from the Chechen republic. Reports from other village residents said that the area had been cordoned off by police while inhabitants were quizzed to reveal Dzhaldinov's whereabouts, the Kommersant newspaper reported.

Other Kenkhi residents expressed their support for Kadyrov by writing a letter to Putin, apologizing for Dzhaldinov's behavior. The letter called Dzhaldinov uneducated and asked the President not to consider his statements as the views of all residents, the Interfax news agency reported.

Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov denied that the village had been cordoned off and accused Dzhaldinov of burning his own house down in order to receive asylum in Europe.

His tone softened after receiving the recorded apologies, with Kadyrov writing on his Instagram account that 'anyone can make a mistake.' He said that he was happy that Dzhaldinov had finally "reached the path of truth."

"From the beginning, I understood that some ill force wanted to use Ramazan Dzhaldinov for their own dirty ends. He came under a psychological attack to intimidate him and to convince him that there was a real threat to his life and his family's safety. They tried to make him leave his native Chechnya and go to the West," he said.

Chechnya will provide care and support to Dzhaldinov when he returns to Kenkhi, Kadyrov added.

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