

# Chechnya's Grozny Establishes 'Sister City' Ties With Occupied Mariupol

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The entrance to the Ilyich Iron and Steel Works in occupied Mariupol. **Dmitry Yagodkin / TASS**

Grozny, the capital of Russia's majority-muslim republic of Chechnya, has established [sister city](#) ties with the occupied southern Ukrainian city of Mariupol, over a year after it was devastated by invading Russian forces.

"Grozny Mayor Khas-Magomed Kadyrov and head of Mariupol's [Russian-installed] administration Oleg Morgun signed an agreement establishing twin city relations between the cities," Grozny mayor's office said Tuesday.

The agreement envisions bilateral contacts in education, healthcare, culture, sports, social welfare and "delegation exchanges to study the best municipal practices."

Like Mariupol, the Chechen capital was also once subject to a destructive assault by Russian troops, a parallel users on social media were quick to point out following Tuesday's announcement.

## **Embed:**

Moscow fought two wars with Chechen separatists in the 1990s and 2000s, the latter of which resulted in Chechnya's reincorporation as a Russian region.

Russian troops laid siege to Grozny during the second campaign from December 1999 to February 2000. The United Nations [said](#) the destruction its team had witnessed in Grozny "outweighed anything they had seen in other" war-torn cities.

Khas-Magomed Kadyrov is the [third cousin](#) of Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov, who has appointed several of his relatives to key positions in public office.

A 2018 analysis by the BBC's Russian-language service [found](#) that nearly one in three Chechen officials were Kadyrov's relatives while one in five were his fellow villagers and one out of 10 his friends.

Prior to Grozny, St. Petersburg [established](#) sister city relations with Mariupol shortly after Russian forces drove out the last Ukrainian defenders from the city in May 2022.

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