

Russia says rebels had ties to West

by UPI

MOSCOW - A top official in the Russian Interior Ministry claimed Friday investigators found links to an attack on a regional capital and Western intelligence agencies.

The battle in Nalchik, capital of Kabardino-Balkaria, a semi-autonomous republic in the North Caucasus, killed 35 police officers and 12 civilians on Oct. 13, 2005. The next day, police struck back, killing 92 rebels.

Russian Deputy Interior Minister Arkady Yedelyov said that the ringleaders are believed to have been living in the region until recently, the Novosti news agency reported.

"We have information suggesting that those who attempted an armed revolt in Nalchik in 2005 ... colluded with Western secret services, with the aim of destabilizing the republic," he said.

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