**Prompt:** Describe the human rights violations which have occurred in Chechnya. Include examples of violations from both sides of the Russia–Chechnya conflict. Provide evidence from this text and the Universal Declaration of Rights to support your answer. Cite examples from both sides of the Russia–Chechnya conflict.

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| **EXEMPLAR** |
| Chechnya is an independent republic of Russia which has oil and mineral deposits. Chechnya has been fighting to maintain their independence for many decades. Chechen and Russian leaders have often violated human rights using violence and terror to try to **control** Chechnya. Human rights violations were occurring in Chechnya as far back as the eighteenth century and during the nineteenth century the situation did not improve. Russians violated rights whenStalin controlled the region forcing Communism upon Chechnya. “Russian leader Joseph Stalin (1944) rounded up and exiled some 500,000 Chechens. He sent them to labor camps in Siberia for supposedly supporting Hitler.” (DE, Ch 5.4, Explore p.10 CIT par 3). This violates Article 1 in taking away their freedom and not acting in brotherhood, as well as Article which similarly calls for liberty. Article 9 also says people cannot be subjected to arbitrary detention. Anyone seen as a threat to the Communist laws of Russia was exiled and punished. Many of those exiled died. Those who survived were not allowed to return to their homes in Chechnya until 1957. Forcing people into exile in labor camps, causing many to die and not allowing people to return to their homes violates their rights. Although Chechnya was supposed to be an independent region, Russia forced Communist rule on them. A second example of Russia violating the rights of Chechens occurred in 1999. “ terrorist attacks against Russians...Chechens were blamed...international community didn’t know who was responsible. 2004 Putin carried out executions and terror and justified it because they claimed it was a war against terror…” (DE, Ch 5.4, Explore p.10 CIT par 5) Article 5 states, “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.” Putin carried out attacks on the Chechen people in retaliation for the terrorist attacks on Russia with no proof that Chechens were responsible. People in Chechnya disappeared, were tortured, and executed. This is also a violation of human rights because citizens of Chechnya were blamed and punished for terrorist attacks on Russia even though it was not clear who caused the attacks. Unfortunately, Chechen leaders also have violated the rights of their own people. Ramzan Kadyrov, the current president of Chechnya, supports Russia. He holds his power through acts of terror, forcing strict Islamic rule on Chechens. Russia lets him rule as long as he keeps order...a compromise between independence and total control. (DE, Ch 5.4, Explore p.10 CIT par 2 & 6) Article 2 states that everyone will have the freedom to choose their own religion. In order to keep his power Kadyrov must keep strict control over Chechnya. He enforces Islamic Rule but it is extremely harsh. Kadyrov allows the human rights of Chechen citizens to be violated in many ways such as illegal home searches and “Honor Killings” for women who dishonor their families. Throughout several centuries Chechnya and its people have fought to keep their independence from Russia. Their rights have been violated by Russian leaders as well as Chechen leaders. Although Chechnya is supposed to be recognized as an independent republic, Russia has often imposed their own government and rules on the region. Could this be because Chechnya has rich oil and mineral deposits that Russia has an interest in controlling? This question may be answered through the as future actions of Russia toward Chechnya. |