

Questionnaire on Chechen Autonomy

(Questionnaire No. 1)

1. State
2. Region
3. Rayon
4. Locality
 - Urban
 - Rural
5. Sex
6. Age

7. Ethnic origin
 1. Indigenous population
 2. Non-indigenous population

8. Real confession
 1. Orthodox
 2. Protestant
 3. Islam
 4. Other
 5. None

9. What symbols do you connect with your republic
 - a. Flag, Coat of Arms, Anthem adopted before the war;
 - b. Other symbols and items;
 - c. What do the people in your village, your locality or your informal collective think about the symbols of the Russian State: Flag, Coat of Arms, Anthem?
 1. They accept it as their own;
 2. They don't accept it and consider it as symbols of arbitrariness;
 3. They are indifferent.

10. How are conflicts resolved between particular communities or groups of persons?
 - a. By state authorities (Courts of Justice, Public Prosecution Service etc.);
 - b. By negotiations of informal leaders based on folk traditions [customary law];
 - c. By other means depending from the concrete circumstances.

11. What would be the benefits of an own government (administration)?
 - a. Solution of local problems;
 - b. It is easier to influence it and mass repressions are impossible;

- c. There is no need for it.
12. As whom do you consider yourself primary?
- As a Russian¹ [citizen]²;
 - As a Chechen;
 - As a Russian citizen and a Chechen. As someone different?
13. In your opinion, what are the main obstacles for establishing a local government and self government?
- The war and the attending lawlessness and arbitrariness;
 - The lack and unimportance of a respectable elite with an national [i.e. ethnic] orientation;
 - The lack of consent among the indigenous population in the estimation of important events and resulting different opinions about this events.
14. In your opinion, what is the best way for the solution of conflicts and difficulties in your community or on the level of the rayons³?
- Local conflicts and disputes should be resolved by negotiations if there is no unfriendly influence from outside on a party of the conflict;
 - An acceptable solution for all participants can be negotiated with the help of a respected third part;
 - The conflicts are insolvable.
15. In your opinion, what is the need for political parties?
- Political parties are a feature and in the same time an instrument of stable democratic societies;
 - Political parties are necessary for democratic change of power; their existence prevent political stagnation of the society;
 - In our situation there is no need for it.
16. Are the traditional authorities, for instance the elders, able to response to the actual situation and actual problems of the society?
- In the time of the continuing war and the continuing disintegration of the society the role of the traditions and the elders is still present but much more less then before the war;
 - The traditional organisation is still possible but in the actual circumstances no laws are obtained;
 - The traditional organisation lost its importance and there is no need to revitalise it in the time of globalisation.
17. Are there cases of abject behaviour or discrimination of non indigenous persons? In your opinion, what is the reason for it?

¹ This footnote and the following are the translators explanations. The Russian word "Rossijanin" refers to citizens of Russia and not only to ethnic Russians

² In square brackets addenda of the translator

³ Secondary territorial entity of the Russian Federation and some other post-Soviet states

- a. Such behaviour happened between the wars and was practised by members of the lower social strata and criminal elements;
 - b. The discrimination was an expression of claims to property of a third party and, in my opinion, it was a result of the social disintegration;
 - c. Abject behaviour to non indigenous persons is not a Chechen feature.
18. What does it mean for you to be a Chechen? What features are marking this affiliation?
- a. The knowledge of the language, the origin and the observance of some traditions;
 - b. I don't know precise features, for me it is an insolvable problem;
 - c. Primarily a person who is familiar with some elements of the Chechen culture and who defines himself as affiliated to the Chechen people.
19. As a Chechen, in what do you believe?
- a. In Allah, the Prophet Mohammed and his ustazes [religious teachers];
 - b. I believe in Allah; the Chechen tradition and the Adat [Customary Law] have for me the same importance;
 - c.
20. Is it useful for children to learn at school, to study at college, at higher education facilities? Why?
- a. The existing formal education is inefficient;
 - b. The existing educational institutions are viable and should be supported;
 - c. It is necessary to study there because there are no alternatives.
21. Would it be sufficient to use in higher education facilities the Chechen language only; is it possible to express all necessary things in the Chechen language?
- a. In my opinion, the present level of the development of the Chechen language doesn't allow to use it in several spheres of knowledge;
 - b. The Chechen language should be used in more domains, it should be popularised with all possible means;
 - c. The Chechen language should be used in limited domains; science and education should be developed in the traditional languages of science and education.
22. In your opinion, what is the content of the traditional Chechen, tribal, tayp [clan], local (traditional) knowledge?
- a. There is knowledge in the form of traditions; the observance of these traditions shape human behaviour in different situations;
 - b. In my opinion, if such thoughts do exist, they belong to the spheres of morality and education;
 - c. In my opinion, there is no special knowledge as a means to influence outward things.
23. How do people with a special or higher education behave in the community?
- a. In my opinion, a difference in education is not a decisive factor for the behaviour of a

- Chechen person;
- b. Educated persons act more adequate and can better survive;
 - c. Among educated people there are more unscrupulous persons.
24. How do you get information about events outside of your locality? How do you communicate the outer world about events which happen here?
- a. I obtain information about international events form Russian (TV) and foreign (broadcasting) media. It is quite difficult or even impossible to communicate about the local situation;
 - b. The communication with the outer world is controlled and happens only through state media;
 - c. I am getting oral information about events in our Republic from different persons.
25. What is your opinion about
- Wahhabites: good, suspicious, negative;
- Orthodox Church: good, suspicious, negative;
- Protestant Church (Baptist, Pentecostal): good, suspicious, negative.
26. In your opinion, is there a discrimination of the traditional knowledge and the traditional way of life of the indigenous population?
- a. There is no discrimination, life is gradually normalising;
 - b. It is difficult to speak about particular discrimination, there is absolute arbitrariness and lawlessness;
27. How can the public health service and housing be improved?
- a. [It is necessary] to stop the war, and then to act in the same way as everywhere else in the civilised world;
 - b. The most important condition for the solution of all social problems is the observance of the elementary law by the existing [formal] authorities;
 - c.
28. How can be improved your housing situation?
- a. In my opinion, it needs many measures, including humanitarian aid from international organisations;
 - b. In the case of favourable conditions I will solve this problem by my own efforts;
 - c. It is the state's obligation to solve this problem.
29. Does your community benefit from the exploitation of natural resources (soil, water, minerals, forest, [unpolluted] air, wind, sun, oil)?
- a. According to the accessible information, we do not benefit from these resources;
 - b. Probably there is some advantage, but I don't know about it;
 - c.
30. What is required to get permanent benefits from the available natural resources (renewable resources) for the Republic's inhabitants and their descendants?

- a. In my opinion, it is necessary to adopt appropriate laws and strictly observe them;
 - b. Under the present circumstances it is impossible;
 - c. It is possible only if there will be a government depending only on the people and the laws.
31. Are there any land-conflicts?
- a. There are a lot of problems with land tenure;
 - b. There are such problems, but for me they are not the topmost content;
 - c. At this time problems with land tenure do not concern me.
32. How can natural resources be used without destroying nature?
- a. I think it is necessary to elaborate on protective measures considering the traditions of the people;
 - b. The war crippled nature in an irreparable way; I think that the question is not to benefit from nature but to help it;
 - c. In handling nature one should consider the experience of civilised countries.
33. How do you evaluate the quality of government public services (electricity, water supply, telephone, infrastructure, bridges, roadwork)?
- a. I cannot evaluate these services because they don't exist.;
 - b. The quality of these services doesn't suit me;
 - c. Except for some details they suit me.
34. How is property of land held? How is land distributed? Is there community land?
- a. There are traditions of tenure and land distribution but this tradition should be re-adapted;
 - b. The existing family and tayp [clan] land distribution is suitable and should be perpetuated;
 - c.
35. What are the different ways to possess land in your community? What is the preferable way to possess land for you and your children?
- a. In my opinion, the most preferred way to possess land would be by private property;
 - b. In my opinion, communal as well as private ways to possess land there are necessary;
 - c. The land should belong to the state.
36. Who should solve land property conflicts? Local authorities⁴ (elders) or governmental bodies?
- a. The official administration;
 - b. In my opinion, an efficient solution to land property conflicts is impossible without participation by the elders;
 - c. In my opinion, the best way is on both elders and public agents to participate.

⁴In the Russian language use the word "avtoritet" - *authority* designates informal authorities e.g. tribal, clan or even criminal authorities although they can have a formal status too

37. Who should own the soil, mines-and-carries, oilfields?
- a. In my opinion, there should be a mixed ownership;
 - b. As the most efficient, private ownership should prevail;
 - c. In my opinion, state ownership should prevail.
38. Would loans of money be a good way to improve your housing conditions or it would be enough to save up some money?
- a. With credits and in peace I would solve my problems relatively quickly;
 - b. Obedience of laws and credit agencies are among the most important conditions for the solution of the present problems;
 - c. For the improvement of the living conditions in our Republic are necessary... (your opinion).
39. Which economic system would be the most helpful for the population (private, public/social, mixed)?
- a. In my opinion, all economic systems should have a right to exist, but the private economy is the most efficient;
 - b. In my opinion, the public/social economy is preferable;
 - c. In my opinion, a mixed form is preferable.