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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2004

## Latest Casualty In War On Terror: Democracy In Russia

by Michael in New York on 9/15/2004 12:13:00 AM

Russian President-for-Life Vladimir Putin continues his stranglehold on power in the former (and future?) U.S.S. He's using that horrific attack on schoolchildren as an excuse to seize even more power - basically by massively overhauling the political systems and ending local elections for key officials throughout his empire.

The reaction of the duly elected people he's usurping? **"Thank you, President Putin."**

Putin claims the rebels/terrorists/insurgents are bent on the destruction of Mother Russia, though of course the truth is that the predominantly Muslim people of Chechnya have never called for any such thing -- they have repeatedly and consistently called for the removal of Russian troops that took over that land again after nominally declaring it independent.

You just know Bush wishes he were heading Russia instead of America. But he'd never get away with that sort of usurpation of power here, right? We'd never stand for a President who declared an indefinite state of emergency with expanding powers for the federal government, would we? We'd never allow Soviet-style powers where the government could grab American citizens off the street and lock them up forever and refuse to even acknowledge that they were holding anyone or even identify them to the press, would we? We'd never countenance the government making plans to "postpone" the election" if they thought necessary, would we? We'd never allow the US government to break every international treaty in sight and make a mockery of our values, would we? We'd never allow our men and women in uniform to be encouraged at every level to rape, beat and kill men, women and children in order to make ourselves safer, would we? So we have nothing to worry about here. What's happening in Russia could never happen here.



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