

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen,

We would like to bring to your attention a letter of our Abkhaz colleagues who were unable to come to Warsaw to the annual conference of the OSCE ODIHR 2014. They have not been given visas and it was done intentionally, as they are citizens of Abkhazia. They have been deprived of the right to bring objective information related to the state of human rights in Abkhazia. The same happens with the representatives of the Republic of South Ossetia, when they are denied entry to Europe and the United States, despite the fact that they are not criminals and terrorists. This is due to the fact that the Georgian government and its supporting countries block access of our citizens to international sites, such as this high meeting since they do not want the world to know the objective information, and received it only from the representatives of Georgia.

Thus, civil society representatives of Abkhazia, Gulnara Kichba, Chairperson of "Mothers of Abkhazia for Peace and Social Justice," Asida Lomiya, a member of the same organization and Liudmila Sagaria, a member of the charitable fund for persons with disabilities and amputees "Veresk" wrote in the letter as follows.

"We were going to participate in the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting of OSCE ODIHR 2014 on human dimension in Warsaw. We would like to mention that two persons participated last years in the work of this conference, Asida Lomiya three times, Liudmila Sagariya twice, and Gulnara Kichba had a Shengen Austrian visa. Regretfully that has not been taken into consideration, as well as the fact that we have been registered as participants of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2014, and Polish visas have been denied.

Participation in the conference is very important and it concerns human rights and human dimension. It was almost the only one place the Abkhaz civil society representatives could openly inform about concerns and the situation in the field of human rights in Abkhazia. The restriction of movement we consider as a gross and severe violation of human rights. Unfortunately it is placed on the people of Abkhazia with regard to their travelling to the countries of Europe, and elsewhere became a law especially lately.

Freedom of movement is one of the most critically important and fundamental human rights. In principle, it is the foundation of other basic human rights such as the right to education, the right to health care, and the right to life. For over twenty one years, this right has been violated and ignored by the global community, which in reality panders to the Georgian government and irrefutably disrespects the rights of the citizens of Abkhazia, regardless of their ethnic origin.

Sincerely,

Gulnara Kichba

Chairwoman of the public organization "Mothers of Abkhazia for Peace and Social Justice"

Asida Lomiya

Member of the public organization "Mothers of Abkhazia for Peace and Social Justice"

Liudmila Sagariya

Member of the Foundation of Disabled and Amputees "Veresk"

Sukhum,

Abkhazia

