



Delegation of Ukraine
to the OSCE

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ENGLISH only

GUAM Statement
at the 556th Meeting of the Permanent Council

As for delivery by Ambassador V.Yel'chenko

Mr. Chairman,

The GUAM expresses its deep concern regarding the detention of the OSCE monitors in the Georgian-Ossetian conflict zone on May 12, 2005. The mentioned incident is a proof that despite the agreements reached, there are a lot of serious impediments in the demilitarization process, caused by the Ossetian side.

The GUAM hopes that the parties involved in the conflict resolution process should make every effort to identify and appropriately prosecute those involved in the mentioned incident, in order to prevent the similar cases from occurring in the future.

At the same time, the GUAM welcomes the successful measures taken by the Joint Peacekeeping Forces that resulted in freeing of the OSCE monitors and demands their more active involvement in the conflict zone for further facilitation of the demilitarization process and prevention of the deployment of illegal paramilitary units.

In closing Mr. Chairman,

let me stress that the efforts of our Organization should be redoubled in order to find a long-lasting solution to conflicts in the South Ossetia and Abkhazia of Georgia on the basis of recognition of Georgia's territorial integrity and full respect to its sovereignty.

Thank you.