



EMBASSY OF GEORGIA TO THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA
PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO THE OSCE AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

S T A T E M E N T

*of the Head of the Department for International Organisations of the Ministry of Foreign
Affairs of Georgia Mr. Sergi Kapanadze
at the joint FSC-PC
Vienna 15 September, 2009*

Madam Chairperson,

While Georgia has aligned itself with the statement of the EU, allow me to add a few words in national capacity on two specific issues that had been discussed during the ASRC 2009.

One of the most significant topics at the 2009 Annual Security Review Conference was the August 2008 war between the Russian Federation and Georgia. This debate once again demonstrated how serious are the security implications of the protracted conflicts on the overall security within the OSCE. Due consideration of the August 2008 armed conflict in the context of all three OSCE dimensions was reflected in the 2009 ASRC chairperson's paper, which recommended improving of the OSCE capacity, as well as its instruments and mechanisms with respect to the peaceful resolution of conflicts. The paper also suggested that the OSCE institutions and operations should remain instrumental and have capacity to address all phases of a conflict.

Regrettably, since the ASRC of 2009 no progress has been achieved in following up on the recommendations, namely, in the context of the Russian-Georgian conflict. Against the background of closure of the OSCE and UN missions, the situation on the Georgian occupied regions of South Ossetia and

Abkhazia has further deteriorated, both in politico-military and Human Rights dimensions. In violation of the August 12 cease-fire agreement, the forceful redrawing of the borders of the sovereign state, military occupation and build-up, ethnic cleansing, policy of annexation *inter alia*, through the economic expansion, destruction of cultural heritage and appropriation of Georgian natural resources is continuing.

It is our strong position that the 2009 ASRC recommendations should be followed up through a constructive engagement of all States. The August war in Georgia had demonstrated that although OSCE mechanisms and procedures are still highly relevant, their effectiveness depends on the political will of the parties. In this regard, the ASRC recommendations justly refer to the importance of elaboration of such non-consensual mechanisms, which will overcome the absence of the political will of one participant state in the activation of the OSCE mechanisms.

We believe that the role of the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office is essential when the Permanent Council is deadlocked over the important decision. Today, when we no longer have the OSCE presence in Georgia because of Russian veto, the role of the Chairmanship-in-Office is essential in maintaining the OSCE foothold in one of the most challenging places in the OSCE area.

Madam Chairwoman,

The ASRC recommendations should be translated into the concrete decisions and materialized in concrete actions. That would make the OSCE capable of truly facilitating the peaceful resolution of the protracted conflicts. Here, I would also like to recall the FSC document DEL/154/09 which voiced the FSC chairmanship's opinion about future efforts for the peaceful resolution of the conflict between Russia and Georgia, among others, through implementation of August 12 and September 8 agreements, as well as the proper and meaningful international transparency measures.

In this regard, due consideration should also be given to the possibility of creation of a framework for negotiated settlement, as envisaged by the CSCE

Helsinki Document of 1992. Here, we believe, peacekeeping and international policing operations could serve as effective mechanisms for peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Madam Chairperson,

I would like to briefly touch on one more issue. At the last ASRC the issue on alarming situation in the North Caucasus Republics has been raised. It was suggested that the OSCE, including the HCNM and the ODIHR, should deal with this problem by providing an inclusive platform for addressing challenges to security and stability in this region.

At that meeting, Russian side agreed that there are grave security problems in the North Caucasus due to internal and external developments but assured us that it had taken steps necessary for the resolution of the problems. Regrettably, since June, security and human rights situation in these Republics has deteriorated even further. Facts on this issue is attached to this statement.

Current situation in the Northern Caucasus should be a topic of serious concern to the entire OSCE. Regretfully, during the recent years, the security situation in these Republics has been left without proper attention in this organization. CiO report on the ASRC recommends to consider more active role of the OSCE in the Northern Caucasus. Fortunately, the OSCE has enough capabilities, tools and mechanisms to follow up on this recommendation. In particular, the `Moscow Mechanism` can be used effectively to follow up.

Once again we appeal to all OSCE pS and its institutions, to work together in a constructive and inclusive manner to tackle this very serious challenge and to implement the aforementioned recommendation.

Thank You.

Information Note on the Developments in the North Caucasus
(January 1, 2009 – August 31, 2009)

In 2009 the situation in the North Caucasus Republics, namely Chechnya, Ingushetia and Dagestan has extremely deteriorated. Fewer tensions are observed in the republic of Kabardino-Balkaria. The situation remains comparatively stable in North Ossetia, Karachay-Cherkessia and Adygea.

The statistics on the armed incidents in the North Caucasus in the period between January and September 2009 (available from the open information sources) is the following:

The Republic of Chechnya - 203 incidents in total (154 incidents in 2008)

170 persons killed (117 in 2008)

Among them:	50	police officers (40 in 2008)
	13	militaries (25 in 2008)
	73	militants (28 in 2008),
	34	civilians (24 in 2008).

157 persons injured (126 in 2008)

Among them:	90	police officers (53 in 2008)
	30	militaries (59 in 2008)
	2	militants (no data is available for 2008)
	31	civilians (16 in 2008).

The Republic of Ingushetia - 276 incidents in total (223 incidents in 2008)

205 persons were killed (104 in 2008)

Among them:	82	police officers (46 in 2008),
	8	militaries (9 in 2008),
	57	militants (17 in 2008),
	58	civilians (32 in 2008).

278 persons injured (139 in 2008)

Among them:	224	police officers (52 in 2008)
	17	militaries (37 in 2008)
	31	civilians (50 in 2008)

The Republic of Dagestan - 193 incidents in total (33 in 2008)

179 people were killed (103 in 2008)

Among them:	37	police officers (36 in 2008)
	6	militaries (3 in 2008)
	80	militants (46 in 2008)
	50	civilians (18 in 2008)

113 people injured (82 in 2008)

	77	police officers (69 in 2008)
	5	militaries (no data is available for 2008)
	22	civilians (13 in 2008)

The Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria - 40 incidents in total (28 in 2008)

30 people were killed (12 in 2008)

Among them:	4	police officers (10 in 2008)
	24	militants (2 in 2008)
	2	civilians (no data is available for 2008)

21 people were injured (11 in 2008)

Among them:	17	police officers (10 in 2008)
	4	civilians (1 in 2008)

In total 727 incidents took place in the North Caucasus (585 incidents in 2008)

594 people killed (357 in 2008)

Among them:	172	police officers (143 in 2008)
	28	militaries (37 in 2008)
	223	militants (93 in 2008)
	160	civilians (84 in 2008)

585 people injured (375 in 2008)

Among them:	412	police officers (195 in 2008)
	47	militaries (94 in 2008)
	2	militants (no data is available for 2008)
	106	civilians (86 in 2008)

Since April 16, 2009 when the counter-terrorist operation regime ended in Chechnya the number of armed incidents increased significantly. Formal reason behind discontinuation of the aforementioned regime was “successful fight against terrorism and stabilisation of the situation on the ground”. On April 20,

2009 local counterterrorist operation regime was established in the Itum-Kale and Vedeno regions of Chechnya. On April 23 the same regime was applied in the villages of Shatoi and Shali.

Statistics show that the number of casualties among the illegal armed militants has increased sharply. The number of direct armed attacks has increased accordingly. As an example, according to the official data on May 16 2009, as a result of the joint operation of Chechen and Ingush law enforcers 28 militants have been killed and 20 detained. According to different sources 19 police officers have been killed and 26 wounded. Activities of the law enforcement agencies have been followed by reciprocal attacks from illegal militia: on July 4, 2009 Chechnya's police column has come under attack on the territory of Ingushetia - 9 policemen have been killed and 10 wounded. On August 17, 2009 a terrorist act against Nazran Police Headquarters took place in Ingushetia - according to the available data 25 policemen have been killed and more than 100 have been wounded.

Since May 2009 numerous attacks have been reported on high officials. Namely, on May 25, 2009 the deputy Mufta Akhmad Tagaev was killed, on June 5th 2009 the Minister of Interior of Dagestan Adilgeri Magomedtagirov was also murdered, on June 10 2009 Deputy Head of the Supreme Court of Ingushetia Aza Gazgarieva was killed, on June 22, 2009 the President of the republic of Ingushetia Iunus-bek Evkurov was heavily wounded.

In accordance to the local and International Human Rights NGOs, since the end of the counter-terrorist operation regime in Chechnya, the number of facts of HRs violations and crimes against the peaceful population, including murdering and kidnapping committed by the law-enforcement structures has also increased.

The facts of attacks on the representatives of local and International HR NGOs are of a special concern. In this context, the killing of Natalia Estemirova – a member of the organisation “Memorial”, as well as Chechen NGO “Save the Generation” activist Zarema Sadulaeva and her husband Alik Jabrailov have to be underlined.