



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**

On installation by the Russian Federation of tactical operational missile launch system “Scarab B”, also known as “Tochka-U” on the occupied Tskhinvali region of Georgia

As delivered by the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the OSCE,  
Ambassador Paata Gaprindashvili

to the 848<sup>th</sup> session of the OSCE Permanent Council

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Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to inform the Permanent Council about recent actions undertaken by the Russian Federation against Georgia, aimed at further destabilization of the occupied Georgian regions and the whole South Caucasus.

Unfortunately, the aggressive policy of the Russian Federation has not changed even after the Georgian President’s peaceful initiative and the declaration on the non-use of force, which has been unambiguously supported by the international community.

On 24 January 2011, the Russian Federation’s so-called fourth military base in the occupied Tskhinvali region of Georgia was reinforced by the tactical operational missile launch system “Scarab B”, also known as “Tochka-U”. According to its technical specifications, this system is capable of accurately bombarding objects up to a range of 120 km.

I would like to remind colleagues that it was with “Tochka-U” systems that Russian armed forces completely destroyed the city of Bamut (Republic of Chechnya) and eliminated its peaceful population. The ballistic missiles of this system can be equipped with cluster warheads (consisting of 50 bomblets) or nuclear warheads.

It needs to be emphasized that the militarization policy being carried out by the Russian Federation in the occupied Georgian territories is acquiring an

unprecedented intensity. In December 2010, an artillery battalion equipped with Smerch multiple-launch rocket systems with a range of 70 to 90 kilometres was stationed in the vicinity of Tskhinvali, Georgia.

On 11 August 2010, the commander of the Russian air force Alexander Zelin announced the deployment of the S-300 anti-aircraft missile system on the territory of occupied Abkhazia, Georgia.

In combination with the ongoing reinforcement of illegally deployed Russian military bases in the occupied Georgian regions, hostile rhetoric from Moscow, and Russia's unwillingness to pledge the non-use of force, these facts clearly indicate the intention of the Government of the Russian Federation to launch further aggression against Georgia and also to cause large-scale instability in the Caucasus and the Black Sea regions.

Mr. Chairperson,

We strongly encourage the international community, international organizations and partner countries to take active and effective measures in order to compel Russia to end its aggressive policy against Georgia and avoid the further escalation of an already tense situation on the ground. It is essential that Russia make the commitment to the non-use of force towards Georgia and that it start implementing the 12 August ceasefire agreement. We strongly believe that mentioned issues should be raised with Moscow on the permanent basis within both, bilateral and multilateral formats.

Thank you.