



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 delegation of Georgia to the OSCE,
at the 862nd session of the OSCE Permanent Council

Vienna, May 19, 2011

Mr. Chairman,

On 18 May 2011, at approximately 8 a.m., five young men (aged 17, 21, 22, 26 and 27) from Tchalvani village, Sachkhere district, were collecting crops in the Chonto valley, in the immediate vicinity of the occupation line. Armed representatives of the occupying regime in military uniforms attempted to detain the young men and opened fire when they tried to escape. Two citizens were wounded, including a 17 years old high school student. As a result, his health is in critical condition.

The Georgian side assesses this fact as yet another criminal act of the occupying forces and manifestation of their unjustifiable brutality, which increases tension in the vicinity of the occupied regions of Georgia. Ten Georgian citizens remain illegally detained in Tskhinvali, despite persistent calls from the international community for their immediate release. The Russian Federation and its proxy regimes continue aggressive and destabilizing policy, aimed at terrorizing and threatening the local population.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia declares that the Russian Federation, as an occupying power, is fully responsible for the 18 May incident and the fate of the detained persons in Tskhinvali. It is time for the Russian Federation to start fulfilling its international commitments and accept

accountability for the criminal acts, implemented with the direct involvement or patronage of Russian armed forces.

Irresponsible and criminal acts of Russian occupying forces and its proxy regimes constitute the serious factor of destabilization. It is noteworthy that after the terrorist acts planned in the occupied territories, the occupying forces exercise new types of provocations. Such actions manifest the gross violation of the August 12 Ceasefire agreement and universally recognized international norms and principles by the Russian Federation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia calls upon the Russian Federation to immediately start the implementation of the 12 August ceasefire agreement and make concrete steps to investigate and eradicate such incidents. The first serious step in this direction will be a reciprocal commitment of non-use of force and providing an unimpeded access to the occupied territories for the international monitoring mission and humanitarian organizations. It is obvious that only restoration of international presence, will help to avoid such incidents and establish security and stability in the occupied regions of Georgia and in their vicinity.

We call upon the international community to give an appropriate assessment to this incident. The Georgian side will raise the issue about such incidents, terrorist acts, and illegal detention of persons at the Geneva Discussions and the Incident Prevention and Reaction Mechanism meetings and will categorically call for Russia to stop provocative and destabilizing acts.

Thank You.