

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 26 AUGUST 2008 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT ON THE UPDATE OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN GEORGIA

I have the honour to transmit to you the texts of the statement made by the delegation of Georgia on 26 August 2008 at the 1115th Plenary Meeting* of the Conference of Disarmament concerning military aggression of the Russian Federation on the territory of Georgia as well as the enclosed papers.

I would be grateful if you could arrange for the text of this letter, together with the attached statement and enclosed papers, to be issued and circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed): Giorgi Gorgiladze
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* See CD/PV.1115 for the statement as delivered.

The Permanent Representative of Georgia, Ambassador Giorgi Gorgiladze would like to take this opportunity to update the respectful Conference on Disarmament on the current situation in Georgia, as it was subject of discussion during the meeting last week.

Speaking in legal terms, Georgia has been subjected to the full-scale military aggression by the Russian Federation in violation of the principles and rules of the United Nations Charter, including the prohibition of the use of force among states and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia. It was rather disgraceful when the Russian Federation used so called violation of the rights of Ossetians in Georgia as a pretext for its unlawful acts. Georgia will not engage in the debate regarding the justifications employed by the Russian Federation as grounds for its act of aggression, but merely note that in general terms the international community does not approve any recourse to the use of force for so called "protection of citizens/nationals abroad" as it contradicts to the principles of UN Charter and lacks any legitimacy without Security Council authorization. Ironically, the Russian Federation has never pursued any international mechanism as a proper arena for discussion of their concerns even if one could argue that there is a legitimate reasoning behind Russia's argument. Russia's justification suspiciously stands out after the massive passportization conducted in Abkhazia, Georgia and South Ossetia, Georgia and represents a violation of the principles of sovereignty and good neighborliness¹. It further, questions the true purpose and motives of such intervention, especially without any prior appeal to the international community into the matter².

As for the scale of massive deaths of civilians in Tskhinvali Region of Georgia, as argued by the Russian Federation as another legal ground for justification of an intervention, this fact has not been confirmed either by the international human rights organizations such as Human Rights Watch, or by the Russian Law Enforcement authorities³. It is unfortunate, that civilian casualties took place in course of conduct of hostilities and we do mourn for those civilians, as the loss of any civilian life in situation of an armed conflict is a tragic event.

It is most unfortunate, that the civilian population throughout Georgia became a direct victim of the aggressive acts of the Russian Federation. In particular, the Russian armed forces have acted in breach of the major principles governing means and methods of warfare under international

¹ OSCE High Commissioner issues statement on protection of minorities and citizens abroad, found at <http://www.osce.org/item/32663.html>

² Notably, the international humanitarian organizations are not allowed to enter the territories controlled by the Russian forces. Only, the International Committee of the Red Cross, after the lengthy negotiation had been allowed to access Tskhinvali, Georgia.

³ Human Rights Watch reported that it was able to document fewer than 100 civilian deaths in course of conduct of hostilities. It further notes that in course of conduct of hostilities the attacks were directed at military objects, not at the civilians - found at <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2008/08/10/georgi19581.htm>
The Investigators of the Russian prosecutor office reported only 133 civilian deaths in South Ossetia, Georgia - found at www.kommersant.ru/doc.aspx?DocsID=1013890&ThemesID=301

humanitarian law. These violations continued even after the cease-fire agreement, that was brokered by the President of France, Mr. Sarkozy acting in capacity of EU President, has been signed by the presidents from both sides: Georgia and the Russian Federation on 15-16 August 2008. On August 23rd, only after one week of military occupation of the part of the territory of Georgia, the Russian authorities announced of their *pull out* from the territories of Georgia proper, however, it has been done only partly. As of today, the Russian forces occupy the territories of Georgia proper⁴, going beyond the conflict zone of Tskhinvali Region of Georgia. Apart from the fact, that the Russia's behavior represents the manifest violation of the cease-fire agreement, the situation has been further deteriorated by the acts of looting, pillage and destruction of property, detention of the civilian population and their inhuman treatment, summary executions and hostage taking by the Russian armed forces as well as on the territories falling under control of the Russian armed forces.

When speaking of the violation of the means and methods of warfare, it seems that the principle of humanity that guided Fyodor Martens during the drafting of the treaties in international humanitarian law, has been forgotten by the current Russian authorities. In course of the last 2 weeks, the civilian objects (cities, hospitals, academic facilities, church) throughout Georgia have been subject to military attacks in violation of the principle of distinction. While leaving parts of occupied territory of Georgia, the Russian armed forces left mined railroads, civil infrastructure and public offices, that *per se* do not qualify as military objects under the respective rules of humanitarian law. The acts were rather directed to increase humanitarian crisis, develop economic restraints and terrorise ordinary civilian population. The time-line as well as information regarding the civilian objects subjected to attacks/bombardment has been enclosed with this statement.

Georgia particularly would like to draw the attention of the Conference on the use of cluster munitions and other types of means of warfare having indiscriminate effect on civilian population by the Russian armed forces. In particular, the Russian armed forces extensively used [and left] missile system 9M72 "Iskander" (SS-26 Stone), Short Range Tactical Ballistic Missiles "Tochka-U" (SS-21 Scarab), multiple launch rocket systems "Grad" and "Uragan", different modifications of cluster munitions (including RBK-250). The pictures of cluster munitions is enclosed with this statement.

The large amount of unexploded ordnance and anti-personal mines has been left, often purposefully on the roads, meadows and farms, resulting into civilian casualties on daily basis. The existing situation has a grave consequence on hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons that have been willing to return to the places of their permanent residence.

Apart from the civilian objects and civilian population, the Russian armed forces targeted Georgia's environment – bombarding with the incendiary munitions the mountainous regions of Borjomi and settlement of Tsemi. The broad areas of timber land have been set on fire, several hundred hectares

⁴ This means that the Russian Armed forces apart from remaining in Abkhazia, Georgia and South Ossetia, Georgia are still present in the territory that was under control of Georgian authorities before the outbreak of hostilities, such as villages near Gori, Port Poti and nearby vicinity, Upper Kodory, etc.

of unique flora including the protected plant species of National Park were burnt to the ground in violation of the Protocol III of the CCW⁵.

Today, Georgia is still waiting that the Russian government would adhere to the Cease-Fire Agreement, act in good faith and leave the territories of Georgia occupied by its armed forces. In that respect, Georgia appeals to all members of the international community to support the internationalization of the problem-solution and confidence building process, with the active participation of all relevant international organizations and mechanisms.

⁵ Article 2(4) explicitly prohibits making forests or other kind of plant cover object of the attack by incendiary weapons, Protocol III on Prohibition or Restriction on the use of Incendiary Weapons of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, 10 October 1980;

Annex

[ENGLISH ONLY]

Timeline of Russian Aggression in Georgia

DOCUMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA

25 AUGUST 2008

TBILISI

The Government of Georgia invites the international community and journalists to verify the information laid out in the timeline below.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

In seeking to justify its invasion of Georgia, Russia has claimed that its forces entered Georgian territory only after a purported “surprise Georgian assault” on Tskhinvali; however, Moscow continues to refuse to make public the time at which Russia launched its invasion into Georgia.

As the following timeline makes clear, Georgian Government forces advanced into the Tskhinvali region only after days of intensive shelling that caused civilian deaths in villages under Georgian control —and after confirmation that a massive Russian land force had begun invading Georgia through the Roki Tunnel.

This was the culmination of months of meticulous planning by Russia; 40,000 Russian troops were soon occupying Georgia, as part of a simultaneous land, air and sea assault, unfolding a premeditated strategy that had little to do with Russia’s stated claim of protecting its recently created “citizens” in the Tskhinvali region.

This document is organized into the following three sections:

- I. RUSSIAN ESCALATION 2004-AUGUST 2008: Russian Policy Toward Georgia in the Months Before the Invasion**
- II. KEY POINTS: The Days Before, During & After Russia’s Invasion of Georgia**
- III. DETAILED CHRONOLOGY: THE DAYS BEFORE, During & After Russia’s Invasion of Georgia**

I. RUSSIAN ESCALATION 2004-JULY 2008: Key Developments in the Russian Military & Political Escalation Before the Invasion of Georgia

- **Georgian peace proposals repeatedly rejected by Russia (2004 onwards):** Beginning in 2004, the Georgian Government has repeatedly proposed to launch a genuine peace process for South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Years of stalemate had left all ethnic populations in both conflict zones impoverished and without any effective protection of basic rights; Georgians in particular were targeted and persecuted on ethnic grounds. The Russian Federation and separatist leaders have rejected Georgia's peace initiatives each and every time they have been proposed—even when the international community backed the initiatives. As a result, South Ossetia and Abkhazia have become hubs for acute criminal activity, including kidnapping, extortion, counterfeiting, smuggling of arms and drugs. At least one case of nuclear smuggling has been confirmed (Annex 1).
- **Russia gains stranglehold over separatist governments (2005 onwards):** In recent years, Moscow has been exerting an increasingly strong hold over the separatist governments; since 2005, Russian military and civilian officials seconded from Moscow effectively have been governing South Ossetia (Annex 2).
- **Russia builds illegal base near Tskhinvali (2006):** In spring 2006, Russian forces illegally build of a forward military base in the strategically located town of Java (north of Tskhinvali). The base has capacity for 2,500 soldiers, and includes substantial fuel-storage capabilities for tanks and other armored vehicles.
- **CIS arms/economic embargo lifted illegally by Moscow (March 2008):** In March, the Russian Federation unilaterally—and illegally—withdraws from a CIS economic and arms embargo imposed in 1994 on the secessionist region of Abkhazia, Georgia.
- **International community condemns Russia's legal recognition of S. Ossetia & Abkhazia (April 2008):** On April 16, Moscow sharply escalates tensions by decreeing the establishment of legal links between Russia and the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia; this is a form of de facto annexation of Georgian territory and draws sharp rebukes from the entire international community—including the EU, the US, the OSCE, and others, who call for the immediate reversal of this Russian decision.
- **United Nations confirms Russia downs Georgian aircraft over Georgian airspace (April 2006):** On April 20, a Russian fighter jet downs an unarmed Georgian drone (MIA) over Georgian airspace (near Ganmukhuri), an act of aggression confirmed by formal UNOMIG and OSCE investigative reports. (Annex 3)
- **Russia increases troop strength & introduces paratroopers into Abkhazia (May/June 2008):** In the following weeks, Russia continues to unilaterally increase its troop strength in

Abkhazia, without fulfilling its legal obligation to seek the consent of Georgia; among other moves, it deploys paratrooper units, which are incompatible with the existing format for peacekeeping.

- **Russia moves illegal heavy weaponry & offensive forces into Abkhazia (May/June 2008):** In direct contravention of all peacekeeping norms and agreements, Russia introduces additional offensive military troops and heavy weaponry in Abkhazia, verified by UNOMIG.
- **Russian railroad troops sent to Abkhazia to prepare rails for invasion (May 26, 2008):** On May 26, Russia sends more than 400 hundreds of Ministry of Defense "railroad troops" into Abkhazia to reinforce the rail infrastructure needed for military action; these troops do not belong to any peacekeeping unit.
- **As peace plan advances, Russian provocations move to S. Ossetia (July 2008):** In July, as the efforts by Georgia and the international community to advance peace proposals for Abkhazia are gathering pace, the focus of Russian provocations suddenly shifts to South Ossetia.
- **Separatists attempt to assassinate S. Ossetian unionist leader (July 3, 2008):** On July 3, South Ossetian separatists attempt to assassinate Dimitry Sanakoyev, the Head of the Temporary Administration of South Ossetia; three policemen are injured.
- **Russia defiantly acknowledges violating Georgian airspace (July 10, 2008):** On July 9, Four Russian military aircraft violate Georgian airspace on the eve of US Secretary of State Rice's visit to Georgia. Although Russia continually violates Georgian airspace, this is the first time Moscow acknowledges it has done so deliberately.
- **Russia undertakes large-scale military exercises near S. Ossetia: & Abkhazia (July 2008):** Russia launches large-scale military exercises (July 15-August 2) in the immediate vicinity of Georgia's northern border; they are named "Caucasus 2008." The Russian Defense Ministry claims that the exercises, involving over 8,000 troops and 700 pieces of military hardware, are aimed at preparing for "special peace enforcement operations" in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. During the exercise, anti-Georgian leaflets are distributed entitled "Know Your Enemy".
- **Russian troops fail to redeploy (August 2 2008):** Russian troops participating in the exercise do not re-deploy from the region when the exercises are finished.
- **Separatists reject German-mediated peace plan (July 18, 2008):** On July 18, Abkhaz separatists reject a German-mediated peace plan and refuse to attend peace talks scheduled in Berlin.
- **EU organizes peace talks, separatists fail to appear (July 22-24, 2008):** On July 22-24, the EU tries to hold talks in Brussels between representatives of the Government of Georgia and the South Ossetian separatists, with the participation of the Russian Federation. The

separatists refuse to participate, initially objecting to the title of Minister Yakobashvili—“Minister for Reintegration.” In response, the Georgian Government appoints Mr. Yakobashvili as a Special Envoy for Conflict Resolution. The separatists once again refuse to attend the talks on unspecified grounds.

- **OSCE proposes peace talks, separatists reject proposal** (late July 2008): OSCE Chairman in Office, Finnish Foreign Minister Alexander Stubb, proposes talks in Helsinki in early August between South Ossetian separatists and the Georgian Government. The separatists reject the proposal.

II. KEY POINTS: The Days Before, During & After Russia’s Invasion of Georgia

- **July 3:** One month before Russia’s invasion into Georgia, separatists try to assassinate Dimitri Sanakoyev, Head of the Temporary Administration of South Ossetia. A remote control road bomb exploded while Mr Sanakoyev’s cortege was passing by. Five policemen accompanying Mr. Sanakoyev were wounded. Mr. Sanakoyev—a former separatist fighter and defense minister in the separatist government - laid down his arms in 2006 to promote the peaceful re-integration of the region with the rest of the country under a broad autonomy arrangement. Mr. Sanakoyev was elected in democratic elections and administered up to 50% of the territory of the region.
- **July 29:** For the first time since last major hostilities, separatist militia begin intensively shelling ethnically mixed villages under Georgian control, including those of them where the Georgian peacekeepers held their check-points, with large-caliber artillery (greater than 82 mm) which is prohibited by existing agreements. This fact is formally acknowledged by the Head of “Peacekeeping Forces,” Russian General Marat Kulakhmetov on August 4 (he makes specific reference to the shelling on villages under Government control on August 1 and 2 with high caliber artillery). Shelling of this magnitude continues on a regular basis through August 7, in advance of the Russian land invasion into Georgia.
- **1 August:** A pickup truck carrying six police officers of MIA of Georgia is hit by two remote-control explosive devices (IED) on the Eredvi-Kheiti bypass road, close to the Government controlled enclave north of the city of Tskhinvali. Five policemen are severely wounded.
- **3 August:** Russian media outlets report the large-scale mobilization of volunteers across the Russian North Caucasus, including pledges by Cossacks to deploy mercenary troops into Georgia.
- **4 August:** The separatists announce the evacuation of the civilian population from Tskhinvali and from the separatist controlled villages of the region.

- **5 & 7 August:** At the request of President Saakashvili, Special Envoy Temur Yakobashvili twice attempts to negotiate with separatists, but his requests are rebuffed.
- **7 August:** The Special Envoy of Russia's Foreign Ministry, Yuri Popov, fails to mediate preliminary agreed talks on a ceasefire, citing refusal by the separatists, while shelling of Villages under Government control continues.
- General Kulakhmetov, during the meeting in Tskhinvali with Special Envoy Yakobashvili, declares that he cannot contact the separatist leaders, and that Russian "peacekeepers" cannot stop the separatist attacks; General Kulakhmetov admits that the separatists were shooting from the vicinity of Russian "peacekeeping" posts.
- In spite of casualties among Georgian peacekeepers and civilians killed by separatist fire, President Saakashvili orders an immediate ceasefire and calls for negotiations. He reaffirms the Government's proposal to grant broad "European standard" autonomy to the region, and offers Russia to serve as a guarantor. President Saakashvili also announces an unconditional amnesty for separatists who agree to cease hostilities.
- Despite the ceasefire declared by President Saakashvili, the separatists intensify their shelling of villages under Georgian control and Georgian peacekeeper posts.
- Approximately 150 armored vehicles and military trucks of the Russian regular army stream into the Roki Tunnel and head towards Tskhinvali. In response to the entry of Russian armed forces into Georgian territory, the Georgian military enters the conflict zone in the region.
- Russia claims that its forces entered Georgian territory only after a purported "surprise Georgian assault" on Tskhinvali; however Russia continues to refuse to make public the time at which it launched its invasion into Georgia.
- **8 August:** The Ministry of Defense of Russia and various senior officials claim that Georgian forces "have killed 2,000 civilians" in Tskhinvali.
- **11 August:** Human Rights Watch representative say that Russia purposely exaggerated casualty figures in Tskhinvali, leading to revenge killings against the ethnic Georgian population (Annex 4).
- **21 August:** The Russian Prosecutor General's Office reports significantly lower civilian casualty figures in the South Ossetia region at 133. There is a strong likelihood that the majority of these casualties were separatist militiamen, as local officials frequently refer to non-Russian servicemen as civilians (Annexes 5 and 6).

- **9–24 August:** Following the retreat of Georgian armed forces towards Tbilisi, the Russian armed forces and paramilitary groups conduct widespread atrocities, including the burning, looting, kidnapping, raping, and summary executions of Georgian civilians inside and outside the zone of conflict. Within the zone of conflict, entire villages of Eredvi, Avnevi, Nuli, Kurta, Achabeti, Tamarasheni, Kekhvi, Disevi, etc., are deliberately burned and destroyed, resulting in the ethnic cleansing of Georgians. Many of these events are confirmed in reports issued by international human rights organizations. (Annex 7).

III. DETAILED CHRONOLOGY: The Days Before, During & After Russia's Invasion of Georgia

28 July: Separatist units open fire at joint peacekeeping forces and an OSCE observer group moving towards the village of Chorbauli (Znauri district), thus disrupting monitoring activity.

29 July: Separatists open fire at villages under Government control to the north of Tskhinvali. They fire at a group of OSCE observers, working with the joint peacekeeping forces, who are on their way to the village of Andzisi. (Annex 8) 120 mm mortars and grenade launchers target a Georgian peacekeeping checkpoint near the village of Sarabuki.

30 July: A Georgian police car, traveling between the villages of Kekhvi and Sveri, is fired upon from positions in the separatist-controlled village of Andzisi.

31 July: The joint monitoring group of the JPKF and the OSCE mission observe large-scale fortification works undertaken by the separatists on two checkpoints between Tskhinvali and the village of Ergneti.

1 August: A pickup truck carrying six Georgian police officers is hit by two remote-control explosive devices (IED) close to a Georgian enclave north of the city of Tskhinvali. Five policemen are severely wounded. Later that day, separatists open fire with machine guns and grenade launchers on the villages under Government control Kvemo Nikozi, Zemo Nikozi, Avnevi, Ergneti, and Eredvi. Attacks also are directed at Georgian police and peacekeepers checkpoints. In the village of Nuli, one person is wounded and several houses damaged. Georgian peacekeepers checkpoint in Sarabuki comes under attack. In the village of Ergneti, one person is wounded and two houses are damaged. Separatists reported, that six separatist militia are killed and 12 wounded after Georgian police open fire in response.

2 August: Six civilians and one servicemen of MIA of Georgia are injured after separatists shell villages under Georgian control in the conflict zone overnight. The villages of Zemo Nikozi, Kvemo Nikozi, Nuli, Avnevi, Eredvi, and Ergneti come under intense large-caliber mortar fire the separatists. Georgian law enforcers initially shoot back in self-defense, but are soon ordered to cease fire in order not to escalate the situation.

3 August: The separatist government starts an evacuation of the civilian population from the city of Tskhinvali and villages under separatist control of the region. The evacuation continues for the next two days.

Russian media outlets start a massive propaganda campaign against Georgia, advocating for volunteers and militias to support separatists in South Ossetia. Representatives of major Russian television networks (i.e. NTV, RTR, ORT, Ren TV, TVC, etc.) are on-site in Tskhinvali.

South Ossetia media sources report the mobilization of volunteers from across the North Caucasus of Russia.

4 August: General Marat Kulakhmetov, Head of the "Peacekeeping Forces," formally acknowledges the shelling of Georgian positions with illegal (large-caliber) artillery. (Annex 9). On the evening of August 4, the medical and communication units of Russia's 58th Army enter South Ossetia, according to human intelligence received by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia.

Eleven artillery gunships (2S1-"Gvozdika") in the possession of separatists are relocated from Java to the villages of Andzisi, Dzari, and Tsuru, close to Tskhinvali, according to intelligence provided to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia.

5 August: 3 tanks and 2 military trucks with armed soldiers are reported moving towards the village of Avnevi. According to telephone intercepts, separatist internal affairs minister M. Mindzaev (formerly head of the General Staff of the Ministry of Interior of North Ossetia, Russia and former head of the Alfa Special Forces Group during Russia's operation in Beslan) orders a massive attack on—and the elimination of—the village Dvani (SigInt)*.

*Here and below signal interceptions are cited. They are available upon request.

Special Envoy Temur Yakobashvili visits the conflict zone Tskhinvali, meets Russian General Marat Kulakhmetov, to agree the next meeting for 7 August to defuse the situation.

A journalist of *Le Figaro*, Laure Mandeville later quotes a Russian soldier in Gori who says that Russian troops began moving from Shali in the Chechnya region of Russia towards Georgia on August 5.

6 August: Approximately 150 volunteers from the North Caucasus arrive in Tskhinvali as reported by local television; militants from other North Caucasian republics join separatist units.

Russian and local employees working on the military base in Tskhinvali are temporarily dismissed. Shops and other offices are closed, as reported on local television.

In the late afternoon at approximately 16:00, separatists open mortar fire from the villages of Pranevi, Ubiati, and Khetagurovo at ethnically mixed and Georgian-controlled villages of Eredvi, Prisi, Avnevi, Dvani, and Nuli. Khetagurovo was the main artillery base of the separatists. This attack continues until approximately 19:00.

A lull is then observed for one hour, with attacks resuming at 20:00 and lasting until late into the night. Georgian government forces fire back in order to defend their positions and the civilian population. As a result of intensive cross-fire during the night, two servicemen of the Georgian battalion of the Joint Peacekeeping Forces are injured. The separatist regime also

claims several persons are injured on their side. Despite these provocative, targeted attacks on peaceful civilians and on Georgian police and peacekeeping forces, the Government of Georgia decides not to respond with heavy fire, in order not to escalate the conflict.

7 August: In a morning interview with Russian TV (NTV) and news agencies, South Ossetian separatist leader Eduard Kokoity declares that if the Georgian government does not withdraw its forces from the region, he will start "to wipe them out." The Georgian military forces to which he refers are peacekeepers legally present in the South Ossetia conflict zone.

Georgian Special Envoy Temur Yakobashvili visits the conflict zone on August 7 to meet with representatives of the separatists. He meets General Marat Kulakhmetov, in Tskhinvali; Kulakhmetov states that he cannot contact the separatist leader Kokoity, and that Russian peacekeepers cannot stop the separatist attacks. Kulakhmetov admits that the separatists are shooting from the vicinity of Russian peacekeeping posts. During this meeting, at approximately 16:00, General Kulakhmetov suggests to Minister Yakobashvili that the Government of Georgia declare a unilateral ceasefire.

The Special Envoy of Russia's Foreign Ministry, Yuri Popov fails to arrive to Tskhinvali, as previously agreed together with Minister Yakobashvili, citing a flat tire and a flat spare tire. When he finally reaches Tskhinvali, Popov meets Kokoity, and afterwards concedes that he cannot convince the separatists to hold urgent talks with Minister Yakobashvili (Annex 10).

Earlier, at approximately 00:15, separatists begin attacking the villages of Eredvi, Prisi, and Vanati, with artillery, including mortars and grenade launchers. Simultaneously, the separatists attack the Sarabuki Heights, where Georgian peacekeepers are stationed. Three Georgian peacekeepers are wounded during the Sarabuki attack. The fighting in this area continues until approximately 10:00.

At approximately 11:00, separatists resume shelling the Georgian villages of Nuli, Avnevi, Vanati, from the village of Khetagurovo. Three Georgian servicemen are injured; a Georgian law enforcers return fire towards the village where the firing comes from, Khetagurovo, killing two separatists and wounding two others. At approximately 14:00, the Georgian peacekeeping checkpoint in Avnevi is shelled, including again from Khetagurovo, killing two Georgian peacekeepers and eight civilians. Phone conversation interception of separatist militia confirming the death of Georgian military servicemen and civilians is available (Sigint)*.

After the killing of civilians and Georgian peacekeepers, at approximately 14:30, Georgian armed forces receive intelligence that Russian troops that had still not redeployed from July's North Caucasian military exercises have been put on high alert and have received orders to prepare to march towards the Georgian border.

At approximately 14:30, Georgian forces mobilize tanks, 122mm howitzers, and 203mm self-propelled artillery in the direction of the administrative border of South Ossetia, in an effort to deter further separatist attacks, and to be in a position to defend the Russian-Georgian border in the event that Russia invades.

At approximately 17:00, Minister Yakobashvili calls General Kulakhmetov to inform him of the Government of Georgia's decision to implement a unilateral ceasefire.

At approximately 17:10, Georgian peacekeepers unilaterally cease fire to defuse tensions.

At 18:40, Minister Yakobashvili holds a press conference to discuss the results of his visit to Tskhinvali, and announces the decision of the Government of Georgia to call for and implement a unilateral ceasefire.

At 19:10, in a televised address, President Saakashvili declares a unilateral ceasefire and calls for the separatists to respect it and resume talks.

At approximately 20:30, a Government controlled village of Avnevi comes under separatist mortar fire from Khetagurovo.

The chairman of the separatist Security Council, Anatoly Barankevich (a long-standing Russian military officer, who served for four years as First Deputy of the Military Commissioner in Chechnya), tells the local TV that armed groups of Cossacks are headed towards South Ossetia to "fight against Georgian forces".

At 22:30, separatists fire at the Government-controlled village of Prisi and Tamarsheni, from Tskhinvali and the mountain of Tliakana, wounding civilians.

At 23:30, separatists open heavy fire on all Georgian peacekeepers' positions around Tskhinvali, including the villages of Tamarasheni and Kurta; the Kurta police station is destroyed.

At 23:30, Georgian Government receive multiple human intelligence reports that about 150 armored vehicles and trucks with Russian soldiers are approaching the Roki Tunnel from Russia and moving towards Tskhinvali. Multiple signal intercepts of separatist security and military officials at around 3am and later confirm that columns are stretched from Roki to Java. (Sigint)*.

At 23:50, for the first time, and in response to the entry of Russian armed forces into Georgian sovereign territory, Georgian armed forces enter military action—using armor, including tanks, 122mm howitzers, and 203mm self-propelled artillery system Dana.

At approximately 00:45 on August 8, Georgian forces fire artillery rounds at the invading Russian forces on roads being used by a Russian column already moving south of the Roki Tunnel.

After Russia's Full-Scale Invasion: 8 August to present

Outside Tskhinvali

On August 8, after advancing into the conflict zone of South Ossetia, Georgian armed forces seized control of a significant number of villages around Tskhinvali during a five-hour period (Tsinagara, Orchosani, Didmukha, Muguti, Gromi, Dmenisi, and Artsevi). During the fighting, Georgian armed forces encountered substantial Russian forces and separatist militias on the Zara bypass road leading to the northeastern part of Tskhinvali and the village of Khetagurovo,

which had been substantially re-enforced with advanced artillery systems, armored vehicles, and self-propelled artillery. In response, Georgian artillery shelled both positions. Georgian artillery and aviation conducted a targeted attacks on the Gupta bridge, where Russian armed columns were entering Tskhinvali.

Outskirts of Tskhivali and Inside Tskhinvali

Tskhinvali is a small regional town, located in a river valley, approximately 75 kilometers from Tbilisi. Immediately prior to the conflict, the population was approximately 7,000, based on local intelligence estimates and on-the-ground reports. Following the mass evacuation on August 3-5, the number of residents decreased substantially.

Several Georgian positions were under attack from points on the outskirts of town, specifically from Verkhny Gorodok (the location of the Russian "peacekeepers" on the non-residential southwest portion of the city). This was the first position in the immediate vicinity of Tskhinvali that Georgian forces targeted using GRAD multiple-rocket launching systems, following repeated warnings to the Russian "peacekeeping" forces not to allow their positions to be used for attacks. Soon thereafter, Georgian artillery (again using GRADs) targeted stockpiles of munitions and fuel depots located on the western part of the city—outside civilian areas—and military barracks in the northwest part of Tskhinvali—also outside civilian areas.

At approximately 11:00, once Georgian forces had secured the heights around Tskhinvali, Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior forces entered the city of Tskhinvali. These forces came under fire from positions around the main government compound, located in the center of Tskhinvali. In response, Georgian forces employed precise artillery system Dana (not GRAD) against the ministries of defense, interior, intelligence (KGB), and the main government building of the separatists.

Russian aviation bombed Georgian positions on a continuous basis inside and around Tskhinvali once Government forces began advancing on the town. Russian aviation continued bombing in and around Tskhinvali for the next two days (until late in the day on August 10).

At approximately 14:00, Georgian forces took control of most of Tskhinvali. At 15:00, Georgian forces declared a 3-hour ceasefire to establish a humanitarian corridor.

Georgian forces began a phased retreat from Tskhinvali during the evening of August 9. Forces re-positioned themselves south of the city.

During the two days that Georgian forces were in control of separatist controlled villages (from August 8) there were no credible reports of looting or abuse of civilian populations, according to international human rights organizations. The ethnic Ossetian population in the conflict zone was not displaced, unlike the ethnic Georgian population under the Russian occupation. The only village that sustained severe damage was the village of Khetagurovo due to the location of substantial amounts of military equipment and forces around the village. After Government forces seized Khetagurovo, there was no cruel or degrading treatment of the civilian population, as documented by Human Rights Watch (Annex 11).

Russian Attacks & Invasion Outside the Conflict Zone

Ethnic Cleansing of Georgian Villages

Beginning on August 8 at 09:45, Russian aviation bombed a series of civilian and military targets across Georgia, outside the zone of conflict in South Ossetia, damaging infrastructure and causing significant civilian casualties. (annex 12) These targets include but are not limited to:

1. Gori and surrounding villages (including civilian infrastructure)
2. Marneuli airfield, central Georgia
3. Vaziani airfield, central Georgia
4. Kopitnari airfield, western Georgia
5. Oni (civilian areas), western Georgia
6. Poti port, western Georgia
7. Baku-Supsa oil pipeline, central Georgia
8. Anaklia, western Georgia
9. Zugdidi, western Georgia
10. Upper Abkhazia/Kodori Gorge, Abkhazia region
11. Tbilisi (aircraft factory and civilian radar facility in Tbilisi airport)
12. Khelvachauri, Ajara region
13. Shiraki, eastern Georgia
14. Senaki airport and military base, western Georgia
15. Kaspi, central Georgia
16. Khashuri district villages, central Georgia
17. Borjomi National Park, central Georgia.

International human rights groups have documented seeming targeting of civilian objects by the Russian regular troops. (Annex 11a).

The Russian Federation's nationwide bombing campaign included the use of SS-26 "Iskander" short-range tactical missiles used against the Baku-Supsa oil pipeline. Russian forces also used short-range tactical missiles SS-21 "Tochka-U" on the cities of Poti and Gori. In the villages around the town of Gori, Russian forces used "Hurricane" missiles. Cluster bombs were used extensively in Gori and nearby villages, including Ruisi and Shindisi. (Annexes 12 and 13)

On August 10, the Russian navy landed in the port city of Ochamchire and launched an unprovoked attack in Upper Abkhazia/Kodori Gorge using artillery and massive air bombing. Until this point, there had been no hostilities in Abkhazia, Georgia. This attack began only after Georgian armed forces, located at the Senaki military base, were re-deployed eastward (August 9).

On August 12, Russian forces invaded the western Georgian town of Zugdidi and the strategic port of Poti.

Over 100 Georgian civilians are still being kept as hostages in inhumane conditions in the prison of Tskhinvali (Annex 14).

Following the retreat of Georgian armed forces towards Tbilisi, until today the Russian armed forces and paramilitary groups conduct widespread atrocities, including the burning, looting, kidnapping, raping, and summary executions of Georgian civilians inside and outside the zone of conflict. Within the zone of conflict, entire villages of Eredvi, Avnevi, Nuli, Kurta, Achabeti, Tamarasheni, Kekhvi, and Disevi, are deliberately burned and destroyed, resulting in the ethnic cleansing of Georgians. These atrocities have been committed after all military clashes in the area were over. Many of these events are confirmed in reports issued by international human rights organizations (Annex 7).

Currently the Russian troops continue to occupy significant parts of Georgia – Annex 15.

Russian Illegal Check-points in Georgia

Locations of the Russian illegal check-points in the Eastern Georgia, including Shida Kartli, other adjacent areas of "South Ossetia" and "South Ossetia" itself according to the MIA sources as of August 25 2008:

1. Perevi (Sachkhere district)
2. Ghodora (Sachkhere district)
3. Muguti (Znauri district)
4. Ali (Khashuri district)
5. Ptsa (Kareli district)
6. Variani (Gori district)
7. Karaleti (Gori district)
8. Shavshvebi (Gori district)
9. Ergneti (Gori district)
10. Tsiara (Java district)

Note: There are approximately 60 Russian servicemen and 4 armoured vehicles stationed in each place. The vehicles often move from one place to another "patrolling" the nearby territories and villages.

11. Ikoti in Akhagori district (7 infantry combating vehicles, 1 armoured vehicle, 6 Ural-type vehicles, 2 Gaz-66 vehicles, 1 military power shovel, 1 mobile medical unit, 2 grenade-launchers, trenches are dug, 100 Russian servicemen)
12. Approximately 150 armoured vehicles are stationed on the territory between villages Meghvrekisi and Brotsleti in the Gori district.

Locations of the Russian check-points in the Western Georgia according to the MIA sources as of August 25 2008:

Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Region

1. Village Teklati (near city Senaki), on the territory of the former mechanical plant (5 armoured vehicles, 1 crane, 2 Ural-type vehicles, 1 vehicle with communication systems, 1 UAZ-type vehicle, 1 Vilis-type car, 1 large army tent, trenches are dug, 40 Russian servicemen)
2. Village Pirveli Maisi (Khobi district), near former Georgian police check-point (2 armoured vehicles, 2 Ural-type vehicles, 1 UAZ-type vehicle, 1 large army tent, trenches are dug, 40 Russian servicemen)

3. Between villages Shua Khorga and Chaladidi (Khobi district), so called Poti Minor, near the turning to Kulevi oil terminal (4 armoured vehicles, 2 Ural-type vehicles, 1 large army tent, 30 Russian servicemen)
4. Village Menji, Bakaraia neighborhood (Senaki district), on the territory of sanatorium "Menji", 10 meters from railroad (3 armoured vehicle, 4 Ural-type vehicle, 2 cranes, 1 military power shovel, 1 large army tent, 40 Russian servicemen)
5. Village Kantisubani, between Tsalenjikha-Chkhorotsku road section (3 armoured vehicles, 2 Ural-type vehicles, 1 large army tent, trenches are dug, 30 Russian servicemen)
6. Crossroad at the entrances of villages Chale and Muzhava in the Tsalenjikha district (3 armoured vehicles, 1 Ural-type vehicle, 20 Russian servicemen)
7. Town Chkhorotsku, on the territory of former airfield, near Senaki-Chkhorotsku highway (3 armoured vehicles, 2 Ural-type vehicles, 1 vehicle with electricity generator, 2 large army tents, 40 Russian servicemen)
8. Nabada settlement, at the entrance of Poti (2 armoured vehicles, 1 Ural-type vehicle, 1 UAZ-type vehicle, 1 military power shovel, 1 large army tent, 30 Russian servicemen)

Upper Abkhazia/Kodori Valley

9. Gentsvisi
10. Omarishara
11. Sakeni
12. Chkhalta
13. Kvapchara

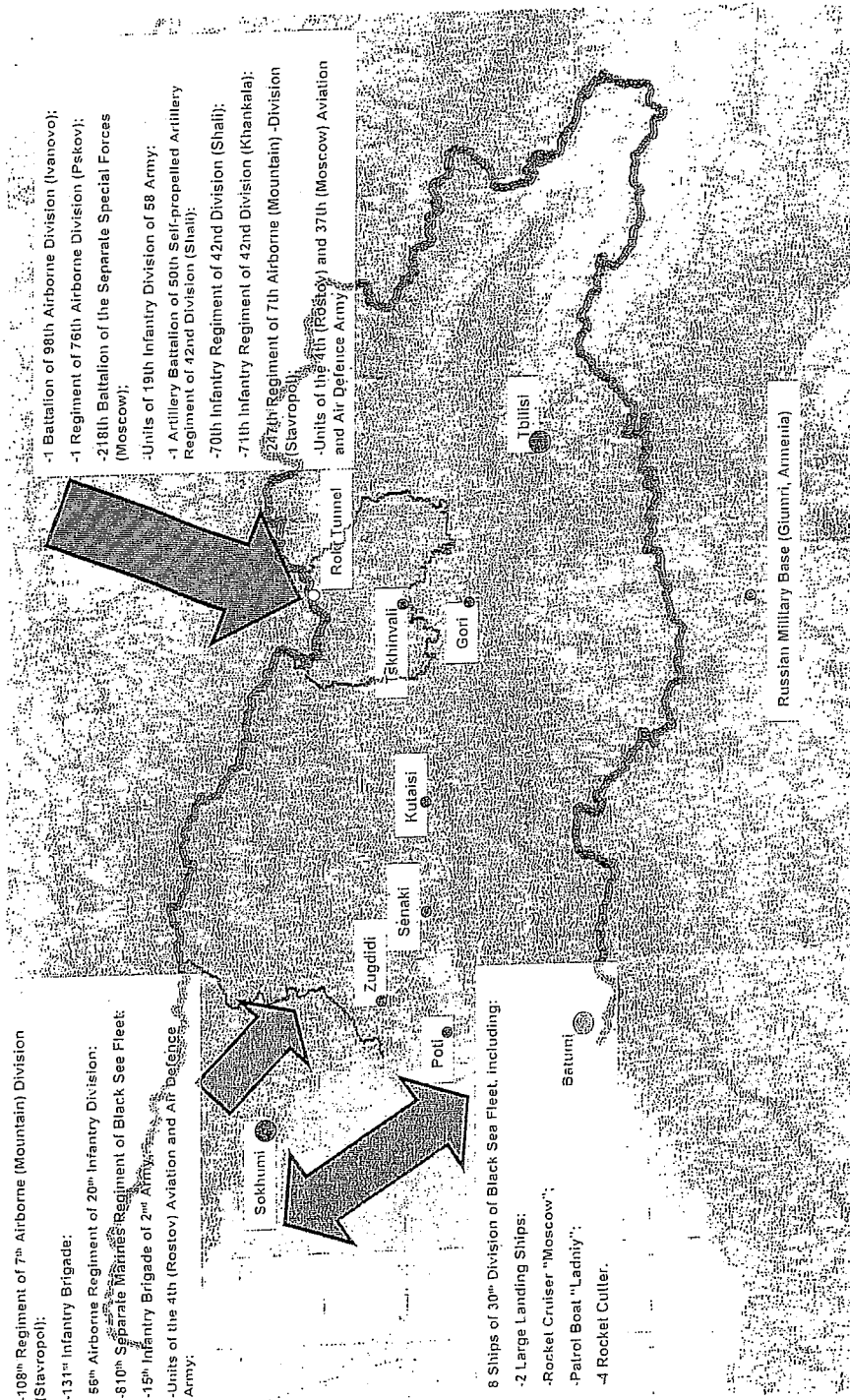
Note: Due to the extremely difficult situation in the region, obtaining accurate numbers on Russian and Abkhaz military deployment is difficult. All sources report substantial Russian and Abkhaz deployments in the region.

In addition, deputy head of the Russian General Staff, colonel-general Anatoly Nogovitsin stated during the press-conference on August 22, 2008 that the Russian armed forces established new check-points in the following locations:

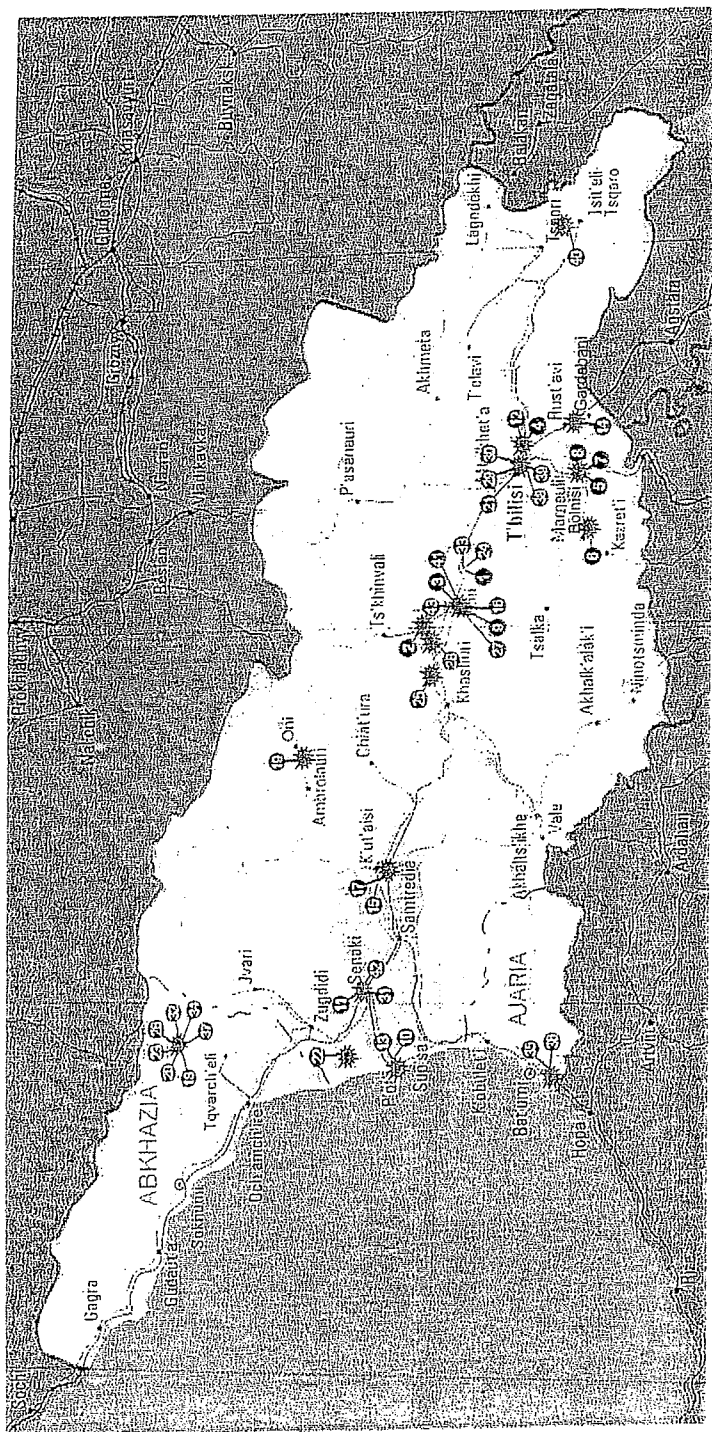
14. Khudoni
15. Jikmuri
16. Ochamchire
17. Gupagu

- 18. Meore Gudava
- 19. Anaklia
- 20. Mount Kvira

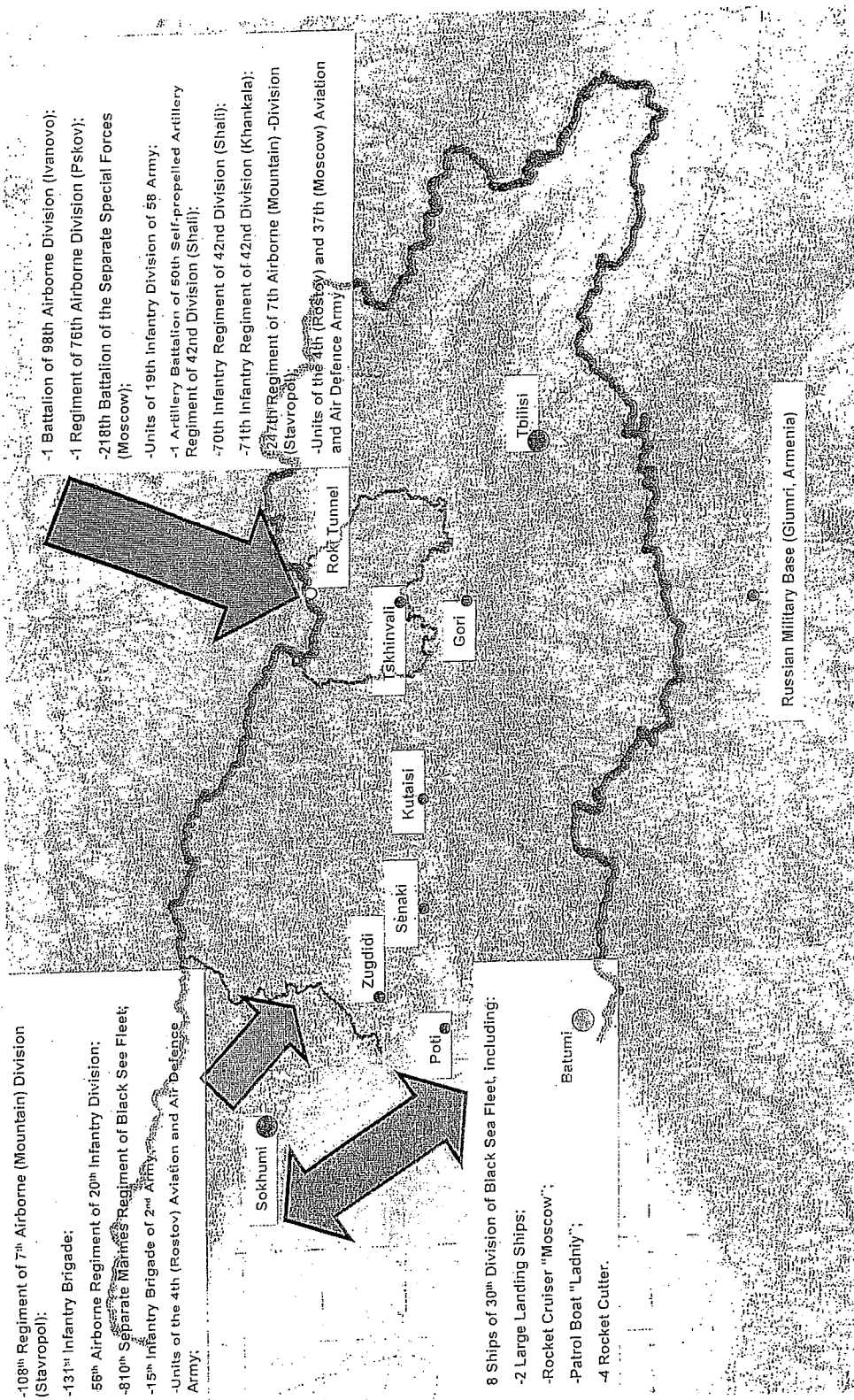
Note: The Russian side has not denied existence of the abovementioned check-points throughout Georgia.



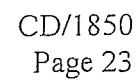
The Invasion of Georgia by Russian Federation



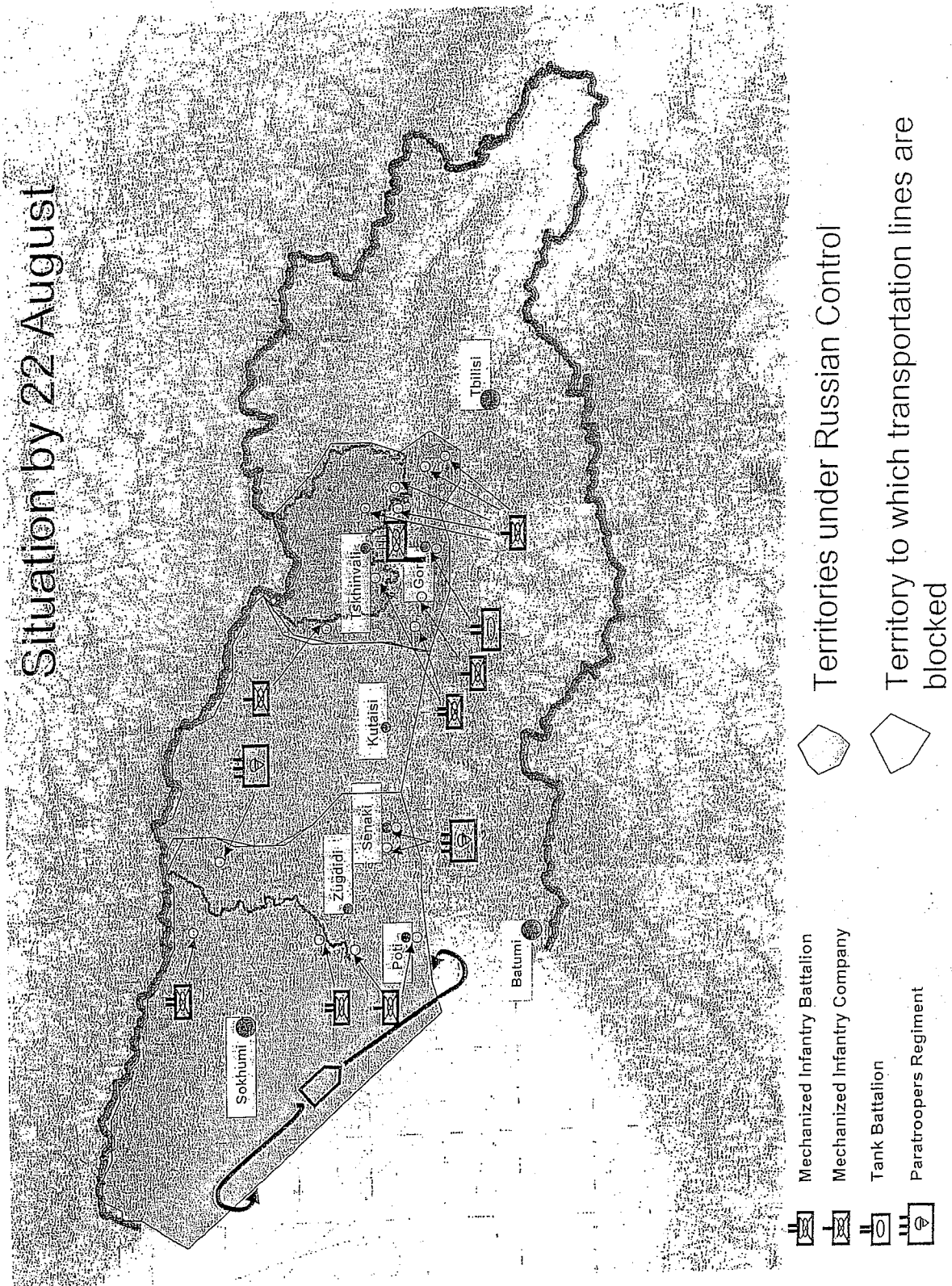
Places Bombed by Russian Side

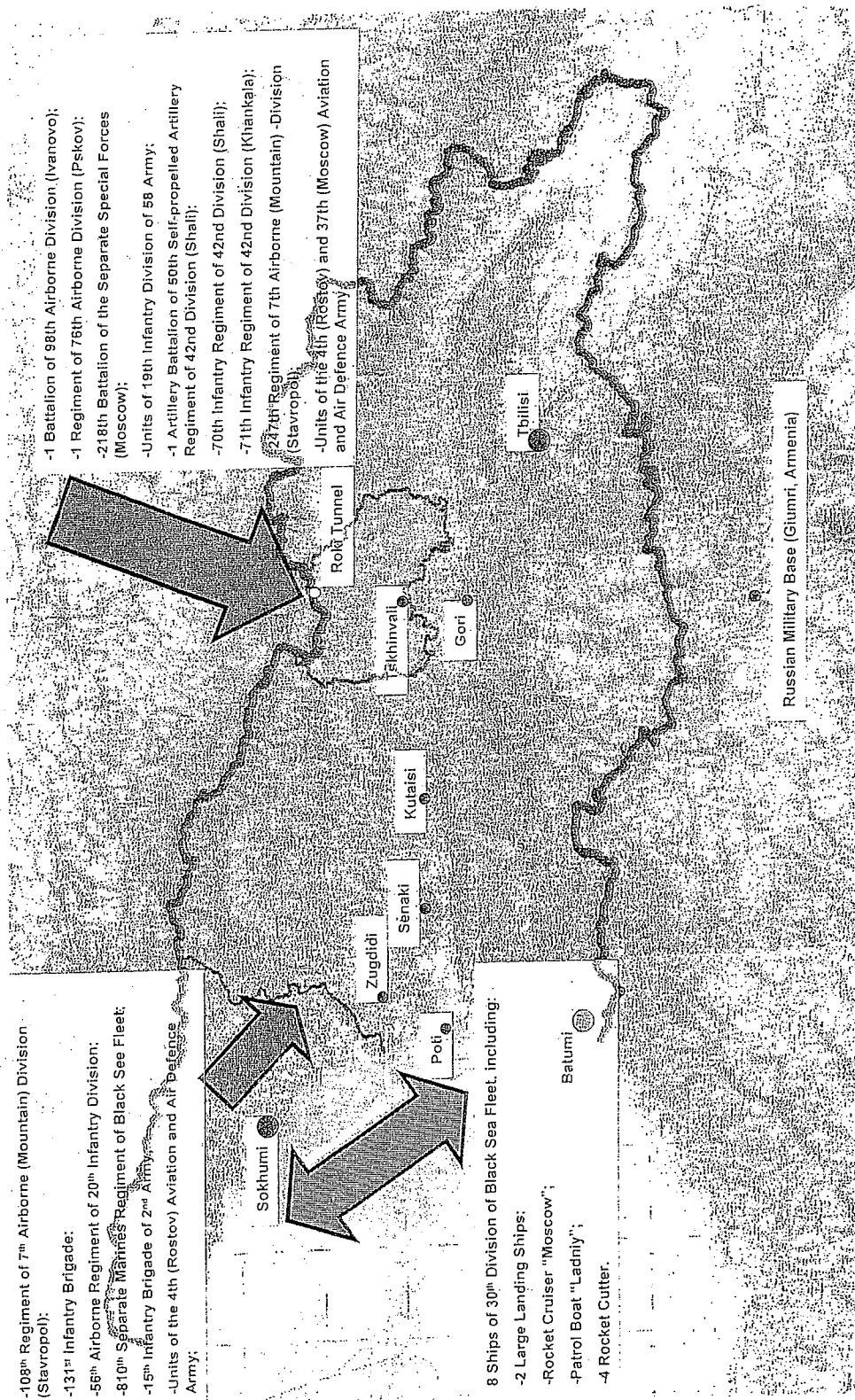


The Invasion of Georgia by Russian Federation

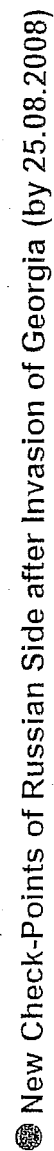


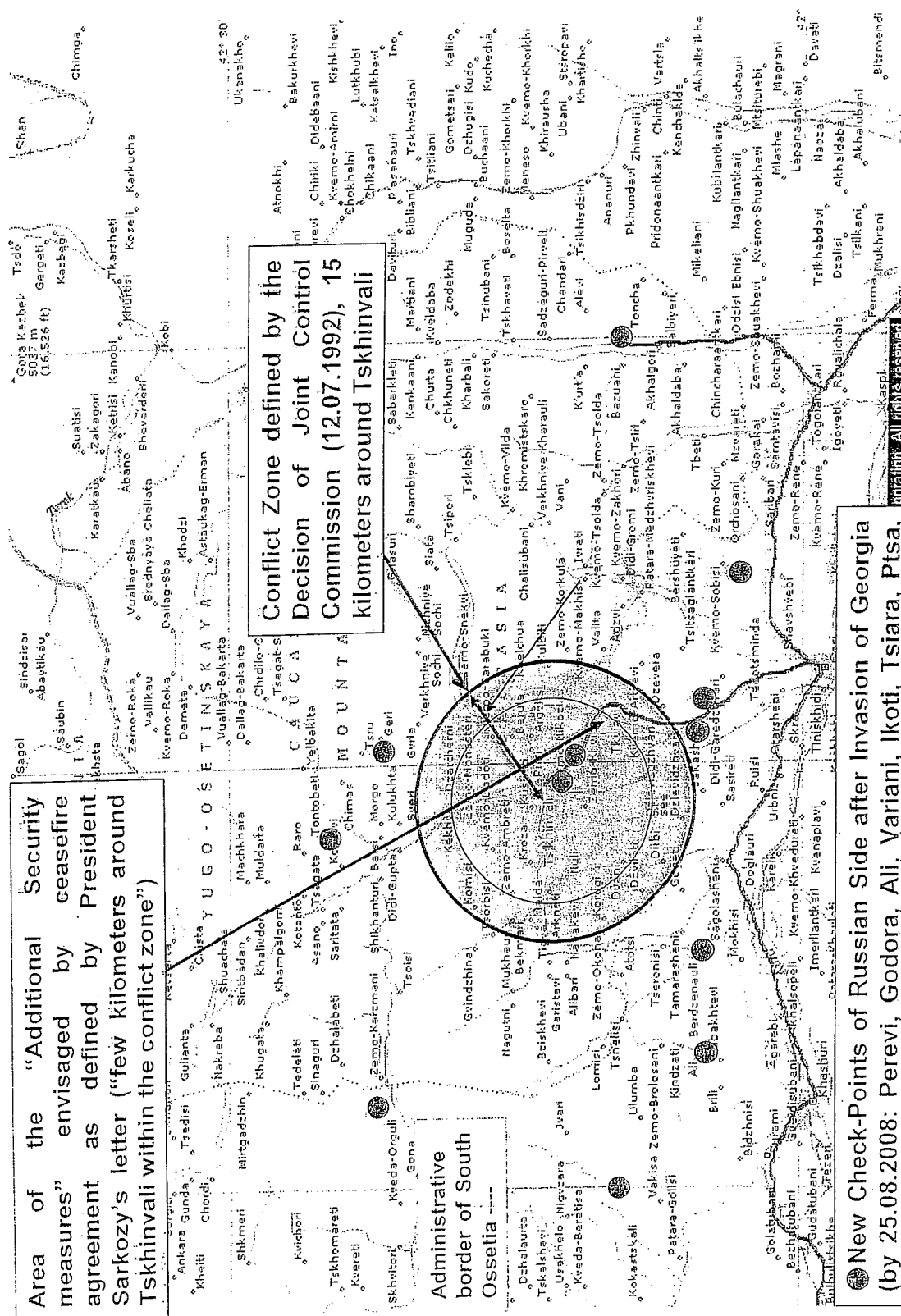
Situation by 22 August



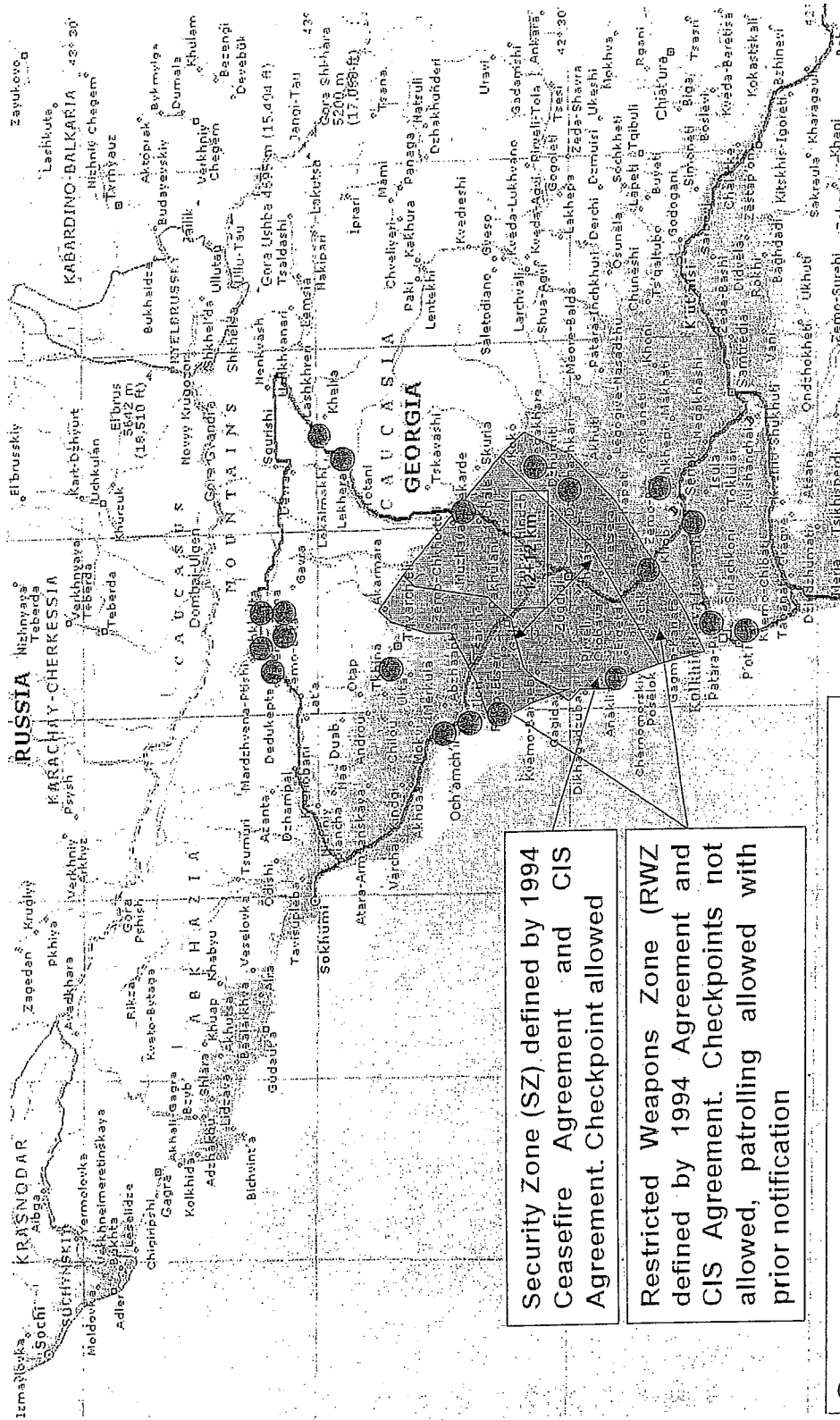


The Invasion of Georgia by Russian Federation





● New Check-Points of Russian Side after Invasion of Georgia
(by 25.08.2008: Perevi, Godora, Ali, Variani, Ikoti, Tsiara, Pitsa,
Karaleti, Shavshvebi, Ergneti, Muguti, Megvrekisi-Brotsleti)



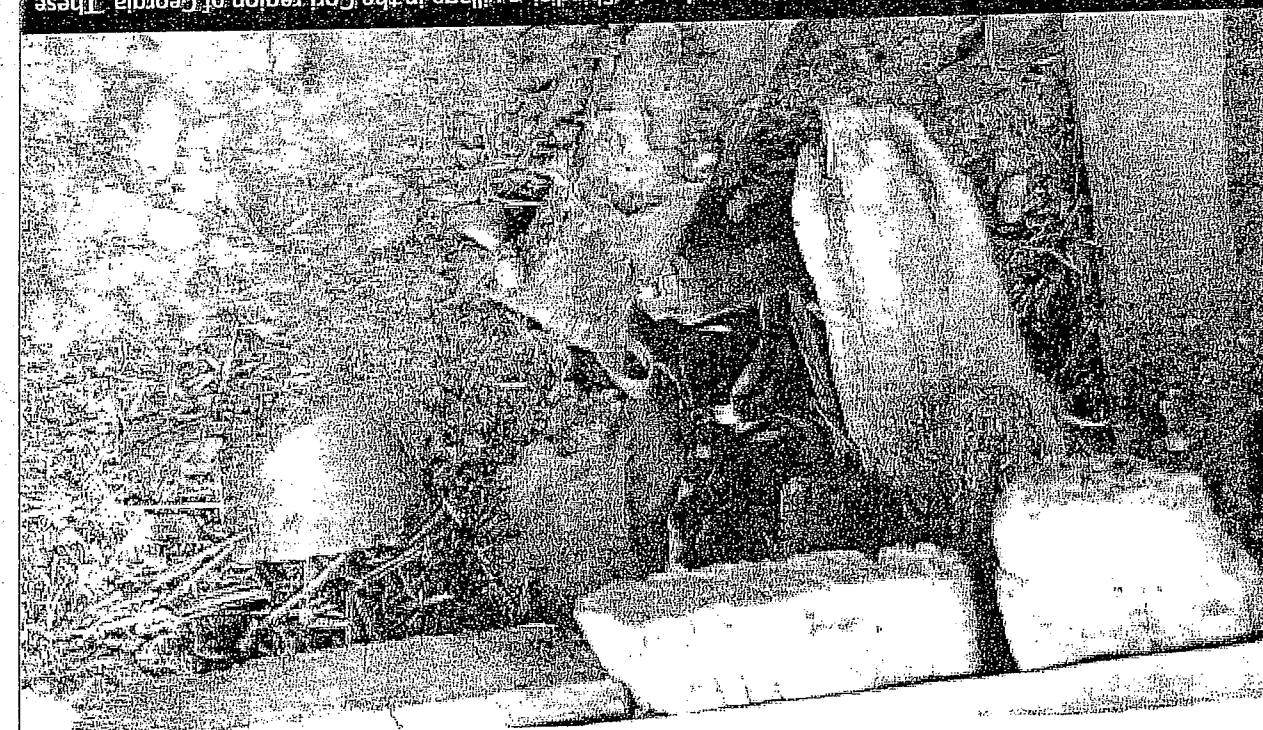
Security Zone (SZ) defined by 1994
Ceasefire Agreement and CIS
Agreement. Checkpoint allowed

Restricted Weapons Zone (RWZ)
defined by 1994 Agreement and
CIS Agreement. Checkpoints not
allowed, patrolling allowed with
prior notification

● New Check-Points of Russian Side after Invasion of
Georgia (by 25.08.2008: Ochamchire, Meore Gudava,
Jikmuri, Gupagu, Anaklia, Khudoni, Kvira, Mujava,
Pirveli Maisi (Khobi), Chkhorotsku, Menji, Nabada (Poti),
Patara Poti, Teklati, Kantisubani. In Upper Abkhazia:
Gentsvishi, Omarishara, Sakeni, Chkhalta, Kvabchara

“Additional Security measures”
envisaged by ceasefire agreement not
applicable to this area as defined by
President Sarkozy's letter.





Unexploded Russian submunitions found by HRW researchers in Shindisi, a village in the Gori region of Georgia. These submunition 'clods' are highly dangerous and can explode if picked up or otherwise disturbed.

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Unexploded Russian submunitions found by HRW researchers in Shindisi, a village in the Gori region of Georgia. These submunition 'clods' are highly dangerous and can explode if picked up or otherwise disturbed.

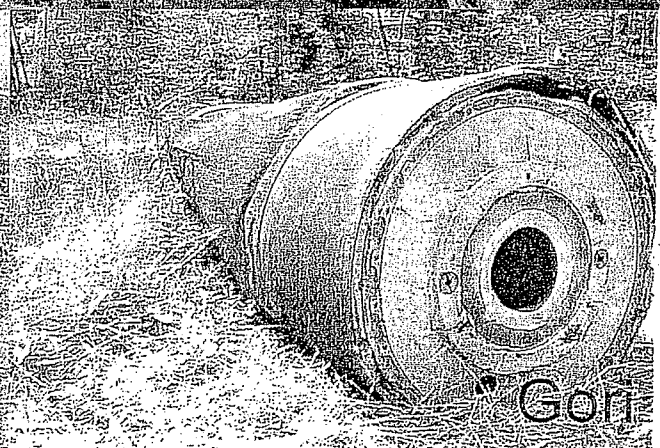
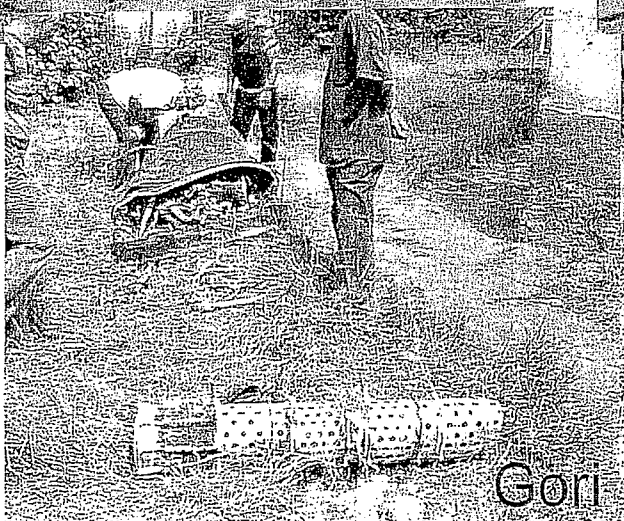
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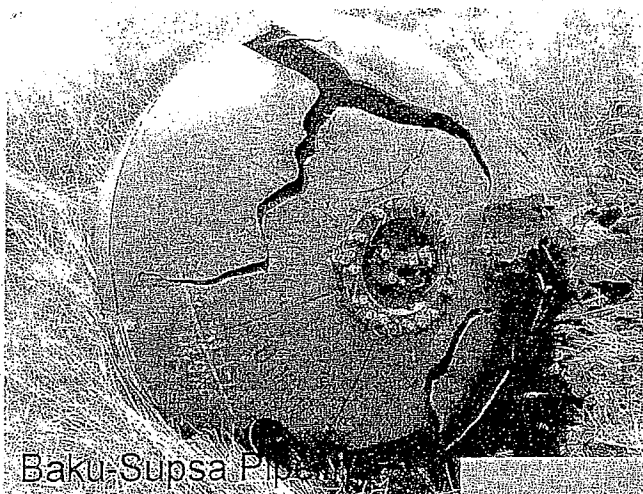
Georgians look at the remnants of a bomb dropped by Russian aircraft on the village of Ruisi, near South Ossetia, Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2008. Human Rights Watch has identified the weapon as a RBK-250 cluster bomb. © 2008 AP Photos



Tochka-U (NATO Scarab B)



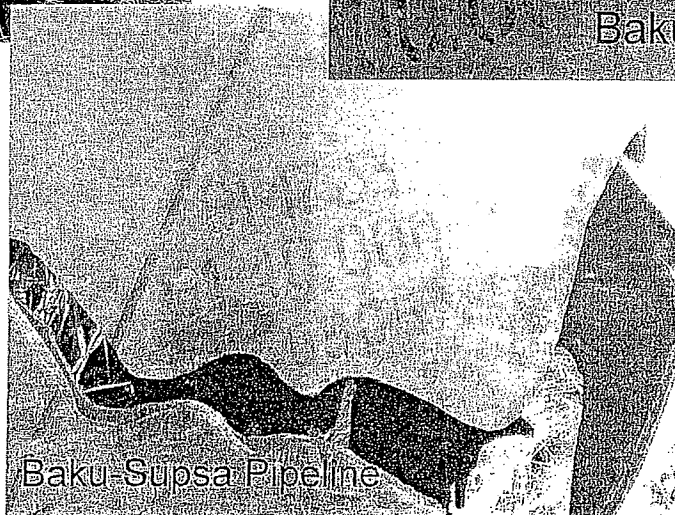
Iskander-M (NATO SS-26 Stone)



Baku-Supsa Pipeline



Baku-Supsa Pipeline



Baku-Supsa Pipeline

Cluster Bombs (RBK-250)

