

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 2 March 2007 from the Permanent Representative  
of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President  
of the Security Council**

I have the honour of writing to you in your capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of March 2007 and would like to request your kind assistance in circulating as a document of the Council the statement of the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Conflict Resolution dated 2 March 2007 regarding the opening of fire by so-called Abkhaz law enforcement units at a peaceful public demonstration in the conflict zone of Abkhazia, Georgia, on 1 March 2007.

*(Signed)* Irakli Alasania  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative



**Annex to the letter dated 2 March 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

**Statement of the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Conflict Resolution**

On 1 March 2007 so-called Abkhazian law enforcement units, while situated in the zone controlled by the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) peacekeeping force between checkpoints N 202 and 306, opened fire at a peaceful public demonstration of both Georgian and Abkhaz groups of local students, who were expressing their opinion with regard to the illegitimate elections of 4 March to the de facto Parliament and violent aggressive policy of separatist regime. As a result, three peaceful protesters were kidnapped: Ghachava, Rogava and Karshia. These persons are still illegally detained and, according to the Abkhaz side, they will not be released any time soon.

The above-mentioned actions were aimed against any form of free expression of opinion; they also serve as a tool to deter rapprochement between the Abkhaz and Georgian societies, and hinder the confidence-building process. All of the above directly oppose peaceful initiatives proposed by the Government of Georgia and once again clearly demonstrate the separatist regime's destructive approach towards the peace process.

The Office of the State Minister expresses its strongest protest with respect to such provocation. This incident, in the lower zone of Gali district, once more underlines the intimidating policy towards the local population, which is based on the practice of reiterating gross violations of human rights and often is freely conducted because of the ineffectiveness of CIS peacekeepers.

Such developments once again underline the necessity to activate the United Nations civilian police component and introduce the branches of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) based in Sukhumi and United Nations human rights protection offices in Gali region.

The Abkhaz side should be aware that such actions seriously damage preliminary agreement on the continuation of dialogue, which is a cornerstone of confidence-building and peaceful settlement of the conflict.

The Office of the State Minister for Conflict Resolution has forwarded a relevant letter to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Georgia, Jean Arnault. We also address OSCE, the Council of Europe and the Group of Friends involved in the settlement of the conflict, as well as international organizations operating in Georgia, to use any means available for the immediate and unconditional liberation of imprisoned persons.