

Country/entity	Georgia Russia Ossetia
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Protocol on Interaction of Law-Enforcement Bodies in the Zone of the Georgian-Ossetian Conflict
Date	26 Sep 1997
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Georgian Separatist Conflicts (1989 -)

The Abkhazia-Georgia Conflict (1992 -)

Much like other conflicts that sprung up in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Abkhazia conflict emerged as an ethnic conflict following heightened nationalist awareness among Abkhaz and other minorities residing in the region. In 1978, protests against the Georgianization of Abkhazia emerged from Abkhaz intellectuals. Towards the end of the 1980s, both Georgian and Abkhaz nationalists demanded independence from the Soviet Union. Tensions began following clashes at Sukhumi University between pro-Unity protestors and Abkhaz nationalists in April-July 1989. However, the conflict remained a legal conflict up until August 1992 following the 1991 elections, wherein Abkhazians felt they were under-represented. War broke out between Abkhaz separatists, supported by Russian forces and hired fighters from the North Caucasus. Within Abkhazia, Abkhaz separatists were generally supported by ethnically Armenian and Russian residents. Within Georgia the conflict was exacerbated following conflict in South Ossetia from 1989 onwards in addition to political strife between the supporters of the ousted president, Zviad Gamsakurdia, and the post-coup government led by Eduard Shevardnadze.

Significant human rights abuses occurred, particularly after the capture of Sukhumi in September 1993, after which Georgian residents, which consisted of 45 per cent of the population in 1989, were faced with mass expulsion and ethnic cleansing. Russian Peacekeepers acting under the umbrella of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), were deployed on the Abkhazia-Georgia line following a ceasefire in 1994. Atrocities towards ethnic Georgian's continued with over 1,500 deaths post-conflict. In 1998 fighting re-erupted following a flare up of fighting in South Ossetia. Again it was resolved with a ceasefire agreement. However, as of 2016 the conflict remains unresolved.

The Russo-Georgian War (South Ossetia) (1989 -)

Following heightened nationalist awareness among Ossetians and policies undertaken at the expense of ethnic minorities by the Georgian government led by President Gamsakurdia, calls for Ossetian Independence increased. After clashes broke out in Tskhinvali during a pro-Georgia protest, the conflict began to militarize. When President Gamsakurdia maintained his position after elections in 1990, which were boycotted by South Ossetia, Ossetians organised elections for their own parliament. The central Georgian government reacted by abolishing the autonomous status previously held by South Ossetia. The formation of ethnic militias and increased attacks on civilians escalated on both sides and in December 1990 a state of emergency and an economic blockade were declared. Fighting was haphazard as fighters on both sides were poorly equipped and disciplined. The Georgian National Guard was primarily formed of volunteers due to a lack of resources and as a result fighters often acted out of self-interest. Assaults on Tskhinvali by Georgian forces were repulsed on several occasions, and Georgian forces were also noted to expel Ossetian residents and destroy villages out of revenge and as a means to re-claim territory.

The Sochi agreement (1992) established a ceasefire and security corridor, as well as divided the territory between Georgian and Ossetian administration. Relations deteriorated drastically in April 2008, and following shelling of Georgian villages on August 1, the Georgian military responded in force retaking most of Tskhinvali by August 7. Russian forces intervened on behalf of Ossetian separatists and after retaking Tskhinvali, opened another front in the Kodori Gorge. A ceasefire was brokered on August

Stage	Framework/substantive - partial
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	South Ossetia peace process
Parties	<p>For the Russian side (signed)</p> <p>☒</p> <p>For the Georgian side (signed)☒</p> <p>For the North-Ossetian side (signed)</p> <p>For the South-Ossetian side (signed)</p>
Third parties	-
Description	Agreement provides framework for cooperation between the two sides in the Ossetia conflict, including responsibilities and areas of focus. Agreement also provides for the withdrawal of the JPKF observation posts and hand over to local law enforcement entities.
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Agreement document	GE_RU_970926_Protocol on Interaction of Law-Enforcement Bodies in the Zone of the Georgian-Ossetian Conflict.pdf (opens in new tab) Download PDF
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Groups

Children/youth No specific mention.

Disabled persons No specific mention.

Elderly/age No specific mention.

Migrant workers No specific mention.

**Racial/ethnic/
national group** No specific mention.

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced
persons** No specific mention.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

**Women, girls and
gender** No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

**Nature of state
(general)** No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

**Independence/
secession** No specific mention.

**Accession/
unification** No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

**Cross-border
provision** No specific mention.

Governance

**Political
institutions (new or
reformed)** No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

**Electoral
commission** No specific mention.

**Political parties
reform** No specific mention.

Civil society No specific mention.

**Traditional/
religious leaders** No specific mention.

**Public
administration** No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication No specific mention.

Mobility/access No specific mention.

Protection measures	Rights related issues→Protection measures→Other Page 1, The sides agreed to: 1. provide for efficient legal and personal protection from criminals for all people living or passing across the conflict zone; improve coordination between law-enforcement bodies for establishing order in the Georgian-Ossetian conflict area; exchange information about plotted or committed crimes with further arrest of the criminals; conduct coordinated measures for arresting organized criminal groups.
Other	No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law Justice sector reform→Criminal justice and emergency law→Delimitation of powers in Criminal Justice System
Page 1, The sides agreed to:
... 4. Showing their good will, both sides to always consider and agree at an adequate level the issue of transferring perpetrators of minor criminal offenses, together with their investigatory information, for being prosecuted by the other side; exclude the practice of illegal discharge of the transferred criminal offenders by the sides, thus ruling out possible mutual distrust of the law- enforcement bodies; create an integrated database of so-called 'criminal underworld leaders'.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees Page 2, The sides agreed to:
... 10. Motorcades of border guards of the Russian Federation and the Group of Russian Troops in the Transcaucasus moving on the Gori-Alagir road, to be checked and convoyed by joint Georgian and Russian military road police before they enter the conflict zone; and to be convoied by JPKF representatives across the conflict zone along the Gori-karaleti-Ergneti-Tskhinvali route.

Ceasefire No specific mention.

Police

Page 1, Untitled Preamble, 29

... Efforts have continued to establish interaction between law-enforcement agencies of the sides that together with the Command of the Joint Peacekeeping Forces implement practical measures for normalizing the situation in the conflict zone. The Working Group meeting on February 4 1997 recognized the need for staged transfer of JPKF functions to law-enforcement bodies of the sides, under Articles 4 and 5 of the Memorandum On Measures for Building and Strengthening Mutual Confidence between the Sides in the Georgian-Ossetian Conflict, signed in Moscow on May 16 1996, Statement on the meeting between E.A. Shevardnadze and L.A. Chibirov in Vladikavkaz on August 27 1996, and paragraph 4 of JCC Decision of February 13 1997.

Page 1, The sides agreed to:

1. provide for efficient legal and personal protection from criminals for all people living or passing across the conflict zone; improve coordination between law-enforcement bodies for establishing order in the Georgian-Ossetian conflict area; exchange information about plotted or committed crimes with further arrest of the criminals; conduct coordinated measures for arresting organized criminal groups.

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... 4. Showing their good will, both sides to always consider and agree at an adequate level the issue of transferring perpetrators of minor criminal offenses, together with their investigatory information, for being prosecuted by the other side; exclude the practice of illegal discharge of the transferred criminal offenders by the sides, thus ruling out possible mutual distrust of the law-enforcement bodies; create an integrated database of so-called 'criminal underworld leaders'.

Page 1, The sides agreed to:

... 6. Consider transferring personal and retirement histories of police officers, also their arms and vehicles to stakeholder sides;

Page 2, The sides agreed to:

... 7. Provide for the Road Police and other services in the Georgian-Ossetian conflict zone to work in close cooperation with the JPKF Command; agree locations of the Road Police posts in the conflict zone with the JPKF Command.

Page 2, The sides agreed to:

... 8. at least once in a month hold regular consultations of heads of law-enforcement agencies for addressing issues that pertain to implementation of provisions of this Resolution.

Page 2, The sides agreed to:

... 9. Before 15 October 1997, remove three-sided JPKF observation posts, namely the posts of Ergneti, Tamarasheni, and Kekhvi. Order maintenance function on this section shall be transferred to the police of the sides in conflict. The JPKF Commander shall make a decision as to how the free three-sided observers can be used, to be then approved by the JCC. Law-enforcement bodies of the sides in conflict shall be made responsible for prohibiting transportation of arms and ammunition, explosives and toxic substances on the Kekhvi-Tskhinvali-Ergneti section.

Page 2, The sides agreed to:

... 11. Systematically exchange information about illegally stored firearms; take measures for seizing such arms and ammunition.

Page 2, The sides agreed to:

12. This Resolution shall be used as a basis for interaction between law-enforcement

Armed forces	No specific mention.
DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	No specific mention.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	<p>Page 1, The sides agreed to:</p> <p>1. provide for efficient legal and personal protection from criminals for all people living or passing across the conflict zone; improve coordination between law-enforcement bodies for establishing order in the Georgian-Ossetian conflict area; exchange information about plotted or committed crimes with further arrest of the criminals; conduct coordinated measures for arresting organized criminal groups.</p> <p>Page 1, The sides agreed to:</p> <p>... 2. Participate in the development and implementation of target programs to combat crime, drug trafficking, money counterfeiting and other kinds of crime; have permanent stable contacts with operative duty officers of the sides for timely exchanging information and taking necessary measures. \</p> <p>Page 1, The sides agreed to:</p> <p>... 5. Take joint efforts to block all ways and opportunities for selling stolen cars; the sides to commit to provide comprehensive and effective support to each other for stolen property detection and return.</p> <p>Page 2, The sides agreed to:</p> <p>... 11. Systematically exchange information about illegally stored firearms; take measures for seizing such arms and ammunition.</p> <p>Page 2, The sides agreed to:</p> <p>... 12. Effectively strengthen measures against drug use and drug trafficking; set up special investigation groups to work in close contact for collecting and registering information about drug dealers and drug users, also for blocking all drug import and distribution channels. For this purpose, the sides shall provide assistance for detecting drugs and vehicles.</p>

Drugs

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Terrorism

No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts Transitional justice→Courts→National courts

Page 1, The sides agreed to:

... 3. Coordinate investigation and search operations and other necessary actions for investigating crimes committed in the Georgian-Ossetian conflict zone, including those committed in previous years, and for instituting criminal proceedings against all perpetrators, also for taking action to detect and detain them.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release No specific mention.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar

Page 1, Untitled Preamble,²⁹
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Enforcement mechanism

No specific mention.

Related cases

No specific mention.

Source

Archive of the Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; http://www.rrc.ge/law/protLw_1997_%2026_09_E.htm