

Country/entity	Georgia Russia Abkhazia
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Statement of the State Commissions of Abkhazia and Georgia on Search for the Persons Missing without Trace
Date	11 Jul 2000
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	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Abkhazia peace process
Parties	On behalf of Abkhaz side Otar Kakalia On behalf of Georgian side Vladimir Doborjginidze
Third parties	-
Description	Agreement is confidence building measure aimed at instigating search activities for burial sites in search of missing persons, with assistance from the ICRC and Doctors for Human Rights.

Agreement document [GE_000711_STATEMENT OF THE STATE COMMISSION OF ABKHAZIA AND GEORGIA on Search for the persons Missing without Trace.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

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	Page 1, ... The Commission reached an agreement to start from 20 July, 2000 real search activities in both Georgian and Abkhazian burial sites. At the same time, within the framework of the process of search for the persons missing without trace, the leaders of the commissions agreed to engage representatives of the civil society to the search process. They expressed their intentions to organize a meeting between mothers of Abkhazia and Georgia, in order to continue discussions on the issue of reburial from Babushera.
Men and boys	No specific mention.
LGBTI	No specific mention.
Family	Page 1, ... The Commission reached an agreement to start from 20 July, 2000 real search activities in both Georgian and Abkhazian burial sites. At the same time, within the framework of the process of search for the persons missing without trace, the leaders of the commissions agreed to engage representatives of the civil society to the search process. They expressed their intentions to organize a meeting between mothers of Abkhazia and Georgia, in order to continue discussions on the issue of reburial from Babushera.

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 Page 1, ... Once more reiterating their readiness for close cooperation aimed at expediting the process of search for the persons missing without trace, representatives of state commissions from Abkhazia and Georgia have held a working meeting within the framework of the Coordination Council, in which representatives of the International Committee of Red Cross also participated.

Page 1, ... The Parties gave high estimation to the activities of ICRC, aimed at rendering maximum possible technical assistance to the commissions. Once again, representatives of the Parties asked the ICRC to continue rendering practical support to the Parties. We welcome the readiness of ICRC to provide the Parties with specialist-experts on identification from the Boston center "Doctors for Human Rights".

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 No specific mention.

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 No specific mention.

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 No specific mention.

Ceasefire No specific mention.

Police No specific mention.

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 No specific mention.

Drugs No specific mention.

Terrorism No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts	No specific mention.
Mechanism	No specific mention.
Prisoner release	No specific mention.
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	Page 1, ... The Commission reached an agreement to start from 20 July, 2000 real search activities in both Georgian and Abkhazian burial sites. At the same time, within the framework of the process of search for the persons missing without trace, the leaders of the commissions agreed to engage representatives of the civil society to the search process. They expressed their intentions to organize a meeting between mothers of Abkhazia and Georgia, in order to continue discussions on the issue of reburial from Babushera.
Missing persons	[Summary: the entirety of this agreements is providing for the search for the persons missing without trace].
Reparations	Transitional justice→Reparations→Symbolic reparations Page 1, ... The Commission reached an agreement to start from 20 July, 2000 real search activities in both Georgian and Abkhazian burial sites. At the same time, within the framework of the process of search for the persons missing without trace, the leaders of the commissions agreed to engage representatives of the civil society to the search process. They expressed their intentions to organize a meeting between mothers of Abkhazia and Georgia, in order to continue discussions on the issue of reburial from Babushera.
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	No specific mention.
Enforcement mechanism	No specific mention.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source (Archive of the Staff of the State Minister of Georgia for Conflict Resolution Issues/in Russian) Source: http://www.rrc.ge/law/Statem_%202000_07_11_e.htm
