

<b>Country/entity</b>	Georgia Abkhazia
<b>Region</b>	Europe and Eurasia
<b>Agreement name</b>	Gali Protocol of 8th October 2003 on reducing the tension and improving the mechanisms for security in the conflict zone
<b>Date</b>	8 Oct 2003
<b>Agreement status</b>	Multiparty signed/agreed
<b>Interim arrangement</b>	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

<b>Stage</b>	Ceasefire/related
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Government/territory
<b>Peace process</b>	Abkhazia peace process
<b>Parties</b>	The Georgian delegation was led by Malkhaz kakabadze, the Abkhaz delegation – by Sergei Shamba.
<b>Third parties</b>	Convened upon the initiative of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General Heidi Tagliavini. the CPKF was represented by General-Major Namokonov. The meeting was chaired by the military observer General-Major Kazi-Ashfak.
<b>Description</b>	Short agreement attempting to re-affirm a ceasefire agreement, following heightened insecurity in the Gali region.

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**Agreement document** [GE\\_031008\\_Gali Protocol.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.

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## **Gender**

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

**Men and boys** No specific mention.

**LGBTI** No specific mention.

**Family** No specific mention.

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## **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.

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## **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.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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## **Rights related issues**

<b>Citizenship</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Democracy</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Detention procedures</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Media and communication</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Mobility/access</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Protection measures</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Other</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Rights institutions**

<b>NHRI</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Regional or international human rights institutions</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Justice sector reform**

<b>Criminal justice and emergency law</b>	No specific mention.
<b>State of emergency provisions</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Judiciary and courts</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Prisons and detention</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Traditional Laws</b>	No specific mention.

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## **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.

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## **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.

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## **Security sector**

### **Security Guarantees**

Page 1, The sides agreed on the following:

1.2. To exchange the list of offences that, as reported by the sides, were committed in the conflict zone, particularly in Gali District.

Page 1, The sides agreed on the following:

1.3. The both sides agreed to address every single offense and the perpetrators will be punished.

### **Ceasefire**

Security sector→Ceasefire→General commitments

[Summary] The agreement in its entirety provides for security guarantees designed to safeguard and implement an earlier ceasefire agreement.

Page 1, The sides agreed on the following:

1.1. To cooperate and take the immediate steps to put an end to the offensive acts, regardless of their character, which seriously affect the security in the conflict zone.

### **Police**

Page 1, 2. In the light of commencing the work of the Civil Police of the UNOMIG in the future, the sides agreed to establish full-scale cooperation with it in fighting against crime and offenders and through it to raise effectiveness of existing mechanisms aimed at improving the situation in 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**

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** Transitional justice→Courts→National courts  
Page 1, 1.3. The both sides agreed to address every single offense and the perpetrators will be punished.

**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** convened upon the initiative of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General Heidi Tagliavini in the headquarter of Gali sector of the UNOMIG

**Other international signatory** CPKF was represented by General-Major Namokonov

**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; [http://www.rrc.ge/law/Protoc\\_2003\\_10\\_08\\_e.htm](http://www.rrc.ge/law/Protoc_2003_10_08_e.htm)

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