

Country/entity	Georgia Russia Ossetia
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Protocol 'On the activities of the sides' Law Enforcement Bodies against Criminality in the Zone of the Georgian-Ossetian Conflict
Date	17 Nov 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	Framework/substantive - partial
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	South Ossetia peace process
Parties	Georgian side (signed) South Ossetian side (signed)
Third parties	The JPKF commander (signed) The OSCE (signed)
Description	Agreement in response to increase in crime in the Liakhvi gorge.
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Agreement document	GE_RU_001117_Protocol on the activities of the sides Law Enforcement 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.
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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.

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	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	Justice sector reform→Criminal justice and emergency law→Delimitation of powers in Criminal Justice System Page 1, ... 4. Upon the sentence coming into force, the criminal serves the sentence at the place of the crime committed.
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 Page 1, ... 5. In accordance with the 16 May 1996 Memorandum “on ensuring security and confidence building measures between the sides to the Georgian-Ossetian conflict” since 17 November 2000 and on, none of the sides will establish additional Law Enforcement units.

Armed forces	No specific mention.
DDR	Security sector→DDR→Demilitarisation provisions Page 1, ... 7. Weapons, ammunition and explosives handed over voluntarily by citizens are to be destroyed in accordance with the fixed order. The JPKF are responsible for the weapons' annihilation.
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

Page 1, 1. To establish Joint Search Group (detective) by 21 November 2000 consisting of six persons (three from each side) on investigating crimes committed in Liakhvi gorge. The first working group is to be held on 22 November 2000 at 10.00 a. m. Moscow time at the JPKF HQ.

Page 1, ... 2. When grave crimes are committed in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, the Joint Search Group detains and submits the suspect for interrogation to the Investigation Bodies at the place of the crime committed.

[Note: The South Ossetian representatives did not agree with point 2.]

Page 2, Amendment suggested by the South Ossetian Law Enforcement Bodies: "When grave crimes are committed in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, the joint search Group detains and submits the suspect for interrogation to the investigation Bodies at the place of residence".]

Page 1, ... 3. Upon the fulfillment of the search activities, the above mentioned Group submits all data to the Investigation Bodies at the place of the crime committed.

Page 1, ... 6. On 17 November all territorial interior bodies should be tasked to renew and conduct additional search measures in order to disclose the crimes committed in the past; to react rapidly to citizen's claims and inform weekly on the work done at the Thursday Law Enforcement meeting.

Prisoner release

No specific mention.

Vetting

No specific mention.

Victims

No specific mention.

Missing persons	<p>Page 1, 1. To establish Joint Search Group (detective) by 21 November 2000 consisting of six persons (three from each side) on investigating crimes committed in Liakhvi gorge. The first working group is to be held on 22 November 2000 at 10.00 a. m. Moscow time at the JPKF HQ.</p> <p>Page 1, ... 2. When grave crimes are committed in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, the Joint Search Group detains and submits the suspect for interrogation to the Investigation Bodies at the place of the crime committed. [Note: The South Ossetian representatives did not agree with point 2.]</p> <p>Page 2, Amendment suggested by the South Ossetian Law Enforcement Bodies: “When grave crimes are committed in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, the joint search Group detains and submits the suspect for interrogation to the investigation Bodies at the place of residence”.]</p> <p>Page 1, ... 3. Upon the fulfillment of the search activities, the above mentioned Group submits all data to the Investigation Bodies at the place of the crime committed.</p> <p>Page 1, ... 5. In accordance with the 16 May 1996 Memorandum “on ensuring security and confidence building measures between the sides to the Georgian-Ossetian conflict” since 17 November 2000 and on, none of the sides will establish additional Law Enforcement units.</p>
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Reparations	No specific mention.
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Reconciliation	No specific mention.
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Implementation

UN signatory	No specific mention.
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Other international signatory	No specific mention.
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Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
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International mission/force/ similar	No specific mention.
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Enforcement mechanism	No specific mention.
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Related cases	No specific mention.
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Source	Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; http://www.rrc.ge/law/oqmi_2000_17_11_E.htm
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