

ONE

It's clear that big mistakes have been made on all sides, especially on Georgian side. In fact, its more than mistakes, serious crimes which should be investigated. Despite our effort to support a peaceful initiatives in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, we were called traitors and non-patriots by Georgian authorities (Last year we have launched a Sorry campaign - www.apsni.org - but official government has started a campaign of discreditation of our organisation and some people promised to kill me for apologising to Abkhazians). Now we will start such campaign with Ossetians.

TWO

In March 2007 the Human Rights Center launched the web site of the **Sorry Campaign**:
www.apsni.org

It is not easy to apologize as well as to accept an apology.

The aim of the Sorry Campaign is to change the dynamics and direction of the relationships that have been established between Georgians and Abkhazians during recent years. The Sorry Campaign is not in any way connected with politics; it is a movement that is against war, as we consider that there is no alternative to peaceful dialogue and mutual settlement of the conflict. The Campaign envisages the reestablishment of confidence between Georgian and Abkhazian people and to break through the informational vacuum. We want to encourage people to think about the horrors of war and the mistakes we have made.

When you toss a pebble in the water, the circles are produced; we hope that the Sorry Campaign will serve as a pebble in solving the problem.

THREE

The [statement below] is our third appeal about the conflict in the South Ossetia. In the first and second appeals we were focused against the starting war in the south Ossetia. the last appeal was only on the developments in Georgia during the last two days.

See detailed analyses at:

http://www.humanrights.ge/index.php?a=archive&c=hr_cats&id=2&lang=en

This is the first statement in English :

Peace Must Be Secured in South Ossetia! An Appeal of the Human Rights Center

The Human Rights Center is extremely concerned about the recent urgent situation in the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia. We consider that Georgian authorities and all of society should do their utmost to reduce and bring the current hostilities to a peaceful conclusion.

We have already learned a hard lesson with such tensions. We should still remember how hostilities were tensed several years ago and now the terrible events at the time resulted in needless bloodshed. People died and peace talks were deadlock for indefinite period of time as a result of the military standoff.

We hold the opinion that society should realize that Georgia does not have right to use provocations as ploys in bringing about an uncontrolled situation in the conflict zone. Every exchange of fire takes us further away from our final goal of peaceful co-existence with the Ossetian people. The Human Rights Center considers that Georgian government should be most careful when carrying out any sort of activities within the conflict zone.

We believe that representatives of the Georgian Defense Minister and United HQ of Armed Forces made a serious mistake when they hoisted a

Georgian Flag in the village of Sarabuk in the Tskhinvali region. This place is a strategic zone and such an action artificially tensed an already heated situation.

Military hostilities creates the threat that war will be resumed in the conflict zone, which further breeds fear of society being unprotected that will also result in instability. It is impossible to think about economic or democratic development in the country where gun-fire is always ringing out.

Creating an environment of a constant threat of war means that Georgia will forfeit trust at the international level, which can have long-term negative consequences. Moreover, we will lose our partners who want to cooperate with us. We have their support at this point after long and trying times. Consequently it is necessary that every activity on the part of the Georgian government be done within the boundaries of diplomatic and peaceful mechanisms.

The Human Rights Center calls upon Georgian society and international organizations to not allow the situation to further escalate in the South Ossetia. Furthermore, it urges all stakeholders to take all necessary measures to guarantee peaceful existence for the residents of the conflict zone.

FOUR

STOP WAR! 10 Aug. '08

<http://www.humanrights.ge/index.php?a=article&id=3028<=en>

The Human Rights Centre calls for international organizations to quickly intervene diplomatically and restore the peaceful dialogue between the conflicting sides.

During the last several days the Russian Federation has been bombing the cities of Georgia, including the capital (Tbilisi). Russian troops and a large amount of heavy artilleries is now located on Georgian territory. There continues to be heated and armed struggles between Russian and Georgian troops.

There have been many victims among the peaceful civilian population as a result of the bombings. This may in turn lead to further escalation of situation, and the final results may be even more damaging for the small country of Georgia and peace and security in the region.

The Human Rights Centre (HRIDC) believes that the war is not a way to bring about conflict resolution. The HRIDC calls for international society, Russian and the Georgian Government to take all necessary measures in order to bring a halt to the current standoff and to immediately restore peaceful dialogue between all opposing parties.

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Web: www.HumanRights.ge

SORRY CAMPAIGN: <http://www.apsni.org/>