

Structure

The "Kazbegi process" involves representatives of analytical centers, non-governmental organizations, independent experts, journalists and community leaders, being concerned with Georgian – Ossetian relations. Depending on their professional interests and priorities, the participants of the peace movement formed working groups on the following issues:

- negotiation process
- citizens' diplomacy and civil society
- human rights
- armed conflict and human security
- protection of the environment
- media (media group "Kazbegi")
- culture, science, education and sports

History

The beginning of the "Kazbegi process" was marked by a working meeting of representatives of different communities – victims of the Georgian – Ossetian conflict – with the participation of experts and academics in Kazbegi. The event was organized on the initiative of 3 NGOs:

- Helsinki Citizens' Assembly - Georgian National Committee
- New Education. Educators for Peace and Nonviolence.
- Research Center for Georgian-Ossetian relations under the South Caucasus Institute of Regional Security (SCIRS)

Worried by the increased complication of the situation in the conflict zone, the participants of the conference put down a joint document – "Kazbegi declaration" – applying to international organizations that take part in the conflict resolution efforts, to NGOs working in this sphere, and to a broad part of society with the aim to promoting a process of stabilization of the situation in the Georgian – Ossetian conflict zone. The declaration was signed by representatives of 21 organizations.

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Supporting organizations

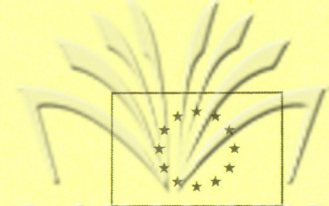
- Helsinki Citizens' Assembly – Georgian National Committee
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- Delegation of the European Commission to Georgia and Armenia
- Interchurch Peace Council (IKV)
- Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO)
- "Open Society" Foundation Georgia

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Danish Refugee Council
South Caucasus Representation



ქართული
გონიერების
პროცესი

Kazbegi Process



A process assisting the re-establishment of an atmosphere of trust and common understanding, traditional relations between the society divided as a result of the Georgian – Ossetian conflict



Kazbegi Declaration

Overall Evaluation of the Situation

1. Problems in Georgian-Ossetian relations are part of the conflict system existent in the South Caucasus, as well as being the result of current global-level confrontations between major political actors struggling for a new redistribution of spheres of influence in different regions of the world.
2. The mentioned conflict has a history which has not been scrutinized well enough, and which has been distorted by the ethnocentric views of academic researchers. Absence of a general document giving a unified version of the substance and history of the conflict, particularly of the events at the beginning and end of the 20th century, causes a lack of self-awareness and understanding of the mistakes made by each party in the conflict, thus promoting the recurrence of these mistakes.
3. Reducing the complex nature of the conflict to one root cause – ethnicity, encourages further ethnization of the conflict and promotes both inadequate responses and conflict escalation. This causes civil unrest in a society so recently united, and the many losses incurred are not perceived as a joint tragedy.
4. Absence of an adequate diagnosis and corresponding legal base caused the collapse of several meetings during the negotiation process as well as the neglect of previously made decisions. The main problem is that for many years there has not been a common analytical document. This leads to the lack of a common vision and understanding of the conflict, a common concept of resolution and a concrete action plan for conflict resolution.
5. One of the fundamental problems defining the reanimation of the armed aspect of the conflict is nonparticipation in the process of preparing and making political decisions by Georgian and Ossetian communities involved in the conflict. These communities have especially been the direct victims of the conflict, i.e., ethnic Georgians, living in the territory of the former South Ossetian Autonomous Area (SOAA) or displaced to different regions of Georgia, and ethnic Ossetians living in the territory of Georgia (outside the former SOAA) or displaced to the Republic of North Ossetia – Alania.
6. A key issue is the fate of families of mixed ethnicity. During the past fifteen years, Georgio-Ossetian families have lived under permanent psychological pressure, a result of the aggressive egoism of different political groups, causing many to break up. An entire generation of children has been traumatized. Members of mixed-ethnicity families often have to change their surnames, accentuating the problem of national and ethnic identification, and causing many of them to suffer from an inferiority complex regarding their ethnicity.
7. In the case of conflict escalation, it is likely that new segments of the population of the former SOAA will join the millions of already displaced persons in the Caucasus. Many of them will be integrated individually or as families into the European Union or Russia, most significantly into the Republic of North Ossetia – Alania, and different regions of Georgia.
8. Unprofessional and inhuman actions of both official power authorities and unofficial militias on either side of the conflict have brought about a number of gross human rights' violations never addressed by international human rights organizations. Appropriate legislative consideration was never given to these violations and violators were not punished. This lack of punishment combined with legislative uncertainty has promoted the creation of conditions conducive to the perpetration of new crimes. As a result, there are likely to be increased numbers of hostages or prisoners of war in the near future.
9. International organizations have not controlled the massive deliveries of fire-arms and ammunition into the conflict zone, which, in the event of renewed armed conflict, might raise the numbers of immediate victims, as well as raise the quantity of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and mines, presenting a real danger for the civilian population of the conflict zone.
10. Future escalation of violence in the conflict zone may entail serious socio-economic problems in neighboring regions of Georgia and Russia. Then, once the situation is normalized, an accurately organized negotiation scheme could make it possible to expect a large flow of investment and development, particularly cross-border cooperation using modern socio-economic techniques and the creation of diverse forms of economic cooperation.
11. Insufficient democratization of our societies has led to a low level of legitimacy of political structures. This forces both the international community and us to direct more serious attention to the acknowledgement of this problem as a fact, bringing about the formation of a common political goal – striving to increase the level of legitimacy of local political structures. The right conditions for increasing legitimacy, resolving conflicts and stable development will emerge only with the participation in political government by all segments of our divided society, and, primarily, the delineation of the role of conflict victims in this process.
12. Heightened anxiety gives rise to insufficient levels of competence and coordination of nongovernmental, governmental and international organizations and peacemaking forces that don't notice the problems mentioned above and don't pay attention to the recommendations of independent experts representing analytical centers. These organizations don't have trustworthy information, very often don't have their own analytical centers, and don't rely on serious analytical research causing their activity to be extremely ineffective.

The above-mentioned is far from being a complete list of the problems to which we would like to draw your attention. We appeal to everybody of good will to concentrate their efforts on resolution of these and other problems. The solution to even one of these problems by communal efforts would create a real basis for the development of trust and constructive cooperation.

We are responsible to future generations and to the memory of our ancestors. Who can say what price we have paid for stubbornly insisting on having our own truth while not listening to the truth of others, for not striving after a common truth and thereby falling into the depths of apathy? We should all take part in the definition of our common future. We hope that YOU will try to do everything possible and give feedback to this appeal.