



EMBASSY OF GEORGIA TO THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA
PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO THE OSCE AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

As delivered by the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the OSCE,

Ambassador Paata Gaprindashvili

at the 905th session of the OSCE Permanent Council

Vienna, March 15, 2012

Mr. Chairman,
Dear Colleagues,

On 10th of March 2012, the Russian occupation forces and their proxy regimes held so-called "parliamentary elections" in the occupied region of Abkhazia. This unlawful act is yet another unsuccessful attempt to cover up the ethnic cleansing of hundreds of thousands of people with the elements of supposed "legitimacy".

The crimes committed by the Russian occupants and their proxy regimes over the past 20 years have fundamentally distorted the demographic situation of both the Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions. Internally displaced persons from the occupied region of Abkhazia are deprived of their right to return to their homes.

The human rights of those who managed to remain on the ground are being gravely violated by the occupation forces on a daily basis while international observers are not allowed to enter the occupied region to report on the grave human rights situation as well as on the ongoing intensive militarization of the region.

The so-called "parliamentary elections" illegally held in the occupied region of Abkhazia are further proof of a complete disregard for international norms and principles.

We welcome the adequate reaction of the international community on the so called "parliamentary elections" in Abkhazia. And we should continue urging Russia to fulfill its international obligations - including the provisions of the 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement.

Thank you.