



**Georgian delegation's response to the NGO "Sandidzan" and
"Ossetia Accuses"**

2015 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Working Session 8, Prevention of Torture

Warsaw, September 25, 2015

Thank you Mr. Moderator,

- I would like to use the right of reply and respond to the allegations presented by the representatives from the NGOs "Sandidzan" and "Ossetia Accuses".
- Due to time constraint, I will focus on main details. In October 2008, Russian authorities informed the law enforcement agencies of Georgia about the disappearance of three persons, Mr. Pliev, Mr. Khachirov and Mr. Khugaev from the territories controlled by Russian forces on the ground.
- Based on obtained information, a criminal case was opened in Georgia.
- From the very beginning, the occupation regime, in the first line, the Russian forces, didn't cooperate and hindered the investigation by withholding important information relevant to the investigation.
- Requests of the Georgian law enforcement agencies to share the detailed records of missing persons location data which must have been registered by the Russian mobile services operating on the occupied territories, was always turned down by the Russian authorities.
- In October 2012, the case was reopened and the investigation is still running. However, the occupation authorities continue to withhold important information and ignore requests of the Georgian law enforcement agencies which could help advance the ongoing investigation.
- On our side, I would like to remind the case of missing Grigol (Grisha) Nalbandov. Mr. Nalbandov disappeared in 2008 and since then any trace of his is lost.

- Despite several requests of the law enforcement agencies of Georgia, no investigation was started and no one was questioned by the occupation authorities over the case.
- I would like to use this opportunity and call on the occupation authorities to contribute to the investigation into the missing persons mentioned above and stop withholding relevant information on them.
- And finally, we find it cynical that participant from Tskhinvali region accuses Georgian authorities of illegal detentions, since Russian border guards along with Ossetian Militcia stationed along the occupation line with the Tskhinvali region continue to illegally detain the local population for crossing the so called “border” on a daily basis. Just to illustrate, since the beginning of 2015, 108 local residents have been detained.

Thank you