

6 January 2010



The following statement is from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Ossetia

TSKHINVAL, South Ossetia - On 4 January 2010, Gennadiy Pleyev, a citizen of the Republic of South Ossetia (RSO), was abducted by members of the Special Forces of Georgia from a southern suburb of the city of Tskhinval located near the border with Georgia. Our government has learned that a criminal case has already been opened against Mr. Pleyev in Georgia and he is being detained in a pre-trial detention/interrogation center.

South Ossetian officials invited EU observers to the site where the abduction was committed, which is approximately 400-500 meters from the border dividing the Republic of South Ossetia and Georgia. The observers were able to see for themselves the evidence of a struggle and presence of blood, clearly confirming the violent kidnapping of Mr. Pleyev.

The explanations provided by the representatives of Georgia are ludicrous: they have stated that he was either captured on Georgian territory in the township of Nikoz and was allegedly “armed” and declared to be “an Ossetian terrorist” or that he crossed the border voluntarily and asked for political asylum.

The RSO Ministry of Foreign Affairs considers this yet another provocation by the Georgian Special Forces, which have been actively involved in violating the border and exacerbating the tensions in the border region. Such actions against South Ossetian citizens are in sharp contrast to the peaceable and humane behavior demonstrated by the South Ossetian leadership towards those citizens of Georgia who committed crimes on the territory of South Ossetia.

The Ministry appeals to the international organizations responsible for stability in the region and to human rights organizations to help facilitate Gennadiy Pleyev’s release and to prevent further escalation of the tensions in the border region.