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South Ossetia Calls for West to Stop Arming Georgia

President Eduard Kokoity Says Western Leaders, Behind the Scenes,
Know Georgian President is Erratic, Undependable,
Yet They Continue to Send Him Arms

Tskhinval, South Ossetia—August 6, 2009—As it prepares to honor the victims of last August's war, the government of the Republic of South Ossetia called on the United States and its allies to halt their rearmament of Georgia.

South Ossetian President Eduard Kokoity said Georgia's Western supporters had failed to hold President Mikheil Saakashvili accountable for ordering the brutal attack on South Ossetia, which left hundreds dead and thousands homeless.

"Many Western foreign policy experts have said the Obama Administration -- as well as most European governments -- have at least privately acknowledged that Saakashvili is responsible for starting last year's war," said Kokoity. "Yet they continue to rearm and train his military."

"We are the people who have to live with this reckless leader wielding a foreign arsenal on our border. Since the war, the U.S. and other governments have pledged billions of dollars to a Georgian leader who to this day has refused to pledge non-violence against us."

"I am confident the world will someday understand that the greatest promise for stability and peace in our region is acceptance of South Ossetia's independence and support for the economic and political freedom of our people."

Kokoity invited the world to join with South Ossetia in acknowledging what happened on the night of August 7th, 2008.

“Saakashvili went on television and declared that we should sleep peacefully, assuring us that there would be no military action by his government. A few hours later he ordered an artillery attack on our capital, killing women and children asleep in their beds. Within hours, there were Georgian tanks on our streets firing shells into homes, hospitals and schools.”

“Only the intervention of the Russian Federation stopped the atrocities,” said Kokoity.

The South Ossetian President thanked the Russian Federation for continuing to protect his country from further Georgian hostilities.

Over the next three days, the Republic of South Ossetia will hold a series of events to honor the soldiers and innocent civilians killed or wounded in the August war.

In a commentary published today by The Guardian, Kokoity and Abkhazian President Sergei Bagapsh cited the “a vast moral abdication in the West, among politicians, intellectuals and media – a failure to honestly confront what Georgia did.”

[<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/aug/06/georgia-abkhazia-south-ossetia>]

Kokoity and Bagapsh argued that this moral failure has kept the West “from dealing realistically with the new boundaries of nationhood here. Abkhazia and South Ossetia are free and independent countries, goals sought by our people for centuries. We will never again be a part of Georgia.”

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