



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

**The Secretariat**

**Conflict Prevention Centre**

**Vienna, 7 August 2008**

**To: All OSCE Delegations in Vienna**

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- as per telephone
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**Re: OSCE Mission to Georgia**

*Spot Report: Update on the situation in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict*



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Mission to Georgia**

**Spot Report**

<b>Topic:</b>	<b>Update on the situation in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>7 August 2008</b>

The military security situation in the zone of conflict deteriorated further. Since the afternoon of 6 August fire was exchanged almost along the whole line of contact between the Georgian and South Ossetian sides. Hotspots were the Avnevi-Nuli-Khetagurovo (8 km west of Tskhinvali) area as well as the Dmenisi-Prisi area (east of Tskhinvali). Firing, reportedly also from mortars and artillery, caused an unknown number of casualties and fatalities. Firing continued after a short break this morning.

On 7 August, the Russian Special Envoy for the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, Ambassador Yuri Popov arrived in Tbilisi. According to a preliminary arrangement agreed with the Georgian side he was supposed to mediate a meeting between the State Minister of Reintegration Yakobashvili and the South Ossetian JCC Co-Chairman Boris Chochiev in Tskhinvali. At the same time there were contradicting statements with regard to the position of the South Ossetian side on this initiative. Later in the day, the South Ossetian side rejected any possibility for a bilateral meeting with the Georgian side and insisted on a meeting in the JCC format.

As a result of further negotiations between State Minister Yakobashvili and Ambassador Popov held on 7 August in Tbilisi, it was agreed that both would travel separately to the zone of conflict to undertake further efforts to organize a meeting between Mr. Yakobashvili and Mr. Chochiev. An OSCE and JPKF team escorted the team of State Minister Yakobashvili to the JPKF Headquarters in Tskhinvali, where he had a meeting with Ambassador Popov and the JPKF Commander General Kulakhmetov. Despite renewed efforts by the Russian side to convince the South Ossetian side as well as the insistence of General Kulakhmetov that such a meeting was urgently needed, the South Ossetian side refused to participate. State Minister Yakobashvili afterwards left Tskhinvali.

The Mission was able during the day to confirm significant movements of troops and equipment on the Georgian side towards Gori from the east and west. Other troops and equipment were observed stationary north of Gori just outside the zone of conflict.

In the afternoon, a Georgian JPKF Military Observer (MO) accompanying a tripartite JPKF joint monitoring team (JMT) left that monitoring after receiving a telephone order to do so. The Georgian JPKF Headquarters element also left the JPKF compound in Tskhinvali at around the same time.

At 19:00 hrs local time President Saakashvili in a televised address stated that he had just given an order to cease fire. He called on the South Ossetian and Russian sides to stop the bloodshed as well and meet at the negotiating table in whatever bilateral or multilateral format. According to the Mission's Tskhinvali Field Office, firing has stopped after the TV address in the area which the Office staff can assess.