



საქართველოს პრეზიდენტი
PRESIDENT OF GEORGIA

H.E. Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington D.C.

November 30, 2010

Dear President,

On November 23, 2010, in an address to the European Parliament, I pledged that Georgia will not use force either against Russian occupying forces or against their proxies in the Georgian territories occupied by the Russian Federation, even though the UN Charter empowers us to do so. Georgia will only retain the right to self-defense in the case of new military attacks against the Georgian government and people of Georgia.

With this letter, I would like to formalize this commitment. The US has a major stake in the peaceful resolution of the Georgia-Russia conflict, due to the core principles for which the US stands, and also as part of the Geneva Discussions.

The Russian Federation continues to illegally occupy 20 percent of Georgian territory, in blatant violation of international law and the August 12, 2008, ceasefire agreement signed by Presidents of Russian Federation and Georgia, and brokered thanks to the mediation of President Sarkozy, on behalf of the European Union. Up to 500,000 IDPs and refugees, victims of ethnic cleansing, remain unable to return home. The Russian Federation also systematically undermines the Geneva Discussions.– until now the only format for dialogue supported by the international community.

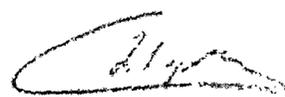
Despite these violations and despite the fact that the Georgian government already considers itself bound by the August 12th ceasefire agreement and has always considered that this ceasefire prohibits the use of force, we unilaterally declare that we will seek remission and de-occupation only through peaceful means, without resorting to force.

Our unilateral commitment to non-use of force immediately becomes our legal obligation under international law.

Russia should finally comply with the August 12th ceasefire agreement as well as fundamental principles of international law and withdraw its troops from the Georgian territory.

In closing, I would like to extend my utmost gratitude for the role that the United States is playing to peacefully resolve the conflict. I also would like to express my hope that--with your assistance and mediation--Georgia and Russia will manage to engage in productive high-level talks. The Georgian side is certainly prepared to do so.

Sincerely yours,



Mikheil Saakashvili