



Georgia

Statement by Mr. Shalva Tsiskarashvili, Permanent Representative of Georgia to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva

16th Session of the UPR Working Group, Geneva, 29 April 2013

UPR Review of the Russian Federation

Mr. President,

Georgia highly appreciates the compilations prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner and finds some of the observations contained therein as extremely alarming.

We are extremely concerned by the fact that Russia as an occupying power of Georgian regions of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali Region deliberately ignores and systematically fails to comply with its obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law.

We therefore recommend the Russian government:

1. To immediately end the occupation of Georgian regions of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali Region as an overarching method for numerous different forms of severe human rights violations therein;
2. To allow and ensure safe and dignified return of ethnically cleansed IDPs and refugees from Georgia's Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali regions and to comply fully with respective norms of international humanitarian law and human rights law before and while ending the occupation of these regions;
3. To take immediate steps to effectively eradicate and remedy widespread and systematic administrative practices of torture and ill-treatment, especially in detention facilities, suppression of the rights to assembly and freedom of expression, including media freedom and safety of journalists, and of control of judiciary by the executive, in line with the UN treaty monitoring bodies' recommendations.