



## **Georgia - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 9 April 2009**

### **Information on the recognition of Ossetia as being independent from Georgia.**

*President Dmitry Medvedev* declared Russia's recognition of South Ossetia and Abkhazia as independent states as follows:

"The Presidents of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, based on the results of the referendums conducted and on the decisions taken by the Parliaments of the two republics, appealed to Russia to recognize the state sovereignty of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The Federation Council and the State Duma voted in support of those appeals. A decision needs to be taken based on the situation on the ground. Considering the freely expressed will of the Ossetian and Abkhaz peoples and being guided by the provisions of the UN Charter, the 1970 Declaration on the Principles of International Law Governing Friendly Relations Between States, the CSCE Helsinki Final Act of 1975 and other fundamental international instruments, I signed Decrees on the recognition by the Russian Federation of South Ossetia's and Abkhazia's independence." (President of Russia (26 August 2008) *Statement by President of Russia Dmitry Medvedev*)

A *Reuters* report states:

"Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez backed Russia's recognition of two breakaway regions of Georgia on Friday, making Venezuela only the second nation to support Moscow's stance. Russia's neighbor and close ally Belarus has expressed similar support for Moscow's decision to back the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia after a brief war between Russia and Georgia this month. 'Russia has recognized the independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. We support Russia. Russia is right and is defending its interests,' Chavez said during a televised speech from an oil field along the Orinoco Oil Belt. He stopped short of saying Venezuela recognized the regions." (Reuters (29 August 2008) *Chavez backs Russian recognition of Georgia regions*)

See also another *Reuters* report which states:

"Venezuela and Cuba have sided with Russia in the dispute, but Ortega went further in fully recognizing the regions' independence. 'The government of Nicaragua recognizes the independence of the republics of South Ossetia and Abkhazia and we are completely with the Russian government's position,' Ortega said in a speech late on Tuesday." (Reuters (3 September 2008) *Nicaragua recognizes South Ossetia, Abkhazia*)

*RIA Novosti* refers to Nicaragua recognising South Ossetia as follows:

“Nicaragua has become the first country after Russia to recognize the two republics as independent states.” (RIA Novosti (6 September 2008) *Nicaragua recognizes S.Ossetia, Abkhazia*)

A *BBC News* report states:

“Long a source of tension in the region, South Ossetia was the focus of a full-blown war between Russia and Georgia in 2008. In the aftermath, it declared independence from Georgia and was recognised by Russia, Venezuela and Nicaragua.” (BBC News (12 February 2009) *Regions and territories: South Ossetia*)

In a section titled “The Georgia–South Ossetia Conflict” an *Amnesty International* report states:

“The de facto authority in the capital of the region, Tskhinvali, refers to itself as the Republic of South Ossetia, which was not recognized by any state until Russia’s 26 August recognition. Nicaragua is the only other state to have recognized the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.” (Amnesty International (18 November 2008) *Civilians in the Line of Fire – The Georgia-Russia Conflict* AI Index: EUR 04/005/2008, p.7)

Footnote 3 of this report states:

“Other states, such as Venezuela, have indicated their approval of Russia’s recognition of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, but have, so far, stopped short of formally recognizing them as independent.” (ibid, p.64)

## References:

Amnesty International (18 November 2008) *Civilians in the Line of Fire – The Georgia-Russia Conflict* AI Index: EUR 04/005/2008

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR04/005/2008/en>

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RIA Novosti (6 September 2008) *Nicaragua recognizes S.Ossetia, Abkhazia*

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20080906/116590791.html>

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

**Sources Consulted:**

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Electronic Immigration Network

European Country of Origin Information Network

Google

Human Rights Watch

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

International Crisis Group

LexisNexis

Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database

UNHCR Refworld

US Department of State