

Russian Invasion of Georgia

Russian Attacks: Summary

8 October, 2008

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<http://georgiaupdate.gov.ge/>

Air attacks

Georgia's territory was subjected to aerial bombardment over 75 times, with five fully confirmed rocket attacks from the Tochka-U (SS-21) and Iskander-M (SS-26) class of missiles. The bombs and missiles were dropped during at least 84 illegal incursions into Georgia's airspace.

As of 18 September, 255 unexploded aviation bombs were discovered and disposed of. Among them: BTK 500, FAB 500, FAB 1000 and FAB 1500 types of bombs. Some of the bombs exploded deep under the surface, so it is not possible to identify their type. Also, dozens of rockets and missiles were used, including cluster bombs.

The areas bombed far exceeded the putative conflict zone of the region of South Ossetia. Georgia is not a big country – East to West, it measures about 598 km, and North to South 192km. Yet the distance between the two most distant bombing targets was a mere 456 km.

At least 36 areas were bombed, of which 24 are villages (or areas near villages) including those in the Upper Abkhazia, 6 are towns (or areas near towns), one administrative unit (massive attack of the whole territory of Upper Abkhazia) and key elements of the national infrastructure.

Of 12 Georgia's regions nine were bombed:

- Kakheti Region;
- Shida-Kartli Region;
- Kvemo-Kartli Region;
- Samegrelo-Zemo-Svaneti Region;
- Racha-Lechkhumi-Kvemo-Svaneti Region;
- Imereti Region
- Adjara Autonomous Republic
- Upper Abkhazia
- Tbilisi

Bombing runs before Georgian ceasefire offer

The list below indicates the areas bombed, and the minimum number of times each was bombed:

#	Area	Name of Area	Number of Bombings Distance from Tskhinvali and Tbilisi (Direct Distance) ¹	Time and Date of Bombing
1	Village	Shavshvebi (Gori District)	2/31/57	09:30-09:44 – 08.08.08 10:29-11:04 – 09.08.08
2	Village	Variani (Kareli District)	1/17/74	10:23-10:43 – 08.08.08
3	Village	Tkviavi (Gori District)	1/12/76	10:50-11:04 – 08.08.08
4	Village	Azhara (Upper Abkhazia)	2/208/295	14:26-14:39 – 09.08.08 06:02-09:15 – 10.08.08
5	Village	Chkhalt'a (Upper Abkhazia)	5/211/298	14:26-14:39 – 09.08.08 22:20-22:30 – 09.08.08 06:02-09:15 – 10.08.08 12:22-12:26 – 10.08.08 13:51-13:55 – 10.08.08
6	Village	Komandeli (Oni District)	1/58/145	16:04-16:14 – 09.08.08
7	Village	Gentsvisi (Upper Abkhazia)	2/200/287	22:20-22:30 – 09.08.08
8	Village	Urta (Zugdidi District)	1/176/255	06:02-09:15 – 10.08.08
9	Village	Tsedisi (Oni District)	1/48/135	11:25-11:27 – 10.08.08
10	Village	Knolevi (Kareli District)	1/17/95	15:09-15:24 – 10.08.08
11	Village	Anaklia (Zugdidi District)	2/197/274	15:40-15:50 – 10.08.08 16:20-16:35 – 10.08.08
12	Village	Omarishara (Upper Abkhazia)	1/200/287	14:03-14:11 – 09.08.08
13	Gorge	Jechora (Oni District)	3/53/141	17:39-17:50 – 09.08.08 18:00-18:10 – 09.08.08 18:24-18:34 – 09.08.08
14	Administrative Unit (Gorge) Precise location unknown	Upper Abkhazia (Kodori Gorge)	4/207/293	13:42-13:50 – 09.08.08 15:05-15:15 – 10.08.08 16:09-16:14 – 10.08.08 17:21-17:55 – 10.08.08
15	City	Gori	5/30/63	10:50-11:04 – 08.08.08 18:29-18:58 – 08.08.08 09:52-10:24 – 09.08.08 10:21-10:46 – 09.08.08 15:29-15:39 – 10.08.08
16	City	Marneuli	2/109/29	15:50-16:20 – 08.08.08 16:39-17:06 – 08.08.08
17	City	Bolnisi	1/104/44	15:50-16:20 – 08.08.08

¹ The distances are approximate

18	City	Senaki	1/155/232	23:50-00:23 – 08-09.08.08
19	City	Tbilisi (Vaziani + Airplane Factory)	2/100/0	15:07-15:21 – 08.08.08 23:44-00:36 – 08-09.08.08 05:27-05:47 – 10.08.08
20	City	Poti	3/189/261	23:50-00:23 – 08-09.08.08 23:50 - 08.08.08(Tochka-U) 00:41-01:04 – 09.08.08
21	Infrastructure	Kopitnari Airport (Near Kutaisi)	1/110/187	09:23-09:45 – 09.08.08
22	Oil Pipeline	Baku-Supsa Oil Pipeline (KP 25; KP 26)	1/117/31	05:27-05:47 – 10.08.08
	Total Number of Bombardments		43	

Bombing runs after Georgian ceasefire offer

At 17:30 on 10 August, the Georgian Foreign Ministry handed a diplomatic note to the Russian Embassy offering an immediate Georgian ceasefire. Yet the Russian Air Force continued its bombing runs for three more days, as indicated in the list below:

#	Type of Area	Name of Area	Number of Bombings Distance from Tskhinvali and Tbilisi	Time and Date of Bombing
2 3	Village	Shavshvebi (Gori District)	1/31/57	23:54-00:00 – 10.08.08
2 4	Village	Gentsvisi (Upper Abkhazia)	1/200/287	22:03-22:09 – 10.08.08
2 5	Village	Chkhalta (Upper Abkhazia)	1/211/298	02:09-02:40 – 11.08.08
2 6	Village	Sharabidzeebi (Khelvachauri District)	1/201/258	02:44-03:20 – 11.08.08
2 7	Village	Kapandidi (Khelvachauri District)	1/201/258	02:44-03:20 – 11.08.08
2 8	Village	Makho (Khelvachauri District)	1/201/258	02:44-03:20 – 11.08.08
2 9	Village	Ganmukhuri (Zugdidi District)	1/190/269	07:10-07:20 – 11.08.08
3 0	Village	Anaklia (Zugdidi District)	1/197/274	07:10-07:20 – 11.08.08
31	Village	Ruisi (Kareli District)	1/15/93	01:30-02:00 – 12.08.08
32	Village	Agara (Khashuri District)	1/32/91	Approx 14:00 – 12.08.08
33	Village	Sakorintlo (Kaspi District)	1/40/48	Approx 14:15 – 12.08.08
34	Village	Sakasheti (Gori District)	1/20/73	In the morning, Exact time

		District)		unknown – 13.08.08
35	Village	Okami (Kaspi District)	1/52/36	In the morning, Exact time unknown – 16.08.08
36	City	Tbilisi (Tbilisi Int. Airport; Radar Station)	2/100/0	18:42-19:16 – 10.08.08 04:12-04:50 – 11.08.08
37	City	Gori	3/30/63	05:25-06:15 – 11.08.08 09:30-10:55 – 12.08.08 Approx. 12:00 (Iskander M SS-26) 12.08.08
38	City	Senaki	2/155/232	19:40-20:05 – 10.08.08 07:10-07:20 – 11.08.08
39	City	Kaspi Railway Station	1/50/38	01:30-02:00 – 12.08.08
40	Administrative Unit (Gorge) Precise location unknown	Upper Abkhazia (Kodori Gorge)	5/207/293	19:40-20:05 – 10.08.08 20:23-20:27 – 10.08.08 00:19-00:39 – 11.08.08 03:03-03:29 – 11.08.08 19:05-19:10 – 11.08.08
41	Infrastructure	Shiraki Airfield (Dedopolistskaro District)	1/208/124	04:12-04:50 – 11.08.08
42	Oil Pipeline	Baku-Supsa Oil Pipeline (KP 27)	1/117/31	11:30 – (Iskander M SS-26) 12.08.08
43	Infrastructure	Kaspi, Heidelberg Cement Factory	1/50/38	01:30-02:00 – 12.08.08
44	Village	Karbi, Tskhinvali Region	1	Date of Bombing Unknown controlled by separatists
45		Oni district	1	Tochka U=SS-21, the Date Unknown, Found Unexploded
46	Village	Sinaguri	1/7 km from administrative border between Imereti region and SO	Tochka U=SS-21, the date Unknown, Found Unexploded http://www.novayagazeta.ru/news/318493.html Controlled by Ossetian militia and Russians troops.
	Total Number of Bombardments		32	

Occupation of Georgian towns and villages

After fanning out across the conflict zone in the regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, Russian troops occupied the following cities, towns and villages prior to the ceasefire agreement signed by Presidents Medvedev, Saakashvili and Sarkozy:

Zugdidi

11.08.08

Village Beloti near Eredvi, Tskhinvali district	11.08.08
Village Shindisi, Gori district	11.08.08
Senaki	11.08.08
Gori, the major motorway between East and West of the country blocked	11.08.08
Village Khaishi, Samegrelo Zemo-Svaneti region	12.08.08
Upper Abkhazia	12.08.08
Abkhaz militia enter demilitarized zone (Village Ganmukhuri)	12.08.08
Additional troops enter Gori	13-14.08.08
Village Atotsi, Kareli district	13.08.08
Village Pakhulani, Tzalenjikha district	13.08.08
Additional troops enter Zugdidi twice	14.08.08
Village Mejvriskhevi, Gori district	14.08.08
Villages Ruisi and Tzveri, Kareli district	14.08.08

Tbilisi Intrusion Threat:

12 August

15 August

The day when the ceasefire was signed

On August 15, the ceasefire agreement was signed, but Russians kept occupying Georgian settlements:

Crossed river Abasha towards the City of Abasha, 40 km away from the second largest city of Kutaisi

Village Igoeti, Kaspi district, 40 km away from Tbilisi

Khashuri, 30 km west from Gori

Surami, 5-8 km west of Khashuri

Occupation of towns and villages after French-mediated ceasefire

The ceasefire agreement signed 15 August committed Russian troops to withdraw to the positions occupied before 7 August.

Instead, Russia deepened its occupation of Georgia, entering and occupying more towns and villages far away from the conflict zones:

Sachkhere, Imereti Region	16.08.08
Akhlagori, 40 km North-West of Tbilisi	16.08.08
Additional Russian troops entered Senaki military base	17.08.08
South Ossetian militia enter Akhlagori	17.08.08
Russian armored vehicles advanced towards the Supsa oil terminal, near Poti	17.08.08
Russian troops again block the major highway near Kaspi	18.08.08
Russian troops advance towards Sachkere	19.08.08
Russian troops enter Poti port again	19.08.08

Russian troops open checkpoints on the outskirts of Poti	20.08.08
Russian troops occupy village Chogha in the Chkhorotsku district	20.08.08
Russian troops occupy village Perevi, Sachkhere district	20.08.08

Landmines, use of explosives and cluster bomblets

On August 17, Russian troops mined roads in the Svaneti region and on the old Gori road south of Kaspi.

On August 18, Russian troops used explosive devices to destroy military installations in Senaki.

On August 23 and 24, Russian troops used explosive devices to destroy military installations in Osiauri.

On August 24, a landmine blew up a crude oil train 5 km west of Gori. Other mines and buried artillery shells were subsequently found at other spots along the tracks.

The widespread distribution of Russian landmines and bomblets left over from cluster bombs attacks poses an ongoing threat to civilians, especially in Gori district. On 24 August, a woman was killed in Gori by a landmine in her garden, and a man injured in Tirdznisi village.

Mines of the “frog” type have been found in civilian gardens and orchards in Gori. These are anti-personnel mines that, when stepped upon, jump into the air and explode at chest- or head-height.

Cluster bombs

The use of cluster bombs against civilian targets has been confirmed by Human Rights Watch. Cluster bombs explode at altitude in order to scatter bomblets over a wide area. Most bomblets explode on impact. The effect of hundreds of bomblets exploding at the same time is to saturate the targeted area with high-speed shrapnel, killing everything alive. Because the bomblets can be scattered over a wide area, these are among the most destructive antipersonnel conventional weapons.

Bomblets that fail to explode on impact become landmines.