

Q5 Humanitarian / Reference 76: Witness statement

Protocol of a Victim Testimonial

Tbilisi

August 21, 2008

According to the articles 294-303, and 309 of Criminal Procedural Code of Georgia, I, *the intern of Gldani Nadzaladevi district Tbilisi, **Shota Kvachantiradze**, in the premises of Tbilisi Prosecutor's Office, and regarding the Case # 074088079, have examined as a victim:*

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Name, father's name, surname | Gulnara Shalvovna Jakhveladze |
| 2. Date of birth (y/m/d) | 1951 / July / 04 |
| 3. Place of birth | Znauri region, village Tilva |
| 4. Nationality & citizenship | Georgian |
| 5. Education / profession | Secondary technical |
| 6. Civil status | Married |
| 7. Place of residence | Gori district village Kekhvi |
| 8. Place of work & occupation | Unemployed |
| 9. Previous trials | N/A |
| 10. Any kind of immunity | N/A |
| 11. State awards | N/A |

12. Other notes

13. What relationships with the accused **N/A**

Before the examination, the victim **Mr. Gulnara Jakhveladze** was introduced to her/his rights, as well as his responsibilities over his duties according to the articles 294-303, and 309 of Criminal Procedural Code of Georgia, and was given a written list of her/his responsibilities and duties.

Signature of the victim - signed

Examination started at 15:40 and ended at 17:15.

On the offer to tell everything, she knows about the case – **Gulnara Jakhveladze** - testified the following:

- I live in a village Kekhvi of Gori district, together with my three sons, daughters in law and two grandchildren. On August 12, my sons and their families left the village and I do not know where they went. The reason of leaving was the conflict situation in the region. On August 12 my neighbors told that Russian and Ossetian soldiers are walking up and down the village, searching houses and if they find a military uniform in a house burn it. On the same day, at about 08:00 a.m. people dressed in military uniforms entered my house. They spoke Ossetian and Russian. They started searching my house, took households, technical equipment, other belongings, a motor-car of my son – Vasil Nebieridze (I don't remember the car make) they loaded the car with our belongings, clothes of my son, even the curtains and left. I hid myself in the room of icons, in which they did not enter. Then I went out and found a shelter under the machine tools in front of my neighbor's house. From that shelter, I could observe them coming several times and taking away everything they found inside. I could not see how they managed to carry away all the things. My neighbor told that Russian and Ossetian separatists took away all the livestock (cows, pigs and sheep) from the village. There are only three families of ethnic Ossetians in the village Kekhvi and their houses were not touched. From the shelter I could see Ossetian and Russian soldiers burning the houses of Georgian population, they would stay until the house was fully burned up.

I spent approximately 12 hours in the mentioned shelter. Then I got hungry and decided to go home. At that moment I heard terrible noise of explosion and I found that the shell was dropped onto the roof of my house. However, it does not cause the fire. On August 13, 2008, at 03:30 a.m. the neighbors gathered together. There were 10 women and 3 men. From them I noticed that the shells

dropped by Russians killed my neighbor Misha Kakhniashvili. We immediately started to Tskhinvali direction and after 2 hours entered Tskhinvali. On our way to Tskhinvali we met with Russian armored vehicles and truck columns moving to Gori direction. At the entrance of Tskhinvali, Ossetian women met us, who started abusing us just because we were Georgians. Then we met with a person dressed in a military uniform who said we should follow him to the Police station where they would register us and let to go.

As soon as we came in the police office, they took our ID documents, cell phones, money and other belongings. The police officers were only Ossetians. Then they took us downstairs to the detention isolator. The police officers used to abuse our government and us.

During the first three days they gave us only bread and water. On the fourth day they gave boiled buckwheat porridge. The cell had 16 places in it but there were more than 40 people inside it. I heard from the women captives there that the Russian soldiers were unmerciful to the peaceful population. They pumped into peaceful population, tortured them and were ruthless even with disabled and sick people.

On August 21, 2008 @ police officers came in the cell and told we are released. They took us out where the International Red Cross bus was waiting for us. The bus took us to Gori military hospital.

On your question, I would answer that I spent 9 days in captivity and the whole time we were hungry. They gave very little food and always said "eat pigs". They were very severe with Georgian guys and were beating them. They told they would ruin down our houses and open Russian military bases there.

As a result of aggression and violence from Russian and Ossetian soldiers, I met material and moral losses. The material losses equal 150,000 Gel.

The testimonial is written under my dictation. I have read it and found it correct, and I certify it with my signature.

Victim – signed

Prosecutor – signed.