

**Q5 Humanitarian / Reference 12: Witness statement of Mr. Tamaz Demetrashvili**

As Tamaz Demetrashvili declares, he lives in the village of Tkviavi. Bombing of the village started on August 9. On August 12 at 2:00 p.m., Russian tanks entered the village followed by Ossettian armed groups. At 3:00 p.m., Ossetians started to rob and burn houses. This continued until 7:00 in the evening. The same thing took place on the next day beginning at 10:00 in the morning. 80% of the houses were burnt in the village. The village of Tkviavi was populated by Georgians, approximately 1000 family.

On August 12, Tamazi went to his neighbor, where he met 10 armed persons. They asked him to start a car (KAMAZ), but Tamaz did not have the key because the car did not belong to him. When these Ossetians tried to start the car by themselves Tamaz seized the opportunity to escape and hid in the garden. From there he saw Ossetians enter his house and burn it. After the Ossetians left, Tamaz came back to his house and extinguished the fire. Then he went back to his neighbor, where another neighbor, Guliko Metiauri, came by and said that Ossetians had killed her husband and her husband's brother and asked them for assistance taking the corpses inside. The murdered persons were Mikheil and Zakaria Melitauri; they were killed by bullets from a machine gun. At this time there were armed groups in the village.

Tamazi also knows that Gela Chixladze [and] Shamil Okropiridze were killed in the village. The reason for this was their protestations. Approximately 20 men were taken as hostages. They killed Jaba Jashashvili; his father-in law buried him in the basement. Vasiko Lapachi and Levan Goguashvili were also killed.

Tamazi left the village on August 14. Before leaving, he used to hide in the garden.

Above-mentioned is written by my dictate, which I certify with my signature

**Q5 Humanitarian / Reference 12: Witness Statement of Mr. Teimuraz Jashashvili**

**Report of victim testimony**

Tbilisi

23 August 2008

The prosecutor of the department at the Office of the Prosecutor General of Georgia, L.Marshania, on the basis of Articles 294-303 and 309 of the Criminal Procedural Code of Georgia, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> building of Tbilisi State University, on the criminal case №074088079, interrogated the victim:

1. Name, Family Name, Patronymic: Teimuraz Jashashvili (Patronymic – Gaioz);
2. Date of birth: 23 July 1961;
3. Place of Birth: City of Gori;
4. Nationality: Georgian;
5. Education, profession: technical education;
6. Marital Status: married, with children;
7. Place of residence: Village Tkviavi, Gori District;
8. Occupation, position: Farmer

9. Previous convictions: without previous conviction;
10. Immunities: N/A;
11. State awards: N/A;
12. other information: Tel: 893 389831;
13. The relationship with the accused: N/A;

Before the interrogation, the victim, T. Jashashvili was apprised about his rights and obligations as required by Articles 69-70 and 289 of the Criminal Procedural Code of Georgia, as well as was warned about the responsibility for the violation of obligations. The list of his rights and obligations were handed over to the victim.

The signature of the victim: /signed/ T. Jashashvili

Interrogation started at 2:30 p.m.  
finished at 4:00 p.m.

The victim was asked to declare everything he knows around the case at issue. The victim declared the following:

I was born and brought up in Gori district. Until now I lived in the village of Tkviavi, Gori district. There I had a two-story house with other buildings in the yard. I have a wife Zaira Mariamidze, born in Gori district in 1963; son – Levan Jashashvili, a schoolboy, born in the city of Gori in 1996; and a daughter – Nana Jashashvili, a schoolgirl, born also in Gori in 1998. At the moment, my family and I are being given shelter in the building of the former headquarters of the Caucasian Military Unit. Apart from the household, I had a 10,000 square meter plot of land where I had a maize field and different kinds of fruit trees. At the end of July and in the beginning of August the situation in our village and for the region as a whole grew tense. Sometimes we could hear shots; several times missiles fired from the Ossetian side fell in the vicinity of the village. On 7 August, after the Russian side showed open aggression and started direct military activities against Georgia, the village was subjected to an aerial bombardment. As a result, many houses were destroyed and, if I am not wrong, one woman died.

On 14 August, Russian military troops entered the village on tanks and armored vehicles. They did not face any resistance from the Georgian side, since all the Georgian troops had already withdrawn from the region and the civilian population who did not manage to escape hid in their houses. The Russian military was followed by Ossetian gangs and other mercenaries. My family had left the village by that time. After the entry of Ossetians and other mercenaries, we could hear shots and the screams of my neighbours who were being attacked. The houses were looted and burnt, the people killed on the basis of their ethnic background. I felt that my life was at risk and together with my neighbors I managed to escape and hide in the fields. When we left the village it was already dark. Looking back behind us, we saw the whole village in flames.

Russian soldiers were doing nothing to prevent the Ossetians and the mercenaries from attacking the Georgian population. On the contrary, they assisted them in breaking open the gates of houses by breaking into the locked yards with their armored machines, in order to give the looters the opportunity to move vehicles inside. On 20 August, I managed to go back to my village. My household was burnt and the livestock was stolen. All the proper houses in the vicinity were burnt down as well. I do not know what the situation was like in the other parts of the village since I spent only one night there, and out of fear of being executed, I left the village the following day. As I learnt from my neighbor Ekaterine

Ebralidze, whom I met in the village, Ossetians and other mercenaries took everything from the village, including those things that are essential for survival. They killed Shakro Melitauri, Misha Melitauri, Gela Chikhladze, Shamil Okropiridze and others.

As a result of the Russian aggression and the activities of the Ossetian criminal gangs, I suffered not only moral but substantial material damage as well. I assume that the material damage inflicted on me is more than 100 000 USD.

The testimony was written down under my dictation, with my words that I confirm with my signature.

/signed/

T. Jashashvili

I interrogated the victim.

/signed/

L. Marshania