

Q2 Legal/Reference 4

Apsnypress

Issue No. 169-170

April 29, 2008 - Tuesday

Vice-President: In the process of issuance of national passports of citizens of Abkhazia mass violations have taken place that will seriously affect the issue of security of the country¹

April 29. Mass violations have taken place in the course of issuance of Abkhaz national passports that may seriously affect the issue of security of the country – the Vice-president Raul Khajimba told the journalists. As of today 93 thousand passports of Abkhaz citizen have been issued.

According to the Vice-president there have been violations in the process of issuance of documents necessary for obtaining Russian passports.

R. Khajimba chairs the Commission Citizenship. “All the materials on violations are transferred to the prosecution service. I hope that particular persons will be identified who were dealing with illegal issuance of documents”, - the vice-president noted and added that he was aware of mass violation not only within the structures of the Ministry of Internal Affairs but in other institutions as well.

The Vice-president underlined that the violations revealed in the process of issuance of passports are not in any way related to the internal political processes. “Although many peoples are trying to related the inspections with the desire of the Vice-president to show how difficult it was with elections, but this is not true. We are talking about the security of our country. It will be difficult to ensure the security of the country if the violations continue. The documents that we have obtained give evidence to the fact that some particular citizens are solving the issue of return of refugees for their benefit” – he noted.

According to the words of Khajimba there are facts of issuance of passports to Georgian refugees. “Refugees from Gagra District, Sokhumi have already received documents and tomorrow they will acquire Abkhaz passports without any obstacles. They have been registered as Abkhazs. They were Georgians yesterday and today they have become Abkhazs”, - he noted and clarified that the law, regulating the procedure of change of nationality, refers to the possibility of such actions only for the citizens of Abkhazia.

“So far we can talk on the return of refugees only to Gali District. But some of the ‘ardent’ citizens decided this question in a completely different way. According to Khajimba the main part of violations is related to those who had acquired Russian passports and do not reside here.

¹ See also the Russian version available at: <http://www.regnum.ru/news/994089.html>

Raul Khajimba stated that “some of the structures or maybe even some persons have pre-war blank forms of birth certificate and stamp and they are granted to refugees from Gagri and Gulshipri Districts.

On the question of the correspondent of “IA REGNUM”, whether anybody had been held responsible, Khajimba answered “Yes, many. But this is not enough. The problem cannot be resolved only through dismissal from the job. This is the problem of the whole nation. Not a simple situation is created. Office of the Prosecutor General, City and District Prosecution Services should deal with this question and even bring the violators to criminal responsibility”, - he noted.

Khajimba informed the journalists about the violations in the course of issuance of Abkhaz passports as well. “The passports are given to those who do not reside on the territory of Abkhazia, do not have real address however the street and house numbers are indicated in the documents”, - he specified.

The Vice-president dismissed the information on the issuance of Abkhaz passports to “gastarbaiters”.

When talking about the issue of issuing of Abkhaz passports to Gali residents, Khajimba was concerned that he was regarded as being against this process. “I am not against. But according the law on citizenship it is written that those who have not resided on the territory of Abkhazia in the period of 1994-1999 and came later, there is a special procedure on restoration of citizenship. Regretfully, majority of Gali residents have not been registered, except those who were registered as returnees by Abkhaz side” – he said.

The Vice-president thinks that with respect to Gali residents we have to talk about restoration of citizenship.

Khajimba is also surprised because “Gali residents when meeting with Abkhaz authorities declare about their desire to acquire Abkhaz citizenship. However during the meetings with the representatives of international organizations they say that they are forced to accept Abkhazian citizenship”. [...]

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02.05.2008

No. 18 (175)

This is also war...²

² Russian version available at: <http://www.noviden.info/index.php?mode=more&newsid=296&id=37>

Recently a press-conference was held by R.R. Khajimba devoted to the practice of issuance of national passports. The Vice-president paid particular attention to the fact that in the process of issuance of those passports, mass violations had taken place that would seriously affect the issue of security of the country.

The Vice-president R. Khajimba:

- In accordance with the order from the President of Abkhazia we are conducting examination of the organizational works on the issuance of passports. As a result of this process, we have revealed the violations that directly affect the security of our state. This is related with the issuance of personal identification documents and the passports of the Russian Federation. As of today it is very difficult to say what is the number of the mentioned documents that had been issued, how and what bases they were issued and who it will affect the security of our country. All the documentation on the violations has been transferred to the prosecution service and I hope that those responsible will be revealed and punished. The documents we have checked give evidence that the process of the return of the so-called 'refugees' on the whole territory of Abkhazia is implemented by separate officials. Today, Georgian refugees from Sukhumi and Gagri are changing their nationalities to Abkhaz in order to obtain the passport. In our law on citizenship, that regulates the procedure of changing the nationality, it is said that this kind of action is possible only if he/she is the citizen of our country. This is not an unfounded provision. I can bring the cats. So, here are the documents on somebody called Antia Zurab (patronymic Boris) born in 1989 in the village Chlou. He is Georgian. But in the documents he is registered as Abkhaz. Here are other documents on Chargazia Jana, born in 1971 in the same village where she had been issued the respective certificate. But those who issued this certificate could not manage to destroy the other forged documents from the address bureau. She is Georgian by nationality and was born in Sokhumi and as a result of armed activities found herself in Georgia. These facts are many. So, here, according to some documents, somebody called Georgadze was born in village Chlou during the war in 1993 and she go this kind of birth certificate. Here is the question – how one could manage this. According to our information these facts are also revealed in Gagri and Gulripshi districts and everywhere. The state organs issuing the documents necessary for obtaining the passports have crossed all the lawful frontiers. The documents are issued with the residence registration on the houses that do not exist. We are legalizing on our territory unknown person, who will be complaining on us in different instances on the issued derived from the mentioned facts. I repeat there are thousands of these facts and this undermines the security of our country. We have to fight against this together. We have no other way.

Prepared by Emma Kodjaa.