



October 3, 2013

**To:** Her Excellency, Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

To: His Excellency Štefan Füle, European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy,

**Statement  
by the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum  
Georgian National Platform**

Members of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum –Georgian National Platform state their deep concern over the latest developments on the occupation line with breakaway South Ossetia.

Over the past week, the Russian occupation forces have stepped up the process of setting up barbed wire fences across the administrative dividing line, moving the occupation line forward by several hundred meters in some areas. This has had grave consequences for the residents of the areas adjacent to the occupation line.

In the village of Dvani, almost half of the residents have reportedly lost their agricultural lands, thus their only income source as well as food reserves for winter. On the 23 of September, the occupation forces reportedly obliged the residents of Dvani in a short time period to leave their houses and/or harvest crops from their lands on the other side of the redrawn occupation border.

The process of shifting of the occupation line, while being conducted in violation of international law and the 2008 Ceasefire Agreement, has also resulted in gross violations of the rights of the residents of adjacent areas.

Despite the efforts of the international community, the government of Georgia and local civil society organizations, the process of constructing different types of barriers, started in 2009, has been intensified since the beginning of 2013. A shift of the occupation line left the objects of crucial importance to the local

population, such as drinking water supply and irrigation beyond their reach. We believe these actions serve the goal of oppressing the local community and forcing them to vacate the villages adjacent to the conflict zone, further reinforcing the occupation of Georgian territories.

There are the incidents of the purposeful pursuit of ethnically Georgian population on the occupied territory.

We therefore call upon the European Union to condemn these illegal actions by the occupation forces and to take effective measures toward the protection of the rights of affected people and sovereignty of Georgia. Moreover, activation of the international mechanisms to ensure security and protection of the rights of those affected is essential.

### **The Signatory Organisations:**

1. Transparency International Georgia
2. Youth Alternative
3. IDP Association "Consent"
4. Coalition for Independent Living
5. Energy Efficiency Foundation
6. Open Society Georgia Foundation
7. Union "Article 42 of the Constitution"
8. Public Advocacy
9. Healthy World
10. Association "European Studies for the Innovative Development of Georgia"
11. Caucasian House Georgia
12. Caucasus Environmental NGO network
13. Human Rights Centre
14. Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies
15. Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters
16. Repatriates Union
17. Institute for Development of Freedom of Information
18. International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy
19. Georgian Trade Union Confederation
20. Eurasia Partnership Foundation
21. International Center for Advancement of Research, Technology & Innovation (ICARTI)
22. Association for the Farmers' Rights Defence
23. The Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia
24. International Centre of Geopolitical research
25. Local Democracy Agency
26. "Women Enterprise" Fund Georgia
27. Teachers' Union "Education and Universe" Fund "Sukhumi"
28. Georgian Civil Development Association
29. The Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development
30. "ECOVISION"

31. Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture, Violence and Pronounced Stress Impact "EMPATHY"
32. Association "Green Alternative"
33. Georgia Press Association
34. Liberal Academy Tbilisi
35. International Organization of Human Rights protection and Prisoners social welfare
36. Peaceful and Business Caucasus
37. School-Family-Society" Association
38. Youth Association "Droni"
39. Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Georgian National Committee
40. Junior achievement of Georgia
41. Samtskhe-Javakheti Regional Association "Toleranti"
42. International Society "Caucasian Mosaic"
43. Foundation "Caucasus Environment"
44. United Public Movement "Multinational Georgia"
45. Teachers' Union "Education and Universe"
46. Association "Woman and Business"
47. Caucasus Institute for Economic and Social Research
48. Foundation "Multi- Ethnic Resource Centre on Civic Education Development"
49. The Greens Movement of Georgia
50. World Experience for Georgia
51. International Center on Conflict and Negotiation
52. Green Wave
53. Civitas Georgica