



**34th Meeting of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism
Gali, 29 February 2012**

Summary Conclusions of the Chair

1. Follow-up on matters discussed at the previous meeting:

- a. **Follow-up on the cases of Khasaia, Kolbaia, Gurdjia:** One participant once again raised the cases of three detainees, expressed serious concern regarding their well-being and sought new information if available. The second participant stated that Mr. Gurdjia was released two weeks ago and questioned the reasons for keeping this point on the IPRM agenda. In this respect, the first participant noted that they did not have any information on the release of Mr. Gurdjia. The second participant suggested that Gurdjia's family should be contacted. The first participant sought clarifications and further information on the possibility of providing an additional lawyer to Mr. Kolbaia as it had been indicated by the second participant at the previous IPRM meeting. The second participant reiterated that Mr. Kolbaia has the right to hire as many, either local or foreign lawyers, as he wishes; and he could submit the request for the power of attorney to be given to another lawyer provided by the side of the first participant.
 - b. **New information on the murder of Abkhaz citizens Butba Valmer, Kvekveskiri Tamaz, and Rodonaia Vitali:** One participant stated that several people suspected of being involved in the above-mentioned murder cases have been detained and the investigation is ongoing. He stressed that once the investigation process is completed, more information would be provided at the IPRM meeting after which joint efforts could be required in the search for identified culprits.
 - c. **Disinformation about the presence of priest Ioane on the territory of Abkhazia:** One participant refuted the information that Priest Ioane was allegedly present on the territory of Abkhazia; that he was forced to stay there, and that there was an operation carried out by the Georgian law-enforcement agencies on the territory of Abkhazia to free him. The second participant confirmed that no special operation had been conducted in Abkhazia; however, he reiterated that the priest had been in Abkhazia. He expressed dissatisfaction with non-cooperation of the Abkhaz law-enforcement agencies, which, according to him, had missed the chance to demonstrate their interest in joint efforts to fight against crime. In response, the first participant stated that his side had conducted the investigation into the alleged kidnapping case, but failed to confirm alleged presence of the Priest in Abkhazia. The third participant stated that his Mission had contacted the Georgian Patriarchate with the request to meet Priest Ioane in order to hear his version of events, but the Mission was informed that the Priest was not available for the meeting. Therefore, the Mission could not confirm or refute any version of the case.
- 2. Freedom of movement:** One participant raised two points: (1) as the movement across the Inguri Bridge was limited for the past several days, he sought clarifications when the limitations will be lifted; (2) he sought information when the earlier announced additional



five crossing points will be opened. The second participant confirmed the limitations on crossings across the Inguri Bridge, which had been introduced in relation to the latest incident in Abkhazia, [assassination attempt on the life of the Abkhaz leader, which took place on 22 February 2012], and these are expected to be lifted in due time. With regards to the second point, he noted that the decision had already been taken, but the technical details need to be settled before the public announcement could be made. In addition, he informed that the crossing permits are now being issued by the Heads of local village administration free of charge. He could not provide information on the inquiry of the third participant whether the local residents of Gali district would eventually be allowed to pass without any crossing permits, as it had been announced earlier.

3. **Incident, which took place in Gali town on 18 February:** One participant stated that on 18 February 2012, one native of Gali, being not sober, committed an act of hooliganism and wounded two Abkhaz citizens by stabbing them with knife. Later, he escaped to the Georgian side. The criminal investigation has been launched and once it is over, the culprit will be charged and entered into the wanted list. The second participant undertook to look into the matter and added that the two wounded persons were taken to the hospital in Kutaisi for treatment and the criminal case has been opened by the Georgian police as well.
4. **Incident, which took place in Tagiloni village on 22 February:** One participant provided information that on 22 February 2012 in the village of Tagiloni, a vehicle, moving in the direction of Nabakevi, was stopped and searched. As a result, two persons were detained; one AK-47 with 130 rounds of ammunition was found and confiscated; the criminal investigation has been launched on the grounds of illegal possession of fire arms.
5. **Any other incidents since the previous IPRM meeting:** One participant sought clarifications with regards to the information obtained from media sources on the alleged deportation of 15 families from one of the villages in Ochamchira district. The second participant noted that they were not aware about any deportation and inquired to which location 15 families had been allegedly deported. The first participant also sought clarifications on the alleged beating of a schoolchild by the Russian border guards. The third participant responded that information posted on different Georgian websites on the alleged beating did not correspond to reality. However, he informed that the schoolchild was stopped and his textbooks were torn by some unidentified persons, but not by the Russian border guards. This was confirmed by the school child in the presence of his parents, school headmaster and local administration. The fourth participant provided the URL address of the website, which posted this information. The fifth participant stated that they wanted to clarify the alleged beating of the school child and appealed to complete the investigation into the case to avoid any speculations and misinterpretations.
6. **Use of hotline by all participants to inform about additional security measures:** One participant provided information that his Mission has recently observed some additional security measures implemented in the vicinity of the ABL (administrative boundary line). He added that using the hotline the Mission is doing its best to facilitate information exchange to decrease tensions, lower the possibility of incidents and aggravation of the



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situation. The participant expressed his gratitude for the good use of hotline by all participants and reiterated his appeal for continued active and timely use of this useful tool. In his turn, the Chair joined this appeal and called on all participants to effectively use the hotline. The second participant noted that queries raised via the hotline are sometimes not precise and urged to provide concrete and detailed information in view of receiving a proper response. Noting exigency of queries via hotline, the first participant agreed that as much detailed information as possible should be conveyed.

7. **Possibility of signing a bilateral agreement on detention and hand over of criminals:** The Chair provided an update on the preparation to organize an information session within the IPRM framework, which could provide elements for common understanding of local cooperation in the fight against crime. One participant once again raised the possibility of signing a bilateral document on detention and handover of criminals. In this context, she reiterated her support to the Chair's proposal to invite an expert to the information session in the framework of one of the upcoming IPRM meetings.
8. **Necessity of drawing up a general map to define where the demarcation line runs:** One participant reiterated the need for drawing up a general map to define where the demarcation line runs in order to avoid unintentional crossings by the local population. The participant proposed to the Chair to organize an information session on this issue and appealed not to politicize the matter, urging other participants to be pragmatic. The second participant shared experience of the Ergneti/Dvani IPRM on reaching a preliminary agreement to establish a technical working group on similar issues. The working group will study practical issues on a case by case basis with regard to the livelihood of the local population in the upcoming agricultural season in the zones adjacent to the ABL.
9. **Advance notice of sensitive activities for CBM purposes:** No advance notice of sensitive activities was provided.
10. **Locations of future meeting:** One participant informed about the recent initiative of the Georgian President for a visa-free regime for the Russian citizens. In this regard, the participant proposed to positively consider the possibility of holding IPRM meetings on a rotational basis – Gali/Zugdidi. The Chair reiterated the procedural agreement on the principle of rotation and noted that he will be ready to organize the IPRM meetings in Zugdidi as well once all participants agree. However, based on the response of other participants, he concluded that while the point would be kept on the agenda of the IPRM meeting, it was agreed to hold the next meeting in Gali.
11. **Points raised at the meeting:** No other points were raised.

Next meeting – it was agreed to hold the next meeting on Friday, 23 March 2012, in Gali.

*Points 1 (a), (b), (c), 3, 4, 7 and 8 as submitted by Ms. Agrba on behalf of Mr. Kishmaria
Point 2 as submitted by Mr. Kemoklidze on behalf of Mr. Utiashvili
Point 6 as submitted by Mr. Darby on behalf of Amb. Tyszkiewicz
Points 5, 9, 10, and 11 are agreed standing items*