



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Mission to Georgia**

Welcome



A brief introduction, June 2001

Welcome

On behalf of all Mission members and local staff at the OSCE Mission to Georgia, I am pleased to welcome you to Georgia and to familiarize you with the OSCE Mission.

This is a dynamic working place for 62 international diplomatic and military personnel from 26 countries. Of these 42 are border monitors.

Every visit is a welcome opportunity for our Mission to make a pause and reflect on the progress – or lack thereof – in reaching the objectives set out for us by the member states of the OSCE.

With this little brochure we would like to provide you with a brief introduction on what we do, as well as some practical information related to your visit.

I wish you a pleasant and fruitful stay in Georgia.

Ambassador Jean-Michel Lacombe
Head of Mission

Read more about...

OSCE Mission to Georgia

Mandate and Activities	3
On Duty in South Ossetia	4
South Ossetia Conflict Settlement	4
South Ossetia Conflict Settlement Mechanism.....	5
Human Rights in Abkhazia.....	6
Human Dimension	6
Human Rights Office	6
Building Democratic Institutions.....	6
Freedom of Media.....	6
Border Monitoring.....	7

Practical Information

Addresses and Phone Numbers.....	8
----------------------------------	---

More Information on Georgia

Electronic News Sources	9-10
-------------------------------	------



OSCE Mission to Georgia HQ, situated at the Krtsanisi Governmental Residence, Tbilisi

OSCE Mission to Georgia

Mandate and Activities

Establishment

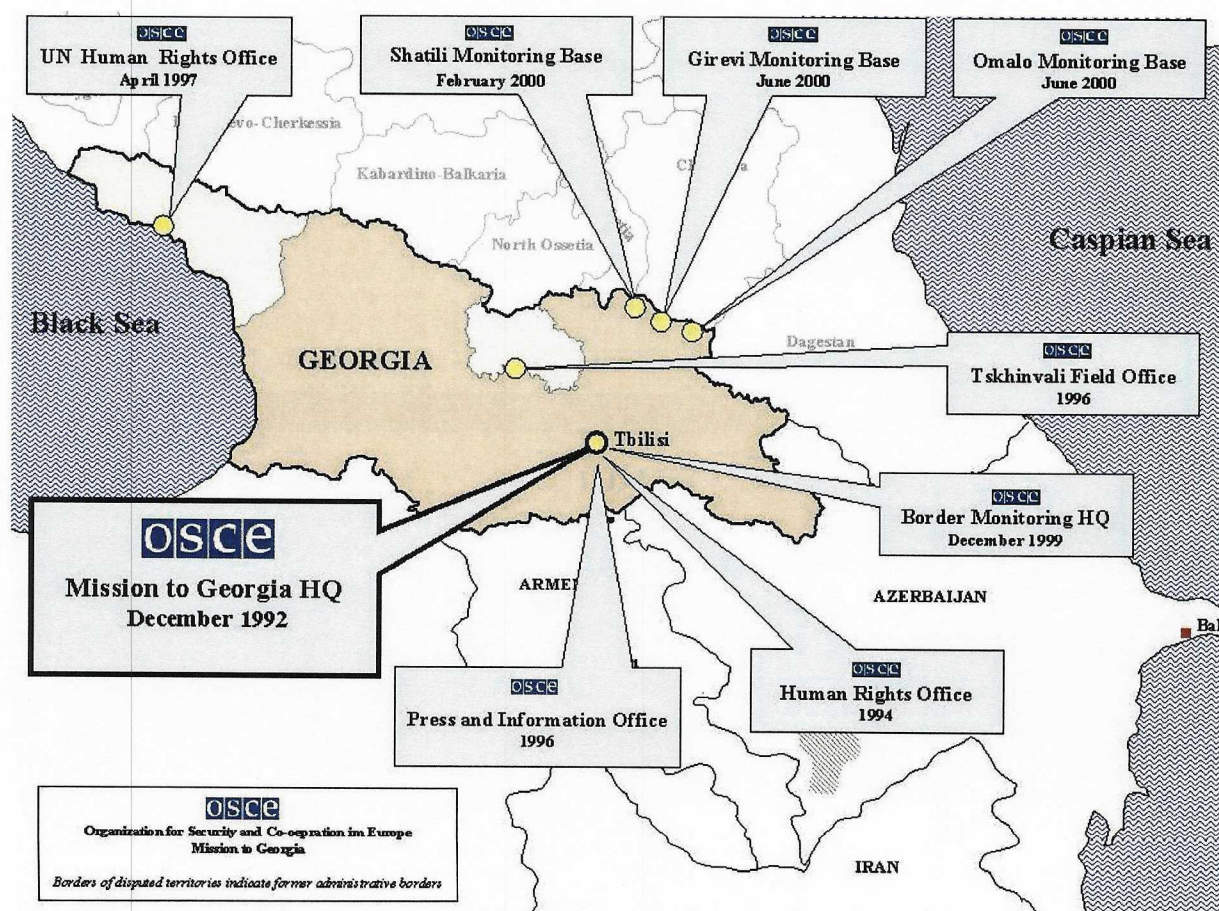
In 1992, the Republic of Georgia, as a CSCE participating State, applied to the CSCE Headquarters in Vienna with a request for mediation assistance in the search for a settlement of the Georgian-Ossetian and Georgian-Abkhaz conflicts. In accordance with the decisions of the Committee of Senior Officials (renamed the Permanent Council) of 6 November 1992, the Mission started its activity in Georgia in December 1992.

An international working place

At present, the OSCE Mission to Georgia counts representatives of 22 countries. These are: Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Slovakia, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, Ukraine and the United States of America. The Head of Mission is Ambassador Jean-Michel Lacombe from France.

Mandate

1. To assist in negotiations between the sides, which are aimed at achieving a peaceful resolution of the Georgian-Ossetian and Georgian-Abkhaz conflicts by political means.
2. To encourage respect for human rights.
3. To encourage the creation of democratic institutions in the country.
4. To encourage co-operation between the corresponding sides.
5. To monitor the Joint Peacekeeping Forces, which were established in Tskhinvali, according to the Sochi Agreement of 24 June 1992.
6. To monitor the border between Georgia and The Republic of Chechnya, Russian Federation.



South Ossetia : Conflict Settlement and Military Monitoring

Specifically related to the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, the mandate requires the Mission to:

1. Assist in the creation of a wider political context, within the framework of which a firm political resolution of the conflict can be achieved on the basis of the principles and declarations of the OSCE.
2. Actively encourage dialogue between all sides to the conflict by means of roundtable discussions, with the aim of demonstrating and trying to remove sources of tension and providing political reconciliation across the zone of conflict.



3. Monitor the JPKF, establishing and supporting contact with the military command of these forces, collecting information on the military situation, reporting breaches of the existing cease-fire and calling attention to the political consequences of these or any other military actions to the commanders on the spot.
4. Play an active role in the work of the Joint Control Commission (JCC) in working out specific proposals for resolving the conflict.

5. Establish contacts with the local authorities and representatives of the population and to demonstrate a visible presence of the OSCE throughout the area.



On Duty in South Ossetia.

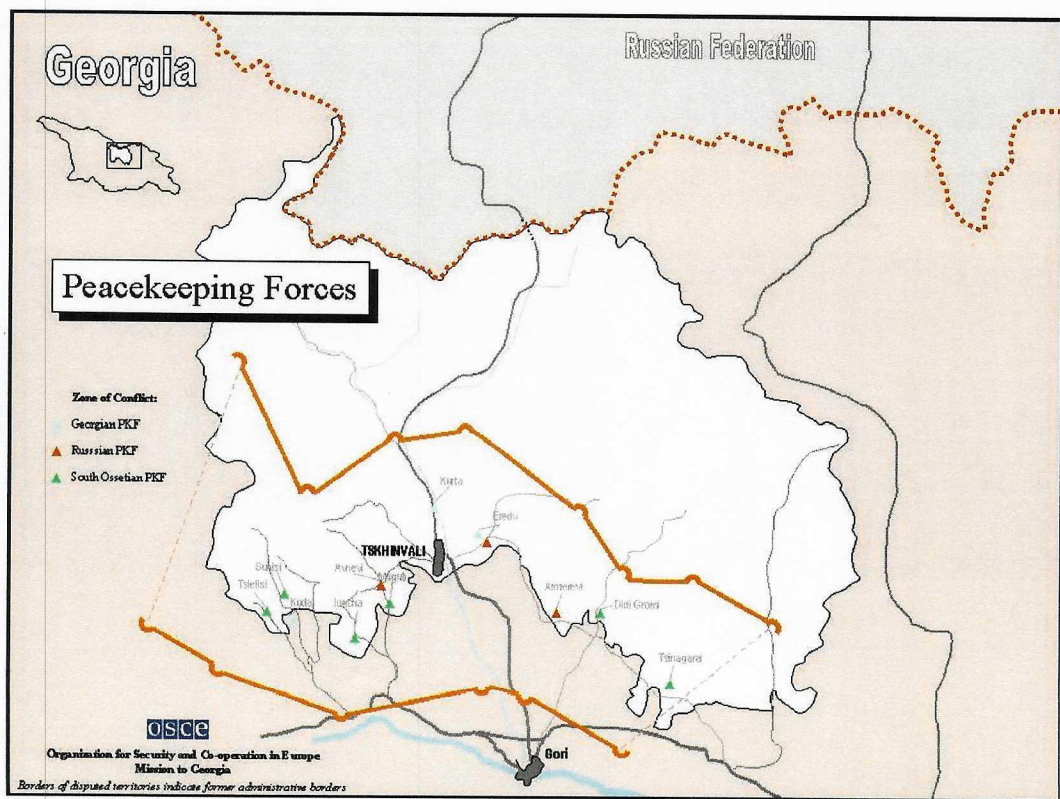
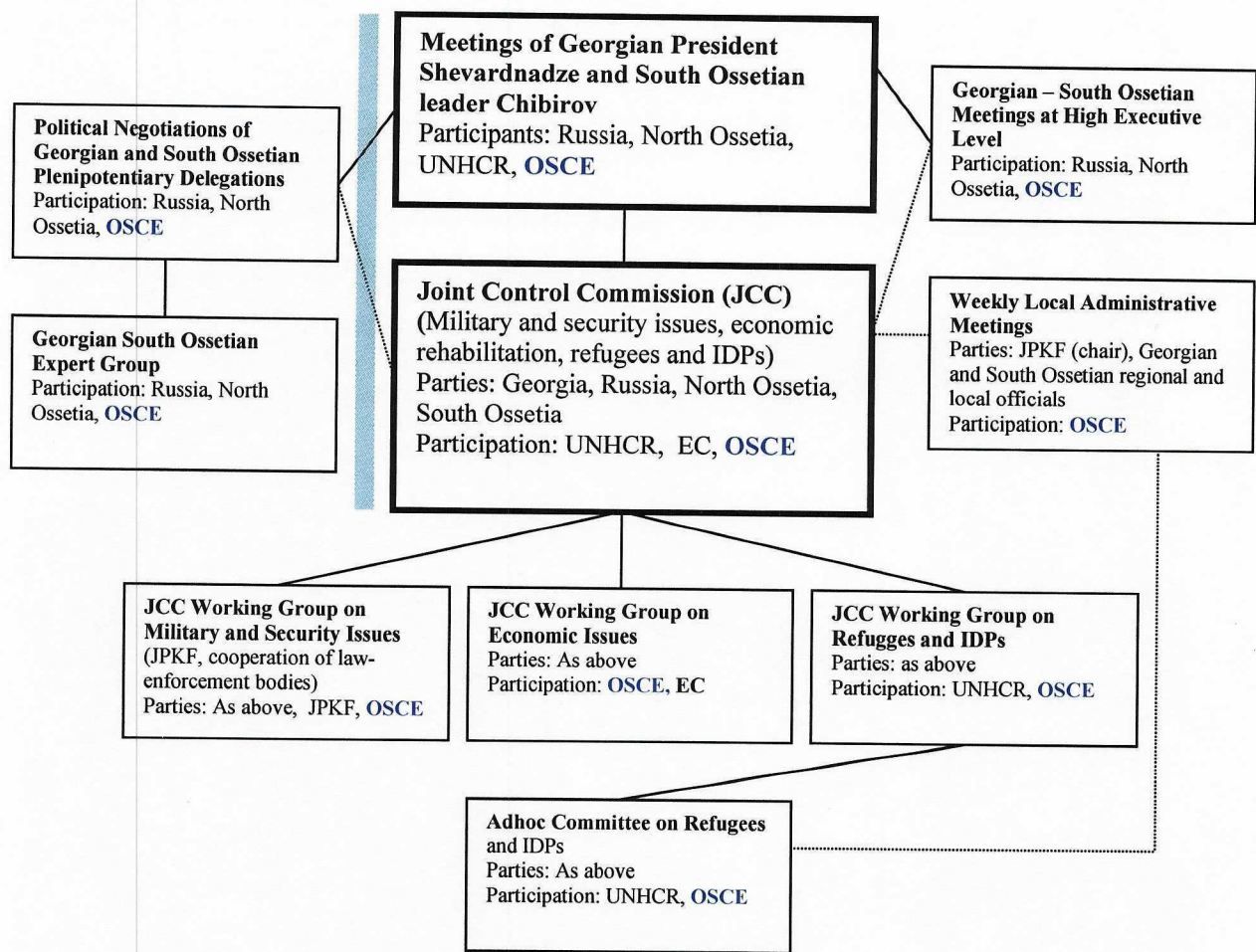
The Mission has a field office in Tskhinvali manned by two Mission members – one diplomat and one military. Task: monitor the Joint Peacekeeping Forces, maintain and develop contacts with civilian and military authorities. In addition, the Mission attends weekly administrative meetings in the zone of conflict. One human rights officer is assigned once a week to the Tskhinvali office to receive clients.



South Ossetia Conflict Settlement Machinery.

The Mission participates in the conflict settlement machinery, consisting of meetings and ad hoc groups and committees on various levels. The centerpiece is the Joint Control Commission (JCC) oriented to practical issues related to peace, security and law enforcement, economic rehabilitation, humanitarian assistance and return of refugees and IDPs (see page 5 for chart).

South Ossetia Conflict Settlement Mechanism



Conflict over Abkhazia

In relation to the conflict over Abkhazia, the mandate of the Mission makes provision for regular liaison with the UN, while conducting its measures in Abkhazia, by carefully following events and reporting regularly to the OSCE Headquarters. However, unlike in South Ossetia, the Mission does not monitor the peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia or the observance of the cease-fire agreement.



Human Rights in Abkhazia.

One Mission member is seconded to the United Nations Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, Georgia (HROAG) monitoring the human rights situation in Abkhazia.

The Mission has recently gradually upgraded its activities and visibility in Abkhazia and conducted several visits in close cooperation with other institutions, especially the United Nations. The aim has been to prepare Mission projects, especially within human rights and media.



Abkhazia Conflict Settlement Machinery.

The Head of Mission participates in the UN-led negotiations on a peaceful settlement of the conflict over Abkhazia in the so-called *Coordinating Council*, which is supposed to meet every second or third month alternatively in Tbilisi or Sukhumi. Meetings have also taken place in Geneva, Athens and Istanbul.

Joint Assessment Mission to Gali

In November 2000 a Joint Assessment Mission with participation of the UN and OSCE as well as other international organizations was dispatched to Gali district. The purpose of the mission was to assess conditions relevant to the safe, secure and dignified return of IDPs and refugees to the Gali district.

Human Dimension

In Georgia as a whole, the mandate was widened on 3 March 1994 and now covers the following:

1. Guaranteeing human rights and basic freedoms.
2. Assistance in developing juridical and democratic institutions and processes, including consultations in drafting the new constitution; introduction of legislation on citizenship; creation of independent judicial organs; and monitoring of elections.

Co-ordination of activities with the OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights; co-operation with the European Union; maintaining contacts with other international organizations which are working in the field of democratic institutions and human rights in Georgia.

Human Rights Office

The Mission Human Rights Office (HRO) seeks to have a general view of the situation and evaluate periodically. The HRO focuses mainly on:

- 1) Law enforcement bodies and implementation of the Rule of law
- 2) Legal reforms
- 3) Penitentiary system
- 4) Office of the *Ombudsman*
- 5) Situation and status of the minorities and
- 6) Return of the Meskhetian minority.
- 7) Gender issues.

Building Democratic Institutions

In addition, the Mission participates in building democratic institutions, especially in cooperation with the Office for Democratic Development and Human Rights (ODIHR). One important area of joint activities is Mission involvement in election assistance and observation.

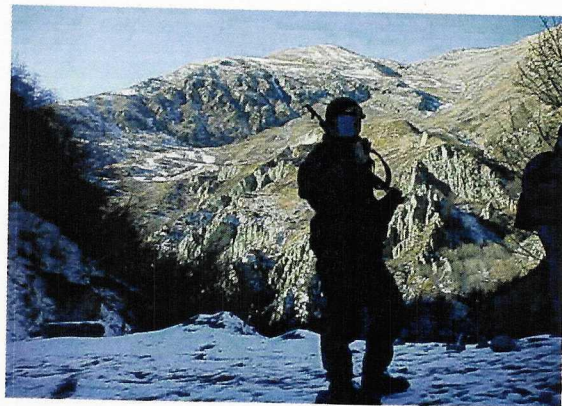
Freedom of Media

The Mission promotes freedom of the media by organizing meetings and seminars between Georgian, Abkhaz and South Ossetian journalists. Several meetings between Georgian, Abkhaz and Ossetian journalists have been held, and more are planned. One of the significant results have been that participants in these meetings have undertaken initial steps to establish an *All Caucasian Union of Journalists* aimed, among others, to defend rights for journalists, to exchange information and to address issues of professional ethics.

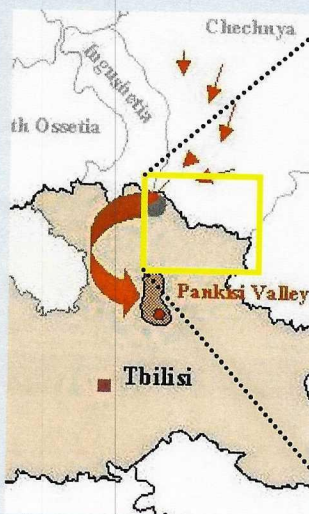
Border Monitoring

In December 1999, the OSCE Permanent Council expanded the Mission mandate in response to a request from the Government of Georgia, which called upon the OSCE to observe and report movement across the border between Georgia and the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation. Additional personnel have been seconded to the OSCE Mission to Georgia to conduct border monitoring.

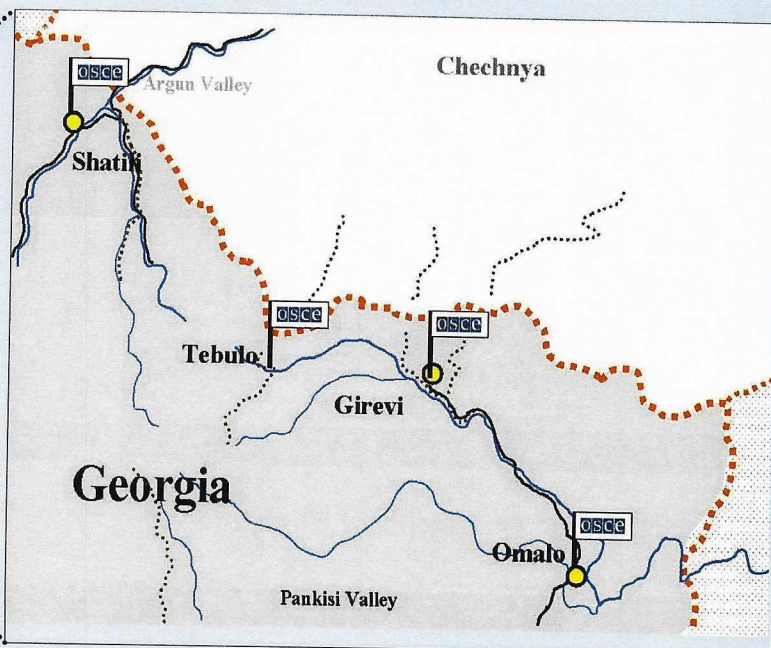
The monitors, who are unarmed, operate from three team bases: Shatili, Girevi and Omalo (Summer 2000). They are working in co-operation with the Georgian authorities, which provides security for the border monitors and ensure their freedom of movement. The purpose is to defuse tension in the area and, thus, to prevent conflict, as well as to ensure international protection of refugees.



Border Area



December 2000
Refugee Movement



Base Location Summer 2000 (yellow circles)