

## **Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia**

On October 9, 2001, at 5:10am, unidentified combat helicopters appeared from the direction of the village of Sakeni, flew over the village of Omarishara and bombed the Kodori Gorge (area of the villages of Lata and Chkhalta).

The same day, at approximately 6:00am, four SU-25 jets flew over the village of Sakeni, carried out a massive bomb attack on the nearby barns and other summer utilities of the village and proceeded to the direction of the Russian Federation. Several bombs were also dropped 2 kilometers away from the village of Omarishara. The damage assessment team has been dispatched to the region.

The violation of the airspace of Georgia and the bomb attack on its territory is viewed by the Georgian Government as an infringement on its sovereignty and an attempt by some forces to subvert the process of the peaceful settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia.

The Government of Georgia deems it necessary to remind the international community that the bomb attacks against Georgia have repeatedly taken place in the past as well, but regrettably, in spite of the protests expressed by Georgia, these facts were dismissed without appropriate reaction.

It is not a mere coincidence that these actions are being carried out at the time of intense and spurious anti-Georgian propagandist campaign launched by the mass media of the Russian Federation.

There is no doubt that Georgia is facing a large-scale and a well-planned provocation. If this provocation is not curbed immediately, it may well grow into the aggression aimed against the Georgian State.

Georgia calls on the Russian Federation to conduct a thorough investigation with a view to ascertaining the movement of the military aircraft in the airspace of the Russian Federation which carried out attacks on the Georgian territory and also demands that the Russian side prevent the use of its airspace by the Abkhaz separatists.

Georgia expresses its readiness to cooperate with any international commission whatsoever which would investigate the latest developments in Abkhazia, Georgia, including the tragic crash of the helicopter of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) in Abkhazia (Georgia).

The Georgian Government expresses its resentment and protest at the above mentioned incident and appeals to the international community, United Nations and OSCE to take all necessary measures to firmly condemn such provocative actions in order to prevent the further deterioration of the situation in Georgia