

Dear partners, colleagues!

We would like to greet you and, first of all, thank you for assistance you render to us in this difficult time.

We, in fact, did not think that we – citizens of Georgia would again experience the same that we had experienced 14-15 years ago – again military operations, again feeling of fear, danger of leaving own houses. But, it seems that political thinking of Russian politicians is run through imperial spirit.

Since August 6, the territories of Georgia have been bombed: Tskhinvali, Gori, Senaki, Poti, Marneuli, Lagodekhi, Bolnisi, Khelvachauri, villages of Zugdidi, Oni, Khobi, Kareli, Gori. Upper Abkhazia, airport of Kopitnari surroundings of Tbilisi has also been attacked. The bombs were also exploded almost in all regions of Georgia – and in conflict zone and the areas, far from it.

Except of strategic, political, economical, military units, the apartment houses have been destroyed and burnt. Hundreds of soldiers and many peaceful citizens were killed. The exact death-roll is not yet clear, but in accordance with the information of witnesses the number of died is much more, than stated officially.

Hundreds of soldiers and peaceful citizens are wounded. The witnesses talk about horrible stories on cruelty and ruthlessness of war.

Thousands of people have left their houses in Gori, Senaki, Zugdidi, Poti, Upper Abkhazia and have become IDPs. According to the spread information, the number of IDPs exceed forty thousand.

Despite the agreement on ceasefire, Russia continues aggressive military politics in relation to Georgia; there is still threat, Russian militaries patrol in Gori, Zugdidi and nearby Poti. The number of killed, wounded and IDPs increases hour by hour. They started marauding. The road connecting Eastern and Western Georgia is still closed. It is impossible to move and deliver humanitarian aid to indigent people in Western Georgia.

In spite of the fact that the situation is extremely strained peaceful manifestations and actions of protest with claim of ending aggression of Russia have been held in Tbilisi, Kutaisi and other cities of the world.

We, the members of Fund “Sukhumi”, are well aware of what a war and being an IDP means. Working on peacemaking for 11 years we tried to increase women’s role in peacemaking in order to avoid new conflicts and wars. It is men’s policy that led us to new bloodshed.

Unfortunately we – women, despite all our efforts, could not avoid conflict. This proves once more the necessity of women’s participation at decision making level. Now we have started practical actions. We try to help people, who as a result of war have had to come in Kutaisi from the cities and villages of Western Georgia, also Gori and Tskhinvali. Today there are more than one thousand people and we are waiting for more three thousand.

- We visit them to their locations
- Fix their needs by means of survey
- Render psycho-rehabilitation assistance
- Donate blood for wounded
- Collect clothes, food and goods of primary necessities for IDPs
- Make advertisements on radio and TV about necessity of registration of IDPs, about collection of humanitarian aid for IDPs from population
- Our representative is in Kutaisi branch on IDPs and accommodation, she also works on collecting data about IDPs who have already come to Kutaisi
- We have close contacts with state structures of authorities which work on the issues of IDPs.
- We receive letters with the information about events in the zone of conflict.
- We express our deep condolences to all families of killed and wounded people. We hope that this insanity will end soon and people will live in peace.

Sincerely,

Alla Gamakharia
Chairperson of Cultural-Humanitarian Fund "Sukhumi"