



America Georgia Business Council
Belarusian American Association
Moldova Foundation
U.S.-Baltic Foundation
U.S.-Ukraine Foundation

August 12, 2008

Statement on Russian Aggression Against Georgia

Baltic-Black Sea Alliance Condemns Russia's Military Aggression Against Georgia

Washington, DC (BBSA) -- The Baltic-Black Sea Alliance (BBSA), representing the America-Georgia Business Council, Belarusian-American Association, Moldova Foundation, US-Baltic Foundation, and US-Ukraine Foundation, strongly condemn the Russian Federation's military aggression against the Republic of Georgia. It is a brutal violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions, international norms and, most importantly, it is an act of hostility against a democratic, sovereign and independent Georgia.

Facts from the ground show that this Russian military invasion is nothing less than a well-planned action. Its main goal was to prevent Georgia from becoming a NATO and EU member and a thriving democracy.

Now, it is evident to the whole world what was known to the people of this post-soviet space since hostilities escalated in 1992, that Russia is part of the conflicts in Georgia Moldova and Ukraine, supporting separatist movements in Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Transnistria and Crimea. There is no moral and legal ground for Russia to maintain any longer its status as "mediator" and "peacekeeper" in secessionist conflicts in Moldova and Georgia.

Bombing Georgia, a country through which the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline passes from the Caspian Sea to Western Europe, with strategic bombing in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline, demonstrate that Russia cannot be viewed anymore as a reliable energy supplier for the European Union market.

We call on Russia to accept without preconditions ceasefire and military disengagement proposals offered by the European Union and OSCE.

We call on the European Union and its member states to introduce multinational peacekeeping forces in Georgia to restore this country territorial integrity and peace.

We call on the international organizations, the United States, Japan and other nations to provide short-term humanitarian assistance and long-term post-conflict rehabilitation programs to Georgia.

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