

Russian Invasion of Georgia

Russian Attack: Summary

22:00 August 25, 2008

Altogether, Georgia's sovereign territory was subjected to aerial bombardment 42 times. The areas bombed far exceeded the putative conflict zone of South Ossetia.

The bombs and missiles were delivered during up to 158 illegal incursions into Georgia's airspace, of which 96 are fully confirmed.

At least 165 bombs and missiles were used, including cluster bombs and other weapons banned by international agreements. At least three of the attacks directly targeted civilians in civilian areas.

Bombing runs before ceasefire

The list below indicates the areas bombed, the minimum number of times each was bombed, their distance from the conflict zone and/or Tbilisi, and the date(s) of the attack(s).

Shavshvebi village	1	30 km	08.08.08
Variani village	1	20 km, 75 km from Tbilisi	08.08.08
Gori	5	17 km	08-10.08.08
Vaziani Airfield	2	2-3 km from Tbilisi	08-09.08.08
Marneuli	3	20 km from Tbilisi	08.08.08
Bolnisi	1	35 km from Tbilisi	08.08.08
Senaki	1	213 km from Tbilisi	09.08.08
Oni	1		09.08.08
Village Urta	1	330 km from Tbilisi	10.08.08
Tbilisi Airplane Factory	2	Tbilisi	09-10.08.08
Knolevi (Kareli district)	1		10.08.08
Urta (Zugdidi district)	1		10.08.08

In Upper Abkhazia, the Russian air force bombed villages and positions at least 4 times. The gorge was invaded by airborne Abkhaz and Russian troops on 10 August.

Bombing runs after Georgian ceasefire offer

At 17:30 on 10 August, the Georgian Foreign Ministry hands a diplomatic note offering an immediate Georgian ceasefire to the Russian Embassy. The Russian Air Force continues its attacks for three more days.

Anaklia (Zugdidi district)	10.08.08
Settlements near Batumi (Khelvachauri district), close to Turkish border	11.08.08
Shiraki airfield (Kakheti region)	11.08.08
Gori, twice	11-12.08.08
Senaki military airport	11.08.08
Kodori gorge, Upper Abkhazia	11.08.08
Senaki military base	11.08.08

Kere and Sakasheti (Gori district)	11-13.08.08
Kaspi (30 km from Tbilisi)	11.08.08
Tkhviavi (near Tskhinvali)	11.08.08
Vaziani military base (on the outskirts of Tbilisi)	12.08.08
Orchosani (Gori district)	12.08.08
Sakoritno (Kaspi district)	12.08.08
Ruisi village (Kareli district)	12.08.08

Occupation of Georgian towns and villages

Zugdidi (11.08.08);
 Beloti village near Eredvi, Tskhinvali district (11.08.08);
 Shindisi, Gori district (11.08.08);
 Senaki (11.08.08);
 Gori, the only connection between East and West connection blocked by Russians (11.08.08);
 Khaishi, Svaneti region (12.08.08);
 Upper Abkhazia (12.08.08);
 Additional troops enter Gori (13 - 14.08.08);
 Atosi village, Kareli district, East of Gori (13.08.08);
 Pakhulani village, Tzalenjikha district (13.08.08);
 Additional troops enter Zugdidi twice (14.08.08);
 Mejvriskhevi village, Gori district (14.08.08);
 Ruisi and Tzveri villages, Kareli district (14.08.08);
 East deep from Senaki (14.08.08);
 Abashitzkali village, 40 km.s away from the second largest city of Georgia, Kutaisi (15.08.08);
 Igoeti (15.08.08);

Tbilisi Intrusion Threat:

12 August

15 August

Occupation of Georgian towns and villages after French-mediated ceasefire

Following the signature of the ceasefire agreement by all parties (Georgia, France and Russia), the Russian offensive should have ceased and a pullback to positions held before August 7th engaged. Instead, Russia deepened its occupation of Georgia, entering and occupying towns and villages far away from the conflict zones.

Igoeti, Kaspi district, 40 km.s away from Tbilisi (15.08.08);
 Khashuri, 30 km.s west from Gori (15.08.08);
 Surami, west of Khashuri (15.08.08);
 Sachkhere parts, Western Georgia (16.08.08);
 Akhlagori, 40 km.s North-West of Tbilisi (16.08.08);
 Additional Russian troops entered Senaki military base (17.08.08)
 South Ossetian separatist paramilitaries entered additionally to Akhlagori (17.08.08)
 Russian armored vehicles advanced towards Supsa oil terminal near Poti (17.08.08)
 Russian Troops advanced and blocked road near Kaspi again (18.08.08)
 Russian troops advanced towards Sachkere (19.08.08)
 Russian troops entered Poti port again (19.08.08)
 Russians opened checkpoints in Poti entrance (20.08.08)
 Russians occupy village Chogha of Chkhorotsku district, Samegrelo region, in western Georgia (20.08.08)

Russian militaries occupy villages Perevi, Sachkhere in Sachkhere district, Imereti region, western Georgia (20.08.08)

Mines

Roads in the Svaneti Region were mined on 17.08.08. Road bridges on the old Gori road south of Kaspi were mined on the same date.

Russian troops used explosive devices to destroy military installations in the Senaki base on 18.08.08 and the Osiauri base on 23 and 24 August.

A landmine blew up a crude oil train 5 km west of Gori on 24 August. Other mines and buried artillery shells were subsequently found at other spots of the tracks.

Landmines and bomblets left by the departing Russian army are targeting civilians. A blast killed a woman in Gori on 24 August and injured a man in Tirdznisi on the same date.

Mines of the "frog" type have been found in civilian gardens and orchards in Gori. These are antipersonnel mines that, when stepped upon, jump into the air and explode at chest or head height.

Cluster bombs

The use of cluster bombs against civilian targets has been confirmed by Human Rights Watch. Cluster bombs explode at altitude in order to scatter bomblets over a wide area. Most bomblets explode on impact. The effect of hundreds of bomblets exploding at the same time is to saturate the targeted area with high-speed shrapnel, killing everything alive. Because the bomblets can be scattered over a wide area, these are among the most destructive antipersonnel conventional weapons.

Bomblets that fail to explode on impact become landmines.

The exceptionally destructive power of these weapons has led them to be banned by 107 countries, including all of the European Union.