

August 11, 2009



## **Statement by Republic of Abkhazia on Cyber Attack**

The following is a statement by Christian Bzhania, spokesman for the Republic of Abkhazia, in response to media reports about last week's cyber attack that disrupted the sites of Twitter, Facebook and LiveJournal, among others:

“The Government of the Republic of Abkhazia denounces last week's reported cyber attack on a Georgian blogger writing about the events leading up to the August 2008 war. We think the Internet is a powerful tool for sharing information and reaching beyond borders to encourage constructive debate.

“Our government strongly supports the right to free speech. The posting by the Georgian blogger was riddled with inaccuracies and falsehoods, but it doesn't excuse an illegal effort on the Internet to silence him. We will cooperate with any investigation into that incident.

“As an independent nation, Abkhazia is working hard to build a democracy, which includes the rights of its citizens to voice their opinions freely. Our government welcomes all opportunities to engage with the international community, including dialogue on the Internet. But our efforts to interact with the global community continue to be stifled by the policies of Georgia and its western supporters to isolate our nation. We hope the world will join us in encouraging Georgia to open the doors for a legitimate and respectful discussion about a path to peace in our region.”

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