

September 3, 2009



Official Statement of The Republic of Abkhazia on Georgian Incursion in Abkhazian Waters

“The Republic of Abkhazia reserves the right to use all means necessary to stop Georgian incursion in our waters, including seizing – or if necessary, destroying – Georgian ships violating Abkhazian territorial waters. This policy is not new. It has been in effect since the 1992 war of independence. We restate it now with reluctance. The Georgian Government leaves us no choice as it continues to pursue unwarranted maritime interdictions of other countries’ ships, some of which belong to NATO members with whom Georgia wishes to partner. As a sovereign nation, we are implementing this policy on our own initiative without pressure or assistance from any other government.

The Georgian authorities must deal with the reality that Abkhazia is not part of Georgia and never will be. Continuing to try to intimidate our people by isolating them and subjecting them to terrorist measures solves nothing, and in fact, exacerbates international tensions in the region. Georgia’s political and financial ally, the United States, has warned its leaders that using or encouraging military action is not the answer to stability in this region, yet they persist with provocations to the contrary. It is precisely this kind of bullying that convinces Abkhazians that re-unification with Georgia is impossible. “

--Nadir Bitiev, Deputy Official Representative of the President of the Republic of Abkhazia

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