



STATEMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ABKHAZIA ON UN RESOLUTION A/63/L79,
DEALING WITH RETURN OF REFUGEES TO ABKHAZIA AND SOUTH OSSETIA

The United Nations this week passed Resolution A/63/L79, which deals with the return of refugees to Abkhazia and South Ossetia. This resolution, debated and voted on without any input from Abkhazia, smacks of old-style colonialism under which established powers make decisions about ethnic groups and nations less powerful void of discussion with those people. The reality is that Abkhazia is not part of Georgia and never will be. Accordingly, Georgia does not control our territory, policies, nor speak for Abkhazians—who are actually helping hundreds of refugees return to their homes.

In the Gal region of Abkhazia, for example, the Abkhazian Government is promoting an active Georgian refugee return program that includes financial and social incentives. This process takes time. Some who lived in Abkhazia prior to our independence in 1999, were paramilitary terrorists. We will not allow terrorists, regardless of nationality, to return, and if they do, we are justified in prosecuting them under our laws.

Resolution A/63/L79 is a political manipulation by Georgia and its western allies. The large number of nations abstaining from voting on the resolution—78—may be indicative of how impractical it actually is because it is not founded on the reality of Abkhazian independence.

--Nadir Bitiev, Deputy Official Representative of the President of the Republic of Abkhazia, 12 September 2009