

# The Report of the State Security Service of Georgia

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Tbilisi

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The main goal of any democratic country is to ensure national security of the state.

In response to the current threats and challenges facing Georgia and with the aim to ensure efficient and democratic functioning of security system, on 1st of August 2015 independent, depoliticized, professional and highly accountable State Security Service of Georgia was established.

The Service is guided by the interests of the state and its citizens, not any political subject. The activities of the Service are carried out in the manner that ensures equal protection of state security as well as fundamental rights and freedoms of an individual.

The mission of the State Security Service is protection of constitutional order, sovereignty, territorial integrity, protection of military and economic potential against internal and foreign threats and ensuring secure environment for the citizens of the country.

The Service consists of following thirteen structural units: Administration, Counterterrorism Center, Counterintelligence, State Security, Information-Analytical, Operative-Technical, Operative Measures, Facilities Protection, Economic, Special Operations Departments, Anti-Corruption Agency, Human Resources Main Division and General Inspection.

Recent developments in the world and the region have significantly changed the security environment of Georgia. Nowadays, the threats and challenges facing the state are connected with sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia, threats originating from the territories occupied by the Russian Federation, activities of foreign special services, international terrorism, cyber threats, chemical, biological, radiological and atomic threats, possible proliferation of materials and weapons of mass destruction, etc.

State security largely depends on effective conduct of Security Service. Necessary precondition for the latter is to properly determine the priorities. Taking into account the existing security environment, the priorities of the Service during the reporting period have included the following: to work on the problems caused by the occupation of Georgian territories and to retain the threats stemming from them; to protect constitutional order; to ensure the counterintelligence activities in response to foreign intelligence activities; to fight against terrorism and proliferation of materials and weapons of mass destruction; to ensure chemical, biological, radiological and atomic (CBRN) security; to fight against corruption and malfeasance; to develop the institutional capacities of the Service, which implies pursuing efficient HR management policy; as well as to renovate analytical and material-technical resources; to conduct intra-agency and interagency coordination, as well as cooperation with international partners.

## Occupied Territories

The main challenge for the State Security Service of Georgia is the existence of occupied territories and the presence of foreign military forces on the ground. A large number of Russian military contingent in the territories of occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions, heavy armament of modern type, including presence of offensive military equipment represent an existential threat to the Georgian state.

Attempt by the Russian Federation to annex occupied territories, grave criminogenic situation on the ground (ransom kidnappings, robberies, murders, attacks on the population), discrimination of ethnic Georgian residents, illegal detention of citizens (for illegal crossing of so-called border), so-called "Borderization" process (installation of barbed-wires, fences, so-called border-signs and entrenching), restriction of free movement and access to education, intensive military exercises in the occupied territories, as well as Central Government-controlled airspace violation facts by Russian military aircrafts, helicopters and pilotless vehicles and violation of the Law of Georgia on Occupied Territories, jeopardize security of the country.

Aiming at suppression of threats originating from occupied territories and prevention of Russian annexation processes, the State Security Service of Georgia conducts permanent monitoring of the existing situation on the ground, carries out an assessment of developments, implements relevant activities, actively participates in elaboration and implementation process of anti-annexation policy and the steps towards de-occupation. Respective state agencies and international partners are permanently provided with the information on threats originating from the occupied territories and current developments on the ground.

The State Security Service of Georgia along with other responsible agencies implements the coordination of security activities on the ground along the occupation line by exercising every available mechanism in an attempt to protect state interests and human rights.

The State Security Service of Georgia participates in Geneva International Discussions. Two discussion meetings were held in 2015 from August 1 to December 31 (33rd, 34th), where the special representative of SSSG, in the scope of the 1st working group, discussed existing situation in occupied regions and along the occupation line.

Since August 1, 2015, the State Security Service of Georgia is a leading agency in the scope of Incidents Prevention and Respond Mechanism (IPRM) format meetings. Within the abovementioned mechanism, the State Security Service of Georgia systemically raises the issues on incidents along the occupation line and in the occupied territories, violation of human rights and illegal arrangement of so-called border infrastructure; it also touches upon other illegal activities committed by the Russian occupation forces and de-facto government. In 2015 from August 1 to December 31, 4 IPRM meetings were held in the direction of occupied Tskhinvali region (village Ergneti).

Since April 2012 IPRM meetings have not been held in the direction of occupied Abkhazia region (village Gali), since the representatives of de facto government declared the then- head of the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in Georgia **Anjei Tishkevich** *persona non grata*. The State Security Service together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had actively cooperated with partners in Gali to renew IPRM meetings. As a result of the efforts of the Central Government and co-chairs of Geneva Discussions, on March 23, 2015, the agreement on renewal of Gali meetings was achieved at 35<sup>th</sup> round of Geneva International Discussions.

One of the effective mechanisms established under IPRM is the so-called “Hot Line” which enables 24 hours communication between the State Security Service, European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM), occupation forces of the Russian Federation and representatives of de facto governments of occupied territories. On behalf of the Central Government, the liaison officer of the State Security Service conducts communication with them through “Hot Line”.

The latter is linked to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia (the authority present along the occupation line and its vicinities) and other relevant agencies on a 24/7 basis. Operational exchange of information through the “Hot Line” facilitates prevention of incidents and tensions along the occupation line as well as their examination and solution in the shortest possible time. In 2015 from August 1 to December 31 “Hot Line” came to operation 572 times (in the direction of occupied Abkhazia – 177, in the direction of occupied Tskhinvali region – 395). The SSSG “hot line” came to operation 277 times.

One of the main challenges for the State Security Service of Georgia is illegal detentions carried out by Russian occupation forces along the occupation line for illegal crossing of the so-called border. In the direction of Tskhinvali region, in 2015 from August 1 to December 31, 69 individuals were illegally detained on the mentioned charges.<sup>1</sup> 67 of

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<sup>1</sup> In the direction of Tskhinvali region, in 2015 163 individuals were illegally charged for illegal crossing of the so-called border, in 2016 – 10 individuals.

them were released, whilst as of December 31, two of the detainees remained in illegal detention for illegal crossing of the so-called border.

The State Security Service of Georgia exercises every mechanism and leverage at its disposal, “hot line” and IPRM meetings among them (where alongside other topics the issue of release of illegally detained people is discussed), to timely release illegal detainees.

Majority of illegally detained individuals in the direction of occupied Abkhazia are the residents of occupied Gali region.

The State Security Service of Georgia pays particular attention to cooperation with the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in Georgia. The Mission is one of the most significant contributors for maintaining peace and stability in the vicinities of occupation line. At the same time, it represents the only international monitoring mechanism in the region. The memorandum of cooperation between the State Security Service and the mission was signed in December 2015.

The Service also actively cooperates with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on the issues related to the emergency medical aid for the population of the occupied Tskhinvali Region and their movement to the territory controlled by the Georgian Central Government. Cooperation with the UN is also worth noting.

The State Security Service is involved in trilateral meetings organized under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, which envisages the search of missing and deceased persons during armed conflicts in the 90s’ and Russia-Georgia War in 2008.

It’s worth noting, that at the end of 2013, by the initiative of de-facto Tskhinvali representatives trilateral meetings were suspended. By the mutual effort of SSSG and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the format has been reestablished, and the first meeting (officially 9th) was held on February 5, 2016.<sup>2</sup>

The State Security Service within its mandate, reported the information on current developments in the occupied territories and across the occupation line to the representatives of partner countries, as well as representatives of international organizations and media. With this purpose, the Service has organized visits of high-ranking officials and media representatives at the occupation line. In 2015 from August 1

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<sup>2</sup> A similar mechanism regarding occupied Abkhazia is being conducted in the bilateral format (representatives of occupied Abkhazia and Central Government of Georgia), and on behalf of the Central Government of Georgia the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia is involved in it.

to December 31 11 high-ranking delegations of partner countries and international organizations have visited the occupation line.<sup>3</sup>

The State Security Service actively participates within the following interagency formats working on the issues of the occupied territories: Temporary Government Commission for Response to the Needs of the Affected Population Living in the Villages on the “Dividing Line”, inter-agency working group under the Prime Minister focusing on “processes ongoing in the territories of conflict zones” , inter-agency working group created under the auspices of the State Security and Crisis Management Council.

## Counterintelligence Activities

One of the main components of the State Security Service is counterintelligence activities.

Foreign intelligence agencies are constantly striving from legal and illegal positions to obtain desired information, to penetrate government bodies and state security structures, gain access to state secrets and incite and/or recruit particular individuals, to gain political, diplomatic, military and economic advantage over Georgia, influence the policy of the country, destabilize state structures and realize their aspirations.

In an attempt to neutralize the above-mentioned, the State Security Service of Georgia permanently studied activities, plans and applied forces and means, forms of activities and methods, objects of interest and connections of foreign intelligence services acting in Georgia, as well as carried out activities to reveal and suppress activities addressed against the state interests.

SSSG has paid special attention to the protection of political decision-makers and authorities against foreign special services, to ensure that important decisions for the country are taken free of any pressure and manipulation.

Protective measures have been actively under way directed against penetration of foreign special services into national security structures. Also, preventive measures against information leakage and dissemination of disinformation, as well as identifying possible

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<sup>3</sup> Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Norway and Latvia, parliamentary delegations of Hungary, Czech Republic and Brazil, Czech journalists.

channels of penetration for foreign spies and appropriate countermeasures have been taken in the agencies mentioned above.

To ensure counterintelligence of the Georgian Armed Forces, permanent monitoring of the individuals who might be connected with the special services of foreign countries and thus carrying out destructive and anti-state activities, has been under way.

The Security Service, within its mandate, exercises cyber security measures.

Effective steps have been taken to protect state secrecy. The mechanisms of access to the secrets have been improved, what implies granting permission, providing methodological-organizational assistance and establishing control over protection of secrets. The efforts of the Service have also been directed to the domestic threats and information leakage prevention, strengthening security measures and raising staff awareness, as well as detection of individuals who were trying to use authorized security clearance against the state interests.

In the direction mentioned above, during the reporting period, security clearance (permit-form №4) has been issued for 87 organizations (37 state agencies, 50 LEPLs). 8 organizations have been denied to get the security clearance due to revealed factual circumstances, low level of credibility and reliability.

102 state establishments have been inspected for documenting appropriate permits granting state establishments/legal entity the right to get the security clearance, security protection regime and secret proceedings.

4182 individual candidates applying for security clearance have undergone examination procedure. As a result, 150 convicted persons have been detected. 17 persons have been denied to get the security clearance. 925 individuals from various establishments have been provided methodic-organizational assistance regarding activities related to state secrets and security protection regime.

115 requests, about 30000 pages of “secret” and “confidential” documents have been studied and evaluated, to determine the reasoning of their classification.

In the reporting period, on October 28, 2015, in accordance with article 321, part II of the Criminal Code of Georgia, a criminal case was launched into the fact of breach of the procedure for keeping state secrets, that resulted in disclosure of the state secret negligently. Investigation is ongoing.

In addition, during the reporting period, the investigation has been launched into 5 criminal cases (2 facts of illicit treatment to radioactive substances, breach of the procedure related to the movement of weapon across the customs border of Georgia,



unlawful sale of weapon, conspiracy intended to overthrow state power). 8 citizens are detained (3 of them were detained in January, 2016).

The State Security Service of Georgia pays particular attention to the protection of entities posing high risk to the state security. In accordance with the Law of Georgia on State Security Service of Georgia, the list of entities posing high risk to state security has been prepared and adopted by Decree №584 of Government of Georgia of 18th November 2015. The mentioned status has been determined overall in relation to 25 entities and relevant regime has been defined for each of them taking into account the specifics. The relationship between the State Security Service of Georgia and entities posing high risk to state security is exercised according to the relevant agreements. Through this, the old practice of so-called “ODRs” has been finally denied.

The SSSG, depending on tasks it faces, provides counterintelligence to the entities which pose high risk to state security. Interests of foreign special services in the entities posing high risk to state security as well as intelligence penetration attempts have been revealed. Respective operative activities are being carried out on permanent basis in the entities which pose high risk to state security to enhance their security and provide them with counterintelligence.

Cyber security condition in the entities which pose high risk to state security is taken under operative control. In addition, together with the LEPL “Data Exchange Agency”, the relevant units of the State Security Service take active part in terms of increasing level of cyber security in various state authorities.

Taking into consideration the threats, operative control is carried out over private companies functioning in Georgia dealing with manufacturing, purchase, maintenance, sale, usage, transportation and import and export of industrial and military purpose substances.

Recently, against the background of hostilities in the Middle East, the migration of population from the mentioned region in the direction of western countries takes place. They consider the territory of Georgia as one of the routs. In this regard, particular attention should be paid to the possibility of entering of representatives of radical Islamist movements into the territory of Georgia through legal or illegal ways, while particular part of them represent objects of interest for foreign special services.

The State Security Service of Georgia is implementing round-the-clock monitoring of movement of foreigners on border checkpoints in Tbilisi, Kutaisi and Batumi International Airports, including to reveal individuals of operative interest and their contacts. It is noteworthy, that particular individual is denied to cross the border if in the course of border control preclusive circumstance which is not in compliance with the

legislation is revealed. During the reporting period, up to 300 foreign citizens were denied entry into the country.

## **Fight against Terrorism**

One of the main priorities of the State Security Service of Georgia is the fight against terrorism. In the modern world, terrorism-related threats are changeable, unpredictable and growing. So-called Islamic State is most pronounced manifestation of global terrorism. Thus, threats associated with other international terrorist organizations (“Al-Qaeda”, “Taliban”, etc.) did not reduce.

Events taken place in the Middle East have a negative effect on Caucasus region. Although Georgia is not among the countries with high risk of terrorist attacks, still, there are particular challenges in this respect. So-called Islamic State and other extremist groups gained supporters in certain regions of the country. Those who disseminate radical ideology strive to make use of little awareness of particular part of society for their own interests. Recently spread video-recordings aimed, on the one hand, to radicalize the audience, and, on the other hand, to terrify the public. Nowadays, several tens of citizens of Georgia fight in the ranks of terrorist organization. There are also people willing to join combat activities. Their involvement in terrorist activities damages the country’s image and pose threat to state security.

It is vital for Georgia to prevent and suppress any terrorist activities on its territory, as it can be used by particular states for their own military and political purposes. The primary task of the State Security Service of Georgia regarding fight against terrorism is to reduce terrorist risks, protect the state, its interests and citizens from every form of terrorist activities. A number of measures have been carried out in this regard by the Security Service.

The above-mentioned course of action aimed at detecting and suppressing activities carried out by international terrorist organization and their affiliates on the territory of Georgia. Conduct of the Service was also addressed to detecting facts of using country’s territory as transit in order to participate in military developments taking place in Syria and Iraq. An active counterterrorist search for individuals involved in terrorist organizations was carried out. Operative control of individuals and organizations promoting radical ideology was carried out actively.

During the reporting period, an investigation was ongoing into the case of so-called representative of Islamic State - Aiup Borchashvili and members of his group (G. Kuprava, G. Khutunishvili and D. Phirisebia). The criminal case was launched under the articles 327<sup>1</sup> (recruiting a person as member of a terrorist organization or for carrying out terrorist activities) and 328 (joining a foreign terrorist organization or a terrorist organization controlled by a foreign state or supporting this organization in terrorist activities) of the Criminal Code of Georgia. Their trial ended on March 7, 2016. Aiup Borchashvili was sentenced to imprisonment for a term of 14 years, Giorgi Khutunishvili – for a term of 11 years, Davit Phirisebia – for a term of 10 years, by Tbilisi City Court. The Prosecutor's Office signed a plea bargain with another member of group Giorgi Kuprava, as a result of which he was sentenced to imprisonment for a term of 1 year and conditional sentence, for a term of 5 years with the probation period for a term of 6 years.

Operative measures were carried out in Adjara and Guria too. As a result of this, individuals who supposedly pledged allegiance to so-called Islamic State have been identified. As a result of the searches taken place at their homes, various evidences have been seized, including firearms and explosive devices. 4 individuals have been detained. Investigation is ongoing.

The Security Service paid special attention to the prevention of the use of Internet to spread the radical ideology. In November 2015, access to the websites and the groups registered in social media spreading radical ideology was restricted.

The Security Service is carrying out criminal prosecution against the individuals who are involved in terrorist activities outside the country as well as individuals who came to Georgia as "Jihadists". The criminal case was launched against Davit Borchashvili who arrived from Turkey to Georgia on 22 October 2015, under the article 328 (joining a foreign terrorist organization or a terrorist organization controlled by a foreign state or supporting this organization in terrorist activities) of the Criminal Code of Georgia. His pretrial hearing was conducted on 1 March, 2016. The criminal case was also launched against the citizens of Georgia who were in the Syrian Arab Republic, Nodar Paksadze, Khvicha Gobadze (died in January 2016), Badri Iremadze and Mamuka Antadze, under the article 410 of the Criminal Code of Georgia (participation of mercenaries in armed conflicts or military actions). It should be noted that on November 23 of the current year, the mentioned individuals, on behalf of the terrorist organization "Islamic Sate" disseminated a video footage which contained threat and violence against Georgia. The investigation is also ongoing against Tamaz Tchaghladze ("Ahmed Al Gurji"), who traveled to Syria in June 2014 and joined the ranks of "Islamic State", under the article 330<sup>1</sup> (Open support of terrorist activities and/or a terrorist organization or public incitement to terrorism) of the Criminal Code of Georgia.

Currently, up to 50 citizens of Georgia are staying in Syria and Iraq with terrorist purposes. The State Security Service possesses information on those individuals and in case of their return to Georgia, measures considered by the legislation will be taken.

During the reporting period, relevant activities have been carried out on permanent basis to prevent Georgian citizens from taking part in combat operations. In the event of possession of any preliminary information on departure, the Security Service took appropriate measures (including “Prophylactic Conversations”). Information exchange between SSSG and relevant agencies of partner states was carried out constantly regarding the members and/or individuals connected to terrorist organizations, as well as transit-travelers. In the scope of the above-mentioned cooperation, several hundreds of individuals have been enlisted on border-control. Overall, in counterterrorism direction, in cooperation with MIA, 1286 individuals have been enlisted on Georgian border control, 1014 individuals have been forbidden to enter Georgia. On the basis of operative information 40 facts of attempted travel to the conflict zone have been prevented.

In an effort to prevent travelling/entering the country with terrorism purposes, border control (of the green border-line and border crossing points) is duly carried out, in cooperation with MIA. Visitors are being interviewed. Every border-check point is equipped with nuclear and radioactive material detectors. Personnel involved in border management activities are being retrained on a permanent basis, in the field of detection of fake travel documents among them.

The State Security Service of Georgia actively cooperates with the USA, Israel, Great Britain and Germany in terms of enhancing counterterrorism capabilities (investigative and analytical training courses), exchange of operative information, planning joint activities within the borders and outside the country is especially noteworthy. Cooperation with neighboring states should be mentioned. In November 2015, law enforcement agencies of the Republic of Azerbaijan detained a citizen of Azerbaijan (Balakan, Azerbaijan), who was planning to travel to Turkey and then to Syria.

Particular attention was drawn to enhancing readiness and response capabilities regarding terrorism threats. The process of passportization of state strategic objects and their facilities that are potential targets of terrorist attacks continued, as well as the risk analysis process. Security measures assessment of public gathering places (so-called easy targets) with a high risk of attacks was undergoing. Terrorism combat special divisions were given training/retraining regarding tactic (sniper courses, antiterrorist activities in the city, operations to destruct the terrorist camps, mountaineering courses, etc.), mine-clearing, as well as detecting and neutralizing mass destruction materials activities. In this direction, the support from international partners should be highlighted. In the reporting period, the material-technical base of anti-terrorist tactical units was also improved.

## Cyber Security

Cyber Security is one of the most important challenges of modernity. Different actors use cyberspace to achieve political, military, economic and other goals. The vulnerability of various spheres and the scale of damage coming from cyberattacks increase proportionately to the development of telecommunication sector and growing dependence on information technology. Cyberattacks threat to the security of the country.

Experience reveals that cyber threats may have the nature of mass attacks on the state informational-technological systems, what aims to paralyze critical infrastructure (which occurred during the August 2008 war between Russia and Georgia). There are the danger of individual cases of cyber spying, cyber terrorism and various types of cybercrime. In response to which the appropriate measures are carried out by the Security Service.

Although, in accordance with the current legislation it does not fall within the competence of the Service to protect the state cyber security, considering the scales of the threat and the gravity of the expected results, the Service carries out a range of measures to neutralize these threats and also minimize the results.

As for prevention, the Security Service, in case of the appropriate reports, advises state establishment on creation of safe information systems, network protection and the ensuring the safety of hardware. Also, it works out recommendations for individual organizations to eliminate the weaknesses found as the results of specific incidents. In 2015, 10 organizations were consulted in this field and the relevant recommendations have been elaborated for them.

During the reporting period, the Security Service reacted with the aim of rapid elimination of found incidents and minimizing harmful effects. In 2015, the necessary measures were taken by the SSSG in response to five incidents.

The Service also ensures support to the investigation of crime committed by use of information technology, through the examination of digital evidences and relevant expert research. In this direction, the SSSG has appropriate laboratory and qualified human resource. In the reporting period, the Service participated in the investigation of 22 incidents.

It should be noted here, that the infrastructure (server equipment, massive databases, etc.) of international service providers (Facebook, Gmail, Youtube, etc.) are located outside of Georgia. Taking into consideration this, special importance is given to the international cooperation to identify specific IP addresses and persons behind them

(who exploited or exploit such services with criminal purposes, for example, email, social networks, etc.), and also to investigate incidents occurred at cyber space in a timely and effective manner. Within the framework of the mentioned cooperation the video footages containing threats against Georgia have been block in the Internet.

## **Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Security; Fight against proliferation of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction**

Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) security represents one of the main elements of the state security. Despite the causes (natural, accidental/caused by human error and criminal factors), CBRN incidents, depending on scales, is a special threat for public.

In terms of CBRN threats, the region is generally unstable. Individual states have a well-developed nuclear industry, which means that any nuclear incident will have a negative impact on Georgia. There are also several abandoned objects (former Soviet military and scientific objects) in the country, where chemical and radiological hazardous substances may be still available today. There are sites for radioactive and chemical substances, establishments with biological profile. Consequently, under the influence of natural or human factors, also criminal activities, there is always a risk CBRN substances to be spread in the environment and possessed illegally.

It is an especially noteworthy that organized crime groups and terrorists have bad desire to seize these substances. The existence of the occupied territories creates a favorable environment to turnover and transit the weapons and CBRN substances.

The Security Service took effective steps in the field of CBRN security. The SSSG actively participates in the EU Chemical, Biological, Radiological & Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centers of Excellence Initiative, and closely cooperates with its Regional Secretariat in Tbilisi (the Secretariat was founded in 2013 and unites nine countries – Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Georgia, Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine), as well as with the USA, the UN and other partner countries and organizations.

After dividing the system of the Ministry on Internal Affairs, the State Security Service of Georgia chairs Interagency Coordination Council for Combating CBRN Threats within the scope of which, in 2014, National Strategy on CBRN Threat Reduction and, in March 2015, National Action Plan were elaborated. There were actively involved in the

working process on it, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the US Embassy in Georgia and EU experts. Special attention is paid to nuclear and radiological security, the issues of biological safety and bio-security, as well as chemical component, the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the components necessary to create it, waste management, infrastructure development, improvement of capacities of appropriate establishments through the trainings and equipment, implementation of the UN relevant resolutions (including UN Security Council Resolution №1540) and other international legal instruments, fulfilment of obligations within international cooperation. The SSSG coordinates the implementation of the Action Plan.

It should be emphasized that Georgia is the first partner country of EU Chemical, Biological, Radiological & Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centers of Excellence Initiative that elaborated and adopted this document.

The SSSG representatives spoke about CBRN Action Plan on October 1, 2015, at the meeting of the working group of G7 Global Partnership against Spread of the Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction in Berlin, where they were invited by UNICRI and German side. The presentation of Action Plan and generally Georgian progress in the CBRN security field was held on October, 2015, in the UN headquarter, in New York, at the UN General Assembly's 70th Session, at the event "CBRN National Action Plans in Response to International Security Challenges and the Actuality of Artificial Intelligence", organized by the Government of Georgia and UNICRI. At this meeting, the success achieved by Georgia in the CBRN security field and the importance and necessity to share the experience with other countries have been highlighted once again.

In 2015, as a result of active effort of the Security Service and the initiative of the Government of Georgia, together with the Governments of Philippines and Morocco UN Group of Friends on CBRN Risk Mitigation and Security Governance was created. On December 8, 2015, the first founding meeting of the group headed by the mission of Georgia in the UN was held, which was attended by 27 member states. The Group of Friends aims to review CBRN security issues in the UN, to support the development of national capabilities of various countries, to support the implementation of the UN relevant resolutions, to initiate new resolutions, etc.

It is also a priority for the SSSG to join Georgia in G7 Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction. It should be noted, that on October 1, 2015, at the meeting of the partnership working group, in Berlin, the representative of the Security Service announced about the readiness of Georgia to join global partnership and increase its role in global security architecture, using its experience in the field of the CBRN security. According to the SSSG's recommendation, the ministry of Foreign Affairs

of Georgia has already addressed to Japan (the leader state of G7) with an official letter about the participation of the country in global partnership.

The measures taken by the State Security Service for non-proliferation and protection of radioactive sources are important. The radioactive sources taken out from exploitation, as well as those which were found in abandoned scientific facilities, were carried to the special repository in Mtskheta, together with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection. In 2015 from August 1 to December 31, 5 cans of unenriched uranium (115 grams in total) were carried to the repository. In December 2015, the Security Service evacuated 1.83 kg. enriched uranium from E. Andronikashvili Institute of Physics to producing country. This was preceded by the participation of the representatives of the Service in the respective negotiations organized by the US Department of Energy at the International Atomic Energy Agency, in Vienna, in August and September, 2015.

The SSSG provides the technical and program management of radiation control systems on the state border. The Service is the main partner of the US Department of Energy in the field of detecting nuclear and radioactive substances on the state border. The Security Service developed a curriculum and prepared materials on the topic of “Proliferation and Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction and Materials used in it”, for the Coast Guard of the Border Police of the Ministry of International Affairs. 20 employees of the Coast Guard have been retrained. Standard action procedures of the Border Police in the field of detection of nuclear and radioactive substances have also been developed.

Particular attention is paid to the fight against illicit trafficking of CBRN substances and materials. In August 2015, an organized criminal group was detained on the charges of illegal handling of radioactive materials (article 230, part I, of the Criminal Code of Georgia) in Tbilisi, and a special glass prefabricated container with radioactive substances “Cesium-135” and “Cesium-137” (each weighting 600 grams) have been seized. 5 individuals were prosecuted. As a result of operative-detective measures and investigative activities into the criminal case launched on the charges of the same article, on December 28, 2015, a criminal group was detained in Tbilisi on January 6, 2016, as a result of which a small container with radioactive substance “Cesium-137” has been seized. 3 individuals were prosecuted.

In the field of combating illicit trafficking of CBRN substances, the Service pays a great attention to the fulfilment of the Joint Document of US and Georgian Delegations on Georgia’s Priority Needs to Improve Its Capabilities to Combat Nuclear Smuggling signed with the USA. The US side emphasized that Georgia achieved considerable success in the implementation of all components of the this plan and expressed desire to get acquainted with Georgian experience in the field of the seizure, safe placement and investigation of



smuggling of radioactive and nuclear materials. For this purpose, a joint US-Georgia bilateral dialogue is planned in the field of combating nuclear smuggling in 2016 by the SSSG and the US Embassy.

During the reporting period, the SSSG staff involved in combating CBRN threats joined various international seminars and trainings, including the seminar on “The Necessary Elements of Nuclear Security” held in Vilnius, Lithuania, and the training on “The Ways of Proliferation of the Substances Necessary to Fabricate the Weapons of Mass Destruction and the Dual-Use Materials” organized by the Defence Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) and the US Embassy. In September 2015, the US Embassy handed to the appropriate unite a new generation radiation detection equipment.

## **Fight against Corruption**

The State Security Service of Georgia attaches great importance to the fight against corruption. Corruption endangers unimpeded functioning of the public sector, weakens the public trust towards state institutions, and hinders the democratic and stable development of the country. Corrupted public servants represent potential targets of foreign special services and criminal groups. Based on the above mentioned, it is the state security issue to fight against corruption.

One of the main priorities of the State Security Service is prevention, early detection and elimination of malfeasance, conflict of interests in public service and corruption facts, including “elite corruption”.

The Service is actively involved in the working group for the national risk assessment of money laundering and terrorism financing within the framework of Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing 2014-2017 Strategy adopted with the 2014 resolution №236 of the Government of Georgia, as well as in the working group in the framework of Inter-Agency Coordinating Council for Combating Corruption created with the December 30, 2013 resolution №390 of the Government of Georgia.

Taking into consideration modern standards and approaches, international practices in the fight against corruption in state authorities is shared. The officers of State Security Service actively participate in programs organized by the western partners, including the US Embassy, the Interpol, the EU, the Council of Europe, and the NATO.

Since the establishment of the State Security Service of Georgia through December 31, 2015 investigations have been launched into 29 criminal cases including: 14 cases on the facts of bribe-taking, 5 cases on the facts of swindling, 3 cases on the facts of unlawful appropriation or embezzlement, 3 cases on commercial bribe, 2 cases on the fact of abuse of official authority, 1 case on the fact of service negligence and other crimes. 16 individuals have been detained. As of now, the Anti-corruption Agency conducts investigation into 142 criminal cases.

## **Analytical Activities**

It is crucial to assess facts and circumstances adequately, to analyze and predict the course of events correctly, for the strengthening of state security. Consequently, it is necessary for the Security Service to have strong analytical capacities, what ensures swift procession of information and high-level analysis.

In order to fulfill this task, an analytical team in the State Security Service of Georgia was established, that conducts systematization of information, relevant analysis of developments, forecasting threats and elaborating recommendations. Analysts provide information on the national security issues to the SSSG senior officials. During the reporting period, analysts prepared up to 500 analytical and information notes.

In order to improve analytical activities, the methodology employed during processing and analyzing of the open-source and closed-source information was upgraded. an integrated system of analytical activity has been introduced, that in case of fragmentation of information, determines the need and nature of additional information, and also provides the order for its acquisition.

The cooperation and coordination between structural units were being improved. Various permanent and temporary working groups are created to respond to the existing threats and challenges that the country faces.

Analysts from the State Security Service, with assistance of European and American partners, are regularly trained and participate in international forums and conferences.

## **Protection of personal data, access to public information**

The Security Service within its activities pays particular attention to the protection of personal data. In accordance with legislative changes, the control responsibility of Personal Data Protection Inspector envisages supervision over covert investigative activities. Covert surveillance of the telephone conversations is possible only by means of two-level, so-called “two-key” system, what eliminates activation of objects without the consent of the inspector. The State Security Service of Georgia had active cooperation with the Inspector in this direction and conducted every essential activity to contribute to the effective control implementation.

Representatives of the Inspector’s office got familiarized with internal legal documents, which regulate procedural and organizational issues concerning the conduct of covert investigative activities. Within the coordination with the same group there was introduced and improved the procedures for the use of the two-level, so-called “two-key” system of control and eliminated the technical shortcomings revealed by functioning of the system.

The cooperation of technical groups in this direction is carried out daily. The representatives of Inspector’s Office were given an opportunity to get acquainted with internal legal documents regulating procedural and organizational issues related to the implementation of secret investigative activities.

Currently, the Inspector carries out a planned inspection at Operative-technical Department of State Security Service of Georgia. The inspection aims at checking technical, organizational and procedural issues concerning secret surveillance of telephone conversations, retrieving and pinpointing information from communication channel/computer system, as well as use of data banks. Upon the conclusion of the inspection, relevant observations elaborated by the Inspector.

Pursuant to the Georgian legislation, the State Security Service within its competence provided access to public information. From August 1 to December 31 of 2015, 122 public information requests were received, of which 57 were satisfied, 5 partially satisfied, 40 sent for further action, and 20 were not satisfied.

## Human resources

Professional and competent personnel plays a decisive role in ensuring of state security. Everyday conduct of operational officers, analysts, investigators, covert and non-covert staff, as well as middle and high-rank managers needs the best and critical skills. That's why particular attention is paid to the HR management policy, which implies attracting and recruiting best resources with various academic education background and qualification, as well as envisages their motivation, development, encouragement and career growth.

Since the establishment, capabilities, competence and accordance to the future requirements, competences and challenges of the SSSG human resources is being evaluated on a constant basis. The criteria for staff selection and the special examination procedures were improved. The relevant normative acts were published in this direction. The Service provides equal access to employment in terms of nationality, ethnicity, religion and gender.

Employees of the Service are provided with proper working conditions, including relevant allowance and social package. It is essential in terms of attracting new staff members, as well as for maintaining the existing personnel and for their further motivation, in particular bearing in mind that very frequently their activities contain risks.

Staff number of the State Security Service of Georgia amounts to 3850 units. By December 31st, the Service employed 3633 employees, of which 495 are women.

One of the priorities of the State Security Service of Georgia is the accessibility of professional education for employees. Ever-changing security environment creates the need for constant renewal of training programs. Nowadays, there are created all the necessary conditions to develop employees their skills constantly, in response to new challenges.

During the reporting period, there were improved educational opportunities for special training center, published manuals, updated the library, created the following training and retraining programs: programs to train the operative staff of Counter Intelligence and State Security Departments, as well as counterterrorism Centre; special program to retrain the staff of Anticorruption Agency; special training program for the Security Service about the using firearms and special assets; program for retraining the personnel with special or/and military ranks; special training program to grant special rank of Junior Lieutenant of State Security; special training program for the receiving and received recruits.

Special importance is given to the trainings for the tactical units of the State Security Service to fulfill their tasks in accordance with high professional standards. In this direction, the staff of the relevant unit was trained within the programs of minesweepers, snipers, fighters, paramedics, armored personnel carrier's crew, instructors' training, etc. Foreign specialists are actively engaged in retraining process of tactical units. The role of the U.S. is worth noting. With the help of American instructors, there were improved the methods of use of communication assets, and the techniques of use of medical assets, evacuation of wounded people, the accurate shooting from sniper rifle and working in pairs. There was exercised mountain-tactical retraining.

The Security Service staff is actively involved in the trainings and training courses supported by partner countries, both in Georgia and abroad.

The special attention is paid to recognition and encouragement of professionalism, initiatives and success. There are ensured the possibilities of professional development and career advancement, as well as the employee's employment in the field where they can realize maximum of their skills and potential.

It should be taken into consideration that gathering personnel for managerial position requires time. For the reason of sustainable development and effective management of the Service, special attention is paid to the identification and development of professionals with leader's feature and managerial potential.

The State Security Service has a special mission that requires distinguished personal and professional skills from its employees. It is important that employees carry out their activities based on law, with high professional standards and good faith, responsibly and in accordance with ethical norms.

Besides professional development and career growth aspects, the State Security Service attaches great importance to the detection of existing violations within the system, uprooting of misconduct, and controlling financial-economic activities of the units, examination of the legality and expediency of disposal of material and financial resources.

From August 1 to December 31 of 2015, facts of violation of ethical standards, misconduct, improper performance of official duties and particular facts of illegal activities were revealed, which was followed by relevant response. Disciplinary action was imposed on 86 employees (including 4 dismissals from the Service, 18 severe reprimands, 9 reprimands, 7 admonition, etc.).

## **Material-technical base**

To properly cope with the challenges facing the SSSG, it is necessary to obtain suitable material-technical base and manage its constant renewal. During the reporting period of last year, the Service was equipped with modern technical assets and endowment.

Currently, the Service has a material-technical resource required for effective fulfillment of tasks.

Rehabilitation of amortized buildings was carried out. Within the framework of the communication system TETRA Development Program, there were 15 new objects designed and installed. 25, 300 and 700 meters shooting ranges for tactical units have been set up in accordance with modern standards. Rehabilitation of targets and disposable facilities were carried out. Communication and radio-communication infrastructure were renovated.

From August 1 to December 31 of 2015, there were signed 170 treaties with total value of 16 206 881.65 Gel (48 treaties were signed with the budget funds of 2016, with total value of 14 975 499.86 Gel) by the SSSG Economic Department.

In the reporting period, there were launched 85 tenders, out of which 76 (48 simplified e-tenders and 28 e-tenders) were financed from 2016 budget. According to the agreements signed with electronic and simplified electronic tenders, 307 347.11 Gel was saved.

## **Interagency and International Cooperation**

The State Security Service of Georgia attaches great importance to coordination between state agencies. During the reporting period, the State Security Service had close cooperation ties with Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, Ministry of Defense of Georgia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice, as well as with Foreign Intelligence Service, State Security and Crisis management and Security Council and other state agencies. The State Security Service actively participated in a number of interagency councils and working groups organized therein. Since 21 September 2015, there is valid Memorandum on Growing of Effectiveness of Interagency Cooperation in the Field of Law Enforcement, among Ministry of Justice of Georgia, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, Ministry of Finance of Georgia, LEPL Financial Monitoring Service of Georgia, and State Security Service of Georgia.

It is unimaginable to combat global threats, such as international terrorism, the spread of weapons of mass destruction, transnational organized crime, etc. without united efforts of states. During the reporting period, special attention was paid to the deepening of cooperation with relevant agencies of the partner countries and international organizations.

It should be noted that on the basis of the amendments made in 15 international and intergovernmental agreements, the State Security Service of Georgia was additionally defined as a competent agency responsible for the implementation of the mentioned agreements.

The relevant procedures are covered by the drafts of Cooperation Agreements with the appropriate agencies of the Ukraine and Belarus, as well as the draft of the Agreement with the Government of Italy on Exchange of Secret Information and Mutual Protection. The internal procedures have been completed on the Agreement between Georgia and the EU on the Procedures of Exchange and Secure the Secret Information. There was prepared and presented to the British side for consideration the Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland on Exchange and Bilateral Secure the Secret Information. The working process on the Agreement with Albania and Cyprus on the Exchange and Bilateral Protection of Secret Information is ongoing.

The Security Service attaches considerable importance to the partnership with the United States of America. The Service, actively cooperates with the US Embassy, including with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) as well as within the scope of other programs. Within the support of the USA, dozens of employees of the Security Service have been trained/retrained.

The State Security Service intensively cooperates with security attachés and diplomatic representatives of various countries accredited in Georgia. In the scope of the mentioned cooperation, information exchange and coordination are being carried out on a systematic basis.

The SSSG is actively involved in the preparation of relevant documents and implementation process of the national action plan of EU Association Agreement and Association Agenda. Within its own competence, the Service prepared two reports on the implementation of the 2015 national action plan of EU Association Agreement and Association Agenda. The measures carried out to be fulfilled obligations of Georgia in connection with the competence of the Security Service, within the framework of the

cooperation with EU, were reflected in the 2016 National Action Plan for implementing the Association Agreement and Association Agenda.

The Service was engaged in planned activities under the EU-Georgia Visa-liberalization action plan implementation process, as well as in cooperation programs with the EU Eastern Partnership countries and planned activities under the Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) framework.

The State Security Service also became a member of the Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER), aiming at elaboration of international legal and other types of documents in the field of combating terrorism, monitoring of their signature and ratification by member states and facilitating effective implementation of the these documents at the national level under the scope of the Council of Europe.

The SSSG has intense cooperation with NATO and its liaison office. It is notable that the Service participated in the process of creation the 2016 Annual National Program (ANP). In December 2015, the Service was joined in the NATO-Georgia Professional Development Program (PDP). The Service was also involved in the events planned within the NATO Partnership and Cooperation menu.

Considerable attention has been devoted towards deepening cooperation with the UN. Representatives of the Service participated in numerous activities organized by the UN. Within the competence of the State Security Service of Georgia, UN Security Council resolutions have been systematically studied/analyzed.

The SSSG is actively joined in the activities carried out in the fight against terrorism by OSCE. By the side of the Service there was defined the CTN Contact Point created within the framework of the OSCE, that coordinates the joining of the SSSG in counter terrorism activities within the OSCE and the implementation of the documents issued by the OSCE in this field.

The SSSG employees are presented in the events organized by partner countries and organizations in the field of combating terrorism. It should be noted, that at the OSCE-organized working meeting of experts held in Vienna in December of 2015, international network of experts on kidnaping and hostage-taking of people by terrorist groups has been established in which representative of SSSG is involved.