



Chronicle: The Caucasus in the year 2009

January	
2 January 2009	Greece, which takes over the OSCE chairmanship from Finland, declares diplomatic efforts will continue to reach a consensus on the extension of the OSCE mission in Georgia
4 January 2009	Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs says Georgian police post was attacked in the village of Ganmukhuri at the Abkhaz administrative border
6 January 2009	Azerbaijan Democratic Party condemns the closure of foreign radio stations in Azerbaijan
6 January 2009	Georgian public TV announces Georgia's participation in the Eurovision song contest in Moscow in May
8 January 2009	An inter-agency anti-corruption council is set up in Georgia to upgrade the national anti-corruption strategy and action plan
9 January 2009	US and Georgian officials sign a bilateral charter on strategic partnership
9 January 2009	Transit of Russian gas to Armenia is halted after a gas pipeline is damaged in Southern Georgia
10 January 2009	Russian state-controlled electricity trader Inter RAO signs a memorandum of understanding with Georgia on the exploitation of the Enguri hydro power plant (HPP)
12 January 2009	Tbilisi Mayor Gigi Ugulava rules out early elections
12 January 2009	Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey visits Georgia to sign agreement with Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze on the protection of Georgia's interests in Russia by Switzerland
12 January 2009	Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves visits Azerbaijan
13 January 2009	Opposition parties in Georgia criticize the government for striking a deal with the Russian state-controlled energy trader Inter RAO over the Enguri hydro power plant (HPP)
13 January 2009	Georgia resumes the transit of Russian gas to Armenia

15 January 2009	The Council of Europe criticizes Azerbaijan's decision to ban international radio stations from broadcasting on national frequencies
16 January 2009	Riot police break up opposition protest in Armenia
16 January 2009	Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry expresses concern over Russian arms delivery to Armenia
16 January 2009	Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Babacan says that relations between Armenia and Turkey as well as Azerbaijan and Armenia may normalize in 2009
16 January 2009	A Georgian police officer is shot dead near Georgia's de facto border with South Ossetia
19 January 2009	Russia notifies Georgia of its willingness to inspect Georgia's military bases in line with the OSCE 1999 Vienna Document on confidence and security-building measures
19 January 2009	Russian presidential decree orders an arms embargo on Georgia
19 January 2009	Abkhaz leader Sergey Bagapsh says he is "bewildered" over a memorandum signed between Georgia and the Russian state-controlled electricity trader Inter RAO on the exploitation of the Enguri hydro power plant (HPP)
20 January 2009	OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Knut Vollebaek visits Georgia
21 January 2009	Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian says that Armenia and Turkey have come close to normalizing relations
22 January 2009	Azerbaijani police detain opposition campaigners in the city of Sabirabad
22 January 2009	Georgia says it will not allow Russia to inspect its military bases citing "force majeure"
22 January 2009	European Commission will allocate 16 million Euros for the development of Azerbaijan's judicial system
25 January 2009	Georgia resumes natural-gas supplies to South Ossetia
27 January 2009	Abkhaz Deputy Interior Minister Zakan Jugelia is shot dead
27 January 2009	The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) orders the Georgian state to pay 26,700 Euros to the founders of 202 TV
28 January 2009	Georgia's Conservative Party, a member of the opposition, calls for Interior Minister Vano Merabishvili to be brought to trial in connection with the murder of banker Sandro Girgvliani
29 January 2009	Twelve opposition parties in Georgia call for President Saakashvili's resignation in a joint declaration

30 January 2009	Georgian Prime Minister Grigol Mgaloblishvili resigns, citing poor health
February	
2 February 2009	Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili offers to set up an advisory group of Georgian expatriate economists
3 February 2009	Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze says Georgia has no plans to sign agreements on non-use of force with Abkhazia and South Ossetia
4 February 2009	Georgia's ambassador to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Viktor Dolidze resigns
6 February 2009	Armenia confirms a USD 500 million loan from Russia to help mitigate the effects of the global economic crisis
7 February 2009	US Vice President Joe Biden declares that the United States will not recognize the independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia
8 February 2009	Russia reaffirms plans for building military bases in Abkhazia and South Ossetia
9 February 2009	EU's inquiry mission into the August war visits Georgia
10 February 2009	Chairman of Russian energy company Gazprom Alexei Miller meets South Ossetian leader Eduard Kokoity in Moscow to discuss the construction of the Dzuarikau-Tskhinvali gas pipeline to link South Ossetia with North Ossetia in the Russian Federation
10 February 2009	The OSCE says two OSCE monitors were released after being briefly detained in a Georgian conflict zone
10 February 2009	Georgia's former ambassador to the OSCE Viktor Dolidze confirms his intention to join the opposition after leaving the OSCE
11 February 2009	The head of the Azerbaijani Air Force Lieutenant General Rail Rzayev is shot dead
12 February 2009	The Armenian National Congress (HAK), an umbrella opposition movement, officially announces its intention to resume public rallies
13 February 2009	The UN Security Council agrees to extend its Georgia mission for four months
13 February 2009	Former Prime Minister Zurab Nogaideli's party Movement for a Fair Georgia holds a protest rally in Adjara
17 February 2009	Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze visits Poland
17 February 2009	Col. Koba Lachkepiani appointed as new commander of the land forces in Georgia

18 February 2009	Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze says that Georgia will send troops to Afghanistan
19 February 2009	Azerbaijani Russian-language website day.az is shut down
20 February 2009	Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze visits Armenia
23 February 2009	Prime Minister of breakaway republic of Abkhazia Alexandr Ankvab visits Moscow
23 February 2009	Activists collecting signatures to protest a referendum on presidential term limits in Azerbaijan are arrested in Baku
24 February 2009	The EU's special representative to the South Caucasus Peter Semneby meets Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian and opposition leader Levon Ter-Petrossian on a visit to Armenia
24 February 2009	State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) suspends money allocated for environmental projects in 2009
25 February 2009	Georgia commemorates the anniversary of the 1921 Red Army invasion
26 February 2009	Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze visits Ukraine
28 February 2009	Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigori Karasin meets Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mamedyarov on a visit to Azerbaijan
March	
1 March 2009	Georgian President Saakashvili visits Abu Dhabi and Ras Al Khaimah emirate of UAE
3 March 2009	Armenia's national currency, the dram, goes into free fall after the Central Bank ceases its support
3 March 2009	Russia resumes limited visa service for Georgian citizens
3 March 2009	EU's war inquiry mission visits Abkhazia
4 March 2009	Russian President Dmitry Medvedev meets with Abkhaz leader Sergey Bagapsh in Moscow
5 March 2009	A meeting of the NATO-Georgia commission is held in Brussels
5 March 2009	Leader of the opposition movement Alliance for Georgia Irakli Alasania meets with the EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana in Brussels
5 March 2009	U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says NATO should continue to help Georgia and Ukraine to meet NATO standards

5 March 2009	Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili says that he rules out a new “military adventure” by Russia in Georgia
6 March 2009	The EU’s war inquiry mission visits Tskhinvali in South Ossetia
6 March 2009	Leader of the opposition movement Alliance for Georgia Irakli Alasania calls for a joint “action plan” with other opposition parties to achieve the resignation of Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili
6 March 2009	Abkhaz leader Sergey Bagapsh says that Russia will soon sign an agreement with Abkhazia to allow the stationing of a Russian military base in the Gudauta district of Abkhazia for a term of 49 years
10 March 2009	The International Monetary Fund (IMF) officially approves a 540 million US dollars loan to Armenia
10 March 2009	Armenian Ombudsman Armen Harutiunian criticizes Armenia’s “oligarchic” political system in annual report
11 March 2009	Georgia withdraws from the Moscow Eurovision Song Contest
12 March 2009	Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian criticizes Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili’s comments on the “collapse” of the Armenian economy
13 March 2009	U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Matthew Bryza visits Georgia
16 March 2009	Georgian National Electricity Regulatory Commission (GNERC) takes over management of the Kazakh-owned gas distributor company KazTransGaz-Tbilisi
17 March 2009	Russia pledges 149 million US dollars aid package for Abkhazia and South Ossetia
18 March 2009	Voters approve a constitutional referendum lifting presidential term limits in Azerbaijan, allowing the current leader to seek a third term
18 March 2009	Azerbaijani Parliament adopts a prisoner amnesty
19 March 2009	Georgian Energy Ministry announces the building of a new power line between Georgia and Turkey
19 March 2009	Four opposition parties set up an “Alliance for Freedom” in Georgia
20 March 2009	Russian President Medvedev approves the signing of two treaties with Abkhazia and South Ossetia on the joint protection of borders
23 March 2009	Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko meets with Abkhaz leader Sergey Bagapsh in Moscow and offers financial help to Abkhazia

23 March 2009	Activists of opposition leader Nino Burdjanadze's Democratic Movement – United Georgia party are arrested in Georgia's capital Tbilisi on charges of illegal possession of arms
23 March 2009	Georgian Parliament Speaker David Bakradze visits the United States
25 March 2009	Kazakh state company KazMunaiGas says it is ready to sell its gas distribution company in Georgia's capital Tbilisi, KazTransGaz-Tbilisi
26 March 2009	EU's special envoy and co-mediator to the Geneva talks Pierre Morel meets with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin in Moscow
27 March 2009	Russian state gas company Gazprom and Azerbaijan's state oil company SOCAR sign memorandum of understanding on gas sales from Azerbaijan to Russia from 2010 in Moscow
27 March 2009	13 opposition parties in Georgia agree to organize peaceful demonstrations to demand Georgian President Saakashvili's resignation in a "Manifesto of Unity"
27 March 2009	International Monetary Fund says it sees "considerable downside risks" to Georgia's economy
29 March 2009	Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs declares that one Georgian policeman died and six others were injured in an explosion near the administrative border with South Ossetia
April	
1 April 2009	Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov visits Georgia
2 April 2009	Russian President Dmitry Medvedev declares he does not want any relations with Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili and he would only talk with a new leadership in Georgia
2 April 2009	Egypt-based company Fresh Electric plans to create a free industrial zone in Kutaisi, Georgia
7 April 2009	Armenia and Iran agree to build a 1.2 billion dollar railway between the two countries
7 April 2009	Lithuanian Foreign Minister Vigaudas Ushatskas visits Azerbaijan
8 April 2009	Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that Nagorno-Karabakh's status must be resolved first before Turkey and Armenia can open diplomatic relations
8 April 2009	Abkhaz authorities declare that Abkhaz troops together with Russian forces are reinforcing border with Georgia

9 April 2009	Thousands of protesters gather on Tbilisi's streets to demand the resignation of Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili
9 April 2009	Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko visits Azerbaijan
10 April 2009	The EU's special representative for the South Caucasus Peter Semneby meets with opposition leaders in Tbilisi
10 April 2009	Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili offers the opposition the direct election of the Tbilisi mayor
11 April 2009	Armenian government approves a 54 million dollar credit for local construction firms
12 April 2009	Opposition parties in Georgia say that a protest venue outside the Parliament was raided
13 April 2009	Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze visits the United States
13 April 2009	The Georgian Ministry of Defense declares that Russia is increasing its military presence in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, especially in the Gali and Akhlagori districts
14 April 2009	Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili says he does not think that Russia will renew a "military adventure" in Georgia
17 April 2009	Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev met in Moscow to discuss energy exports and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict
18 April 2009	Russian President Dmitry Medvedev warns Russia will closely watch planned NATO military exercises in Georgia
21 April 2009	The opposition in Georgia launches a "town of cells" by setting up mock prison cells in front of the Georgian Parliament on Tbilisi's Rustaveli Avenue
21 April 2009	Kazakhstan refuses to take part in NATO military exercises in Georgia in a show of support for Russia
22 April 2009	The EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM) announced that EU and OSCE monitors would facilitate a meeting of the Georgian and South Ossetian sides, as well as representatives from the Russian forces, at the Ergneti village between the Georgian and South Ossetian checkpoints
22 April 2009	Azerbaijan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) sign a protocol on bilateral cooperation in transport
23 April 2009	Turkey and Armenia agree on a road map to normalize their relations

26 April 2009	Patriarch of the Georgian Orthodox Church Ilia II calls on politicians to pray together on a day of nationwide prayer for repentance on April 28
27 April 2009	Georgia denies the presence of Chechen militants on its territory in response to Russia's accusations
28 April 2009	The EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM) says it is satisfied that the Georgian authorities are in compliance with commitments to create a restricted armament zone near the borders with Abkhazia and South Ossetia
30 April 2009	Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signs border cooperation agreements which give Russia control over the Abkhaz and South Ossetian borders with Abkhaz leader Sergey Bagapsh and South Ossetian leader Eduard Kokoity at a ceremony in the Kremlin in Moscow
30 April 2009	At least 13 people are killed during a shooting at Azerbaijan's State Oil Academy in Baku
30 April 2009	Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sarkisian says that Armenia's largest chemical plant Nairit will resume operations
30 April 2009	Russia accuses Georgia and Azerbaijan of not taking effective measures to curtail transfer of funds to the North Caucasus resistance
May	
5 May 2009	Georgian government officials suggest a mutiny at the Mukhrovani military base outside Tbilisi was funded by Russia to undermine NATO military exercises and foment a rebellion against Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili
5 May 2009	Armenia, along with Kazakhstan, Serbia and Moldova, pulls out of NATO military exercises in Georgia
5 May 2009	Campaign for mayoral election officially starts in Yerevan
5 May 2009	Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko declares that Belarus and Azerbaijan need enhanced cooperation at a meeting with Azerbaijani First Deputy Prime Minister Yagub Eyyubov
6 May 2009	NATO begins war games in Georgia involving over 1,000 soldiers from more than a dozen NATO member states and partner nations
8 May 2009	EU leaders approve the Eastern Partnership initiative aimed at increasing ties between the EU and six Eastern neighbors (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine) at a EU summit in Prague

8 May 2009	The EU and four partner countries (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey and Egypt) sign a joint declaration at an energy summit in Prague to support the realization of a Southern energy corridor aimed at decreasing Europe's dependency on Russian supplies
11 May 2009	Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili meets four opposition leaders for talks
13 May 2009	Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan meets with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in Baku
14 May 2009	Abkhaz leader Sergey Bagapsh meets Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in Sochi
14 May 2009	Russia rejects the Greek OSCE chairmanship's proposal of keeping OSCE monitors with right of free movement across the border with South Ossetia
14 May 2009	Iran starts gas supplies to Armenia
15 May 2009	Abkhaz Businessman Beslan Butba says he may run as a presidential candidate in Abkhazia
16 May 2009	Abkhaz official says Abkhazia will not take part in the Geneva talks claiming that the United Nations has not sent a key document in time
17 May 2009	EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus Peter Semneby meets opposition leaders in Tbilisi
18 May 2009	Russia walks out of Geneva talks pending clarification of the Abkhaz position over taking part in the talks
18 May 2009	Russian State Duma Speaker Boris Gryzlov visits Sukhumi in Abkhazia
18 May 2009	Energy and Natural Resources Minister Armen Movsisian says Armenia will build a new nuclear power plant to replace the old Metsamor plant
19 May 2009	The Geneva talks are resumed after Russia, Abkhazia and South Ossetia finally join the fifth round of talks
19 May 2009	EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus Peter Semneby meets with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in Baku to discuss EU-Azerbaijan cooperation
20 May 2009	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili meets with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliev on an official visit to Azerbaijan
21 May 2009	The United States allocates \$53.3 million for Georgia as part of a \$1 billion assistance pledge made after the August war

22 May 2009	The Azerbaijani parliament ratifies the contract signed between Azerbaijan's State Oil Company SOCAR and the French Total company to explore the Absheron bloc in the Azerbaijani section of the Caspian Sea
26 May 2009	Abkhazia and the Russian Rosneft company sign an agreement that gives rights to the company to prospect for oil and natural gas off Abkhazia's Black Sea coast for a period of five years
28 May 2009	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili meets with Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini in Rome
28 May 2009	Vice-president of the breakaway republic of Abkhazia Raul Khajimba resigns
29 May 2009	Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin meets with UN special envoy Johan Verbeke in Moscow to discuss the future mandate of the UN observer mission at the administrative border between Georgia and Abkhazia that expires on 15 June
29 May 2009	US, Russian and French diplomats from the OSCE Minsk Group meet in Baku with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev for talks
31 May 2009	Party of Unity supporting South Ossetian leader Eduard Kokoity leads in parliamentary elections in South Ossetia
June	
1 June 2009	Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian's Republican Party of Armenia wins the municipal elections in Armenia's capital Yerevan which opposition parties declare fraudulent
1 June 2009	Opposition party Armenian National Congress (HAK) vows to boycott Yerevan's newly elected municipal council, denouncing the elections' results as fraudulent
3 June 2009	Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says Iran should not interfere in Azerbaijan's affairs after Iranian officials say a planned visit by Israeli President Shimon Peres to Baku could impact bilateral ties
3 June 2009	Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev meets Syrian Foreign Minister Valid Al-Muallem in Baku
4 June 2009	The EU's special representative for the South Caucasus Peter Semneby meets with three opposition leaders, Irakli Alasania (Alliance for Georgia), Davit Usupashvili (Republican Party, part of the Alliance for Georgia) and Salome Zourabichvili (Georgia's Way)
5 June 2009	Bayram Safarov is elected as the head of the Azeri community in Nagorno-Karabakh at a congress of the community in Baku

6 June 2009	Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan criticises Armenia's economic dependence on Georgia's transit infrastructure and high transportation tariffs
6 June 2009	An activist from Nino Burjanadze's opposition party Democratic Movement-United Georgia (DMUG) is arrested on charges of illegal possession of arms in Georgia
8 June 2009	Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze and his Armenian counterpart Edward Nalbandian meet in Tbilisi to discuss the visit of Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili to Armenia scheduled for 24–25 June as well as the issue of the costs of cargo transportation via Georgia
9 June 2009	Opposition politician Levan Gachechiladze meets Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili at the president's residence
9 June 2009	Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Paet visits Georgia
10 June 2009	U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Philip H. Gordon visits Georgia
11 June 2009	The Russian Defense Ministry announces the conduct of the Kavkaz-2009 military exercises in the North Caucasus from 29 June to 6 July
11 June 2009	Head of Tbilisi-based Abkhaz government-in-exile Malkhaz Akishbaia resigns
11 June 2009	Three explosions in the western Georgian city of Zugdidi halt traffic on the Zugdidi-Tbilisi railway
12 June 2009	Opposition protesters scuffle with the parliament guard after the first Parliament session ends following two months of street protests in Georgia's capital Tbilisi
14 June 2009	Opposition politician and leader of Alliance for Georgia Irakli Alasania says he will establish his party "Our Georgia-Free Democrats" in July
15 June 2009	Georgian police officers beat dozens of opposition protesters demanding the release of opposition activists at Tbilisi's main police station
15 June 2009	Leader of opposition party Georgia's Way Salome Zourabichvili says she is ready to accept Georgian President Saakashvili's offer giving the post of Deputy Interior Minister to the opposition
16 June 2009	Russia vetoes the extension of the UN observer mission in Georgia
17 June 2009	Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Nikolai Makarov says Russia will reduce the number of its military staff in Abkhazia and South Ossetia from the initially planned 3,700 servicemen
18 June 2009	Lieutenant Alik Bzhania, a former Georgian coast guard, says on Russian television that he fled Georgia to request asylum in Russia

20 June 2009	A visit to Iran by an Armenian parliamentary delegation is cancelled by the Iranian side
21 June 2009	A mine explosion at the administrative border between Georgia and Abkhazia kills the driver of an ambulance and slightly damages a vehicle of the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM)
22 June 2009	Head of the EU monitoring mission Hansjörg Haber says the blast of 21 June was a “deliberate attack” on the EU patrol
22 June 2009	Four leading Armenian opposition figures are freed in an amnesty after being arrested and sentenced to up to five years’ imprisonment in the wake of the disputed presidential election in early 2008
22 June 2009	The United States and Georgia launch a joint council to work on the implementation of the Charter on Strategic Partnership signed between the two countries on 9 January 2009
22 June 2009	Opposition leader Levan Gachechiladze says he will set up a foundation to develop “freedom and democracy” in Georgia
23 June 2009	The Georgian Defense Ministry says Georgia will send a military batallion to contribute to the NATO-led operations in Afghanistan in 2010
24 June 2009	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili visits Armenia to discuss economic cooperation and regional issues
24 June 2009	Foreign Minister of the breakaway republic of Abkhazia Sergey Shamba and Foreign Minister of breakaway South Ossetia Murat Jioev meet with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin in Moscow
25 June 2009	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili says he is ready to reopen the Zemo Larsi border crossing point with Russia
26 June 2009	A French frigate arrives in Batumi, Georgia, to make a three-day port call
27 June 2009	NATO and Russia resume political and military cooperation despite “differences” on Georgia at a meeting of the foreign ministers from the 28 NATO allies and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on the Greek island of Corfu
27 June 2009	A member of the opposition Republican Party in Georgia is arrested over arms-related charges
30 June 2009	The OSCE mission in Georgia closes seventeen years after it was established to facilitate the settlement of the Georgian-South Ossetian conflict
30 June 2009	Gazprom head Alexei Miller says Gazprom will purchase 500 million cubic meters of Azerbaijani gas starting from 1 January 2010

July	
1 July 2009	The sixth round of the Geneva talks with negotiators from Georgia, Russia and the United States, as well as from the breakaway republics of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, take place
2 July 2009	A Russian soldier deserts a post in the village of Perevi on the administrative border with South Ossetia to seek asylum in Georgia
2 July 2009	Polish President Lech Kaczynski visits Azerbaijan
3 July 2009	Leader of the opposition party Democratic Movement-United Georgia Nino Burdjanadze confirms her meeting with Ukrainian billionaire and former Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's son-in-law, Victor Pinchuk in Kiev
7 July 2009	US President Barack Obama says that state sovereignty is "a cornerstone of international order" referring to Ukraine and Georgia in a speech at Moscow's New Economic School during his visit to Russia
7 July 2009	The European Union and Azerbaijan sign an agreement on cooperation in the field of aviation, lifting national restrictions for European air companies
8 July 2009	Syrian President Bashir al-Assad visits Azerbaijan
9 July 2009	United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan visits Azerbaijan
9 July 2009	Youth activists Emin Milli and Adnan Hajizada are arrested in Baku on charges of hooliganism after being involved in a fight in a restaurant
10 July 2009	The president of the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) Rovnag Abdullayev discusses energy cooperation with Turkmenistan during a meeting with Turkmen President Gurbangulu Berdimuhamedov in Ashgabat
10 July 2009	A new public movement "Defend Georgia" is established in Georgia to support the opposition parties' objective of calling for early presidential elections
11 July 2009	The Georgian Parliament approves, in the first of three readings, an amendments package for laws on rallies, police and administrative offences
13 July 2009	Turkey and four EU member states (Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, and Austria) sign the Nabucco Intergovernmental Agreement, allowing work to start on the Nabucco gas pipeline
13 July 2009	Russian President Dmitry Medvedev visits the breakaway republic of South Ossetia

13 July 2009	The Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemns Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's visit to the breakaway republic of South Ossetia
13 July 2009	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili attends the high level summit on the Nabucco gas pipeline project in Ankara
14 July 2009	A meeting between the Georgian and the Abkhaz sides, as well as the command of the Russian troops on the ground, took place in Gali at the administrative border between Georgia and Abkhazia with facilitation from the EU monitoring mission (EUMM) and the UN in the framework of incident prevention mechanisms
14 July 2009	A US warship makes a port call at Georgia's Black Sea port of Batumi
15 July 2009	A Caspian Airline plane flying from the Iranian capital of Tehran to Yerevan in Armenia crashes in northern Iran
17 July 2009	Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian meet in Moscow to discuss the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict
20 July 2009	A delegation of EU officials on a visit to Azerbaijan criticizes the arrest of two opposition bloggers
20 July 2009	Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian dismisses calls for his resignation from political groups over his handling of the Nagorno Karabakh settlement process and the Turkish–Armenian rapprochement
21 July 2009	Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister Giga Bokeria says that Georgia wants the United States to participate in the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) at the administrative borders with Abkhazia and South Ossetia
22 July 2009	US Vice President Joe Biden visits Georgia
28 July 2009	The head of the EU's inquiry mission into the Georgian–Russian war Heidi Tagliavini meets with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin in Moscow
August	
4 August 2009	Georgia and South Ossetia accuse each other of provoking incidents at the border
4 August 2009	American President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev discuss the situation in Georgia in a phone conversation
5 August 2009	The Parliament of the breakaway republic of South Ossetia approves Vadim Brovtsev as new Prime Minister
7 August 2009	Georgia marks the anniversary of the Georgian–Russian August war with official commemorations

12 August 2009	Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin visits Abkhazia
14 August 2009	The U.S. Defense Department declares that the United States will resume the training of Georgian troops for counterinsurgency operations in Afghanistan
14 August 2009	The Georgian and South Ossetian sides held a meeting facilitated by the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) within the framework of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism in the village of Dvani
17 August 2009	Georgia detains a Turkish cargo vessel en route to Sukhumi in Abkhazia
18 August 2009	Georgia finalizes its withdrawal from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)
26 August 2009	An Armenian police officer is charged with “excessive force” during the dispersal of the 2008 post-elections demonstrations
31 August 2009	Armenia, Turkey and the mediator Switzerland release a protocol on “The establishment of diplomatic relations” that acts as a guideline for both countries to sign an agreement on diplomatic recognition
31 August 2009	Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov visits Tskhinvali in South Ossetia
September	
1 September 2009	The European Commission hails the efforts of Armenia and Turkey to normalize ties
2 September 2009	The EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) says the Georgian, Abkhaz and Russian sides should address tensions over maritime dispute issues involving cargo ships en route to and from Abkhazia during a meeting planned in Gali on 8 September as part of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM)
4 September 2009	The trial of two Azerbaijani bloggers arrested on charges of hooliganism begins in Baku
8 September 2009	Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu meets with Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili
8 September 2009	Georgia releases the Turkish captain of a cargo vessel seized in August 2009 when trying to deliver fuel to Abkhazia
9 September 2009	Leader of Armenian opposition party Zharangutyun (Heritage) Raffi Hovannisian decides to resign from the Armenian Parliament
9 September 2009	The UN General Assembly passes a resolution on the return of displaced persons and refugees to Abkhazia and South Ossetia
10 September 2009	Venezuela recognizes Abkhazia and South Ossetia

15 September 2009	Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko says that the Belarusian Parliament will consider recognizing Abkhazia and South Ossetia
15 September 2009	Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze meets with Azeri President Ilham Aliiev in Baku
15 September 2009	Russia signs treaties on military cooperation with the breakaway republics of Abkhazia and South Ossetia in Moscow
15 September 2009	Georgia starts the construction of a high-voltage power line to Turkey
15 September 2009	The Abkhaz Orthodox Church officially splits from the Georgian Orthodox Church
17 September 2009	A potential agreement on the non-use of force is discussed during the seventh round of the Geneva talks
20 September 2009	The breakaway republic of South Ossetia marks the 19th anniversary of its independence with a military parade in the capital Tskhinvali
23 September 2009	The EU monitoring mission (EUMM) in Georgia intensifies its patrols at the administrative borders with South Ossetia and Abkhazia ahead of the release of an EU report on the August war
24 September 2009	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili advocates the direct election of mayors in Georgia in an address to the UN General Assembly
28 September 2009	Head of the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia Hansjörg Haber meets with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin in Moscow
30 September 2009	An independent report commissioned by the European Union on the origins of the Georgian–Russian war is published
30 September 2009	Ossetians whose homes have been destroyed during the August war protest in Tskhinvali against the delay in providing them with new homes
October	
6 October 2009	11 Armenian political parties issue a statement against the rapprochement between Armenia and Turkey
7 October 2009	The US Agency for International Development (USAID) says the United States will allocate a further 50 million US dollars as part of its 1 billion US dollars pledge to Georgia after the August war
8 October 2009	The NATO Secretary General’s Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia Robert Simmons meets with Georgian Defense Minister Bacho Akhalaia in Tbilisi

10 October 2009	Turkey and Armenia sign two protocols to restore diplomatic ties and open borders during an official ceremony in Zurich, Switzerland
11 October 2009	Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says Armenia should withdraw from the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh in order to gain the approval of the Turkish Parliament for the adoption of the protocols signed between Ankara and Yerevan
14 October 2009	Opposition alliance Armenian National Congress (HAK) calls for the resignation of President Serzh Sarkisian over the agreement signed between Armenia and Turkey
14 October 2009	Chairman of the Benelux Azerbaijani Congress Elsevar Mammadov says that organizations from the Azerbaijani diaspora are negotiating with the Turkish diaspora to prevent the opening of the Turkish–Armenian borders
15 October 2009	Armenia’s natural gas company says that Russia’s Gazprom will lower its price for gas exports to Armenia
15 October 2009	Georgia rejects the accusations of the head of the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) Aleksandr Bortnikov that the Georgian intelligence service is collaborating with Al-Qaeda in arranging the transit of mercenaries and weapons to the North Caucasus via Georgia
16 October 2009	Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev says Turkey is paying too little for Azeri gas and Azerbaijan will seek other energy routes to Europe
16 October 2009	The leader of the Georgian Orthodox Church Ilia II criticizes President Mihkeil Saakashvili for the August war
18 October 2009	Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sarkisian accuses the Transport Ministry of corruption in its use of funds to repair roads
18 October 2009	The European Union announces plans to approve a loan of 65 million euros and a grant of 35 million euros to help Armenia deal with its economic crisis
18 October 2009	Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev visits Switzerland
19 October 2009	The President of the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) Rovnag Abdullayev says that the energy company is negotiating with Iran to start gas exports in the coming winter
19 October 2009	Georgian villagers in the Lagodekhi region block traffic on the Georgia–Azerbaijan highway to protest against problems related to water supply in the Mitsimi village
20 October 2009	The Georgian Parliament votes in favour of establishing a commission that will investigate the death of the first post-Soviet President Zviad Gamsakhurdia

20 October 2009	Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev says that Kazakhstan will make efforts to solve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict
20 October 2009	The Azerbaijani and Russian Ministries of Internal Affairs sign a protocol on cooperation against international terrorism and transnational crime
20 October 2009	A Tbilisi court starts hearing the case of Vakhtang Maisaia, who is accused of spying for Russia
20 October 2009	The World Bank tells Armenia to end the 'oligopolistic' structure of the economy
21 October 2009	Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian visits the Nagorno Karabakh region
22 October 2009	Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian starts a two-day visit to Nagorno-Karabakh
22 October 2009	Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Arman Kirakosian says Turkish–Armenian rapprochement is a separate issue from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict
22 October 2009	Azerbaijani, Armenian and Russian MPs meet in Moscow
22 October 2009	Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu meets with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in Baku
24 October 2009	The US and Georgia begin two-week bilateral military exercises as part of ongoing US training of Georgian troops to prepare them for deployment in Afghanistan
27 October 2009	Sixteen Georgian citizens detained near the breakaway region of South Ossetia
27 October 2009	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili visits Poland
27 October 2009	A Turkish parliamentary delegation arrives in Baku to ease tensions between Turkey and Azerbaijan over the Turkish–Armenian rapprochement
27 October 2009	Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin meets with former Georgian Prime Minister and opposition leader Zurab Nogaideli in Moscow
27 October 2009	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili visits Poland
30 October 2009	Sixteen Georgians arrested by Russian border guards on 25 October are released by the authorities of breakaway South Ossetia
November	
2 November 2009	The Armenian government says that Russia will build a nuclear power plant in Armenia

4 November 2009	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili visits Qatar
5 November 2009	Russian military intelligence (GRU) chief Aleksandr Shlyakhturov says that Georgia might again start an attack against South Ossetia and accuses NATO countries of supplying arms to Georgia
5 November 2009	Georgia plans the launch of a Russian-language regional television channel in the Caucasus
6 November 2009	Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze renounces his Russian citizenship
6 November 2009	Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev meets with Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov in Baku
9 November 2009	NATO's special representative to the South Caucasus Robert Simmons says that Armenia will soon send a small contingent of troops to Afghanistan
10 November 2009	The Russian Chief of the General Staff of the Army General Nikolai Makarov says that Georgia is rearming
11 November 2009	Negotiators from Georgia, Russia and the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia take part in the Geneva international talks co-chaired by the EU, the UN and the OSCE
11 November 2009	Two Azeri opposition bloggers receive prison sentences
11 November 2009	Russian soldiers detain Georgians accused of illegally fishing in waters near the breakaway region of Abkhazia
11 November 2009	Azerbaijan's budget deficit is expected to reach 1.56 billion US dollars
11 November 2009	Azerbaijan and Iran sign a memorandum on gas exports
13 November 2009	Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev visits Bulgaria
4 November 2009	Five candidates are nominated to run in the presidential elections in Abkhazia scheduled for 12 December 2009
5 November 2009	Belarusian MPs decide to set up a working group to develop a position on the possible recognition of the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia
13 November 2009	The European Union expresses its "deep concern" at the detention of four Georgian teenagers in Tskhinvali, the capital of the breakaway republic of South Ossetia
14 November 2009	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili discusses with government members and representatives of opposition parties the possible reopening of the Zemo Larsi-Kazbegi border crossing point with Russia during a session of the National Security Council (NSC)

15 November 2009	Abkhazia switches from Georgia's to Russia's international dialing code
16 November 2009	A Georgian battalion departs to Afghanistan to serve under the French command
19 November 2009	Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev accuses Armenia of delaying efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict
19 November 2009	Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sarkisian becomes a member of the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK)
22 November 2009	Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev meet in Munich to discuss the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict
24 November 2009	Georgia releases three Russian citizens arrested at the administrative border with South Ossetia
27 November 2009	Georgian Defense Minister Bacho Akhalaia meets with Polish Defense Minister Bogdan Klich in Tbilisi
28 November 2009	Two leaders of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation party (Dashnaksutyun) criticize Russian policies towards Turkey and Azerbaijan, in particular Russia's deepening military cooperation with the two countries
December	
2 December 2009	Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair held talks with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in Baku
7 December 2009	Iran plans to cancel its visa regime with Azerbaijan
4 December 2009	The Georgian Parliament approves Georgia's 2010 state budget
5 December 2009	The Armenian government unveils plans to create a Russian-Armenian joint venture to build a nuclear power station
12 December 2009	Two Russian coast guard boats are deployed in Abkhazia
13 December 2009	Sergey Bagapsh is re-elected after presidential elections are held in the breakaway region of Abkhazia
14 December 2009	Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki says that Iran is ready to mediate in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict during a meeting with the Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov
15 December 2009	The Pacific island of Nauru recognizes Abkhazia and establishes diplomatic ties with Sukhumi
15 December 2009	The State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) and the National Iranian Gas Export Company sign an agreement on gas supply from Azerbaijan to the northern provinces of Iran

16 December 2009	The Pacific island of Nauru recognizes South Ossetia and establishes diplomatic ties with Tskhinvali
17 December 2009	The European Parliament adopts a resolution critical of media freedom in Azerbaijan calling for the release of jailed opposition journalists
18 December 2009	Giorgi Chkheidze is appointed as the new Georgian ambassador to Belarus
19 December 2009	Two people are killed in the demolition of a World War II memorial in the Georgian town of Kutaisi
19 December 2009	Former Georgian Prime Minister and opposition leader Zurab Nogaideli meets the leader of breakaway South Ossetia Eduard Kokoity in Tskhinvali
23 December 2009	Local elections are held in Azerbaijan
23 December 2009	Former Georgian Prime Minister and opposition leader Zurab Nogaideli meets with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in Moscow
23 December 2009	A delegation of the Russian State Duma visits Azerbaijan
26 December 2009	SOCAR President Rovnag Abdullayev says that Azerbaijan will increase gas supplies to Russia to up to 1 billion cubic meters per year in 2010
29 December 2009	The Georgian Foreign Ministry denounces an agreement between the Russian oil company Rosneft and the breakaway region of Abkhazia as being in violation of Georgian and international laws

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