



Chronicle: The Caucasus in the year 2010

January	
5 January 2010	Georgia launches a Russian-language Caucasus television channel
8 January 2010	Georgian Airways conducts its first Tbilisi-Moscow charter flight
14 January 2010	Russian Deputy Interior Minister Arkady Yedelev says that terrorist groups are being trained at military bases in Georgia to launch attacks on the territory of the Russian Federation
14 January 2010	Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov urges progress in the Turkish-Armenian rapprochement
19 January 2010	Armenian opposition journalist Nikol Pashinian is sentenced to seven years in jail on charges of organizing mass unrest following the presidential elections of 2008
19 January 2010	Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze meets with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki in Tehran
19 January 2010	Georgian Prime Minister Nika Gilauri visits Egypt
19 January 2010	The European Commission includes Azerbaijan on the list of countries that can export black caviar to the European Union
20 January 2010	Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that an Armenian court's reference to the mass killings of Armenians during World War I as "genocide" could harm the Armenian-Turkish rapprochement process
20 January 2010	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili meets with Estonian President Thomas Hendrik Ilves in Tallinn, Estonia
20 January 2010	Former Armenian President Robert Kocharian meets with Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinejad and Iran Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki in Tehran
20 January 2010	Azerbaijan commemorates the 20th anniversary of the 20 January tragedy when civilians were killed after the Soviet army attacked Baku

22 January 2010	Leader of opposition movement Alliance for Georgia Irakli Alasania calls on Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili to convene a session of the National Security Council over allegations of meddling by Georgian senior officials in Ukraine's presidential elections
23 January 2010	A Georgian parliamentary delegation led by Parliament speaker David Bakradze visits Brussels for meetings with NATO and the European Union
25 January 2010	Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev agree on the preamble to the "Madrid principles" that constitute the outline for a potential Karabakh peace agreement during a meeting in Sochi with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev
26 January 2010	Georgian Prime Minister Nika Gilauri visits Armenia
28 January 2010	Georgia unveils a strategy on Abkhazia and South Ossetia
28 January 2010	Negotiators during the ninth round of the Geneva talks fail to make progress on a potential agreement on the non-use of force and international security arrangements
28 January 2010	Two Azerbaijani soldiers kill four officers and then turn their weapons on themselves during a shooting incident at an Azerbaijani military base near the border with Armenia
28 January 2010	Georgian ambassador to Azerbaijan Ivane Noniashvili resigns two months after his appointment to the position
29 January 2010	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili offers the United States a transit route for weapons and supplies to Afghanistan through Georgian territory
29 January 2010	At least one person is killed and seven wounded during a mine blast in the Gali district of Georgia's breakaway region of Abkhazia
February	
2 February 2010	Georgia accuses Eutelsat of censorship for taking Georgia's Russian-language Caucasian channel off the satellite
2 February 2010	U.S. National Intelligence Director Dennis Blair writes in testimony to a U.S. senate committee that he sees an increased chance of a Karabakh conflict because of the Turkish-Armenian rapprochement
2 February 2010	Dozens of small-business owners protest in Georgia's capital of Tbilisi against a new tax law in which small businesses could be fined for failing to provide receipts and invoices
3 February 2010	The Council of Europe's Venice Commission visits Georgia to meet with representatives of the state commission on constitutional reform

6 February 2010	A U.S. congressional panel schedules a meeting in March to vote on a resolution to label the mass killings of Armenians by Turkish forces during World War I a “genocide”
8 February 2010	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili says that “Ukrainian democracy has won” after Ukraine’s presidential elections and Georgia and Ukraine would remain strategic partners no matter who is elected as the new Ukrainian president
9 February 2010	Former Georgian Prime Minister Zurab Nogaideli’s party Movement for a Fair Georgia and Russia’s United Russia party sign a cooperation agreement in Moscow
9 February 2010	Georgian officials criticize France’s decision to sell a warship to Russia
10 February 2010	Georgian investigative journalist Vakhtang Komakhidze asks for asylum in Switzerland citing “aggressive threats” coming from the Georgian authorities
14 February 2010	Armenian law-enforcement agencies seize drugs and arrest three Iranians allegedly involved in drug trafficking over the border with Turkey
16 February 2010	President of the breakaway region of Abkhazia Sergey Bagapsh visits Moscow
17 February 2010	Russia and the breakaway region of Abkhazia sign a treaty on military cooperation envisaging the creation of a joint Russian-Abkhaz military base
17 February 2010	Kazakh Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairman-in-Office Kanat Saudabayev visits Georgia
18 February 2010	Three Azerbaijani soldiers are killed after an exchange with Armenian armed forces near the Nagorno Karabakh region
19 February 2010	Georgian Prime Minister Nika Gilauri announces that Georgia’s economy grew in the first quarter of 2010
22 February 2010	Armenian Minister for Trade and Economic Development Nerses Yeritsian says that the economic crisis in the country has ended
22 February 2010	Police in the breakaway region of South Ossetia set a deadline of 1 March for people to register illegal weapons
23 February 2010	Georgian opposition leader and former Prime Minister Zurab Nogaideli visits Brussels
24 February 2010	Prime Minister Nika Gilauri visits Qatar
25 February 2010	The United States pledges 124 million US dollars to enhance Georgia’s energy infrastructure

25 February 2010	A U.S. warship makes a port call in Georgia's Black Sea port of Poti
26 February 2010	Maxim Gvinjia is appointed as the new foreign minister of the breakaway region of Abkhazia, replacing Sergey Shamba who became prime minister
27 February 2010	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili and Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian pledge closer cooperation between their respective countries during Sarkisian's private visit to Georgia's Black Sea town of Batumi
March	
1 March 2010	A Georgian-Russian mountain border crossing is reopened
3 March 2010	Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos visits Georgia as part of a tour of the three South Caucasus states during the Spanish EU presidency
3 March 2010	Leader of opposition party Democratic Movement-United Georgia and former Georgian Parliament speaker Nino Burdjanadze visits Moscow
3 March 2010	U.S. business leaders urge the House of Representatives to reject a resolution that would label the mass killings of Armenians during World War I a "genocide," arguing that it would put jobs at risk in the aerospace and defense industry
4 March 2010	The first leader of the breakaway region of Abkhazia Vladislav Ardzinba dies
5 March 2010	Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister Giga Bokeria reassures Azerbaijan over the opening of a Russian-Georgian border crossing after Azerbaijani officials express concerns that Russia could use the crossing point to transport arms to Armenia
5 March 2010	Turkey reacts angrily after the US House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee adopts a resolution calling the mass killings of Armenians in World War I a "genocide"
6 March 2010	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili orders the Georgian health ministry to test hair samples of public officials for evidences of drug misuse
9 March 2010	Opposition leader and former Georgian Prime Minister Zurab Nogaideli visits Moscow
11 March 2010	Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk visits Georgia
11 March 2010	Turkey recalls its ambassador to Sweden following the Swedish Parliament's decision to recognize as genocide the mass killings of Armenians during World War I

12 March 2010	Former Russian oligarch Boris Berezovsky says that Armenia and Azerbaijan should not trust Russia to help resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict
13 March 2010	A fake TV report on an alleged Russian-backed coup and military attack on Georgia cause widespread fear and outrage in Georgia
14 March 2010	Georgian Prime Minister Nika Gilauri visits Brussels
16 March 2010	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili meets with Russian opposition figure Garry Kasparov in Tbilisi
17 March 2010	President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso says that he is "concerned" over the fake TV report of a Russian invasion of Georgia broadcast by the TV channel Imedi
18 March 2010	The EBRD will allocate a 180 million Euro loan to Georgia for two projects: a new railway route and a high-voltage power transmission line
21 March 2010	Nowruz is declared a national holiday in Georgia
23 March 2010	Three inmates are transferred from the detention facilities in Guantanamo to Georgia
24 March 2010	The Georgian authorities reject an application for citizenship of St. Petersburg based businessman and presidential hopeful Aleksandr Ebraelidze
25 March 2010	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili meets with NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen in Brussels
26 March 2010	Georgian protesters ask for a street named after former US President George W. Bush in Tbilisi to be renamed
31 March 2010	The Georgian Foreign Ministry protests Russian plans to build heliports in the breakaway region of South Ossetia
April	
6 April 2010	US President Barack Obama thanks Georgia for its significant contribution to the Afghan deployment
7 April 2010	A Georgian battalion is sent to Afghanistan
7 April 2010	Azerbaijan conducts counter-terror operations along the border with Russia
8 April 2010	Russia and the breakaway region of South Ossetia sign an agreement on Russia's operation of a military base in the region for 49 years
8 April 2010	The Georgian Parliament approves Irakli Kavtaradze as the new Georgian ambassador to Azerbaijan

9 April 2010	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili's spokesperson Manana Manjgaladze says that Russia is interfering in Kyrgyzstan's internal affairs
9 April 2010	EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Stefan Fule visits Azerbaijan
9 April 2010	The State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) says that Russia has become the largest importer of Azerbaijani gas with Georgia ranked second and Iran ranked third
11 April 2010	11 April is declared a day of national mourning in Georgia to commemorate the death of late Polish President Lech Kaczynski
11 April 2010	Baku commemorates the Jewish victims of the Holocaust
12 April 2010	Head of Adjara Autonomous Republic's government Levan Varshalomidze criticizes Georgian Prime Minister Nika Gilauri for ignoring his requests to delegate technical functions to Adjara's local authorities
13 April 2010	Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan and US President Barack Obama meet on the sidelines of the nuclear security summit in Washington
13 April 2010	US President Barack Obama urges Turkey and Armenia to "make every effort" towards the normalization of relations
14 April 2010	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili addresses the nuclear security summit in Washington
14 April 2010	The Georgian Interior Ministry says that it has seized a small amount of highly enriched uranium
14 April 2010	Chinese MPs and members of the China-Azerbaijan interparliamentary friendship group visit Baku
15 April 2010	EU Commissioner for Energy Günther Oettinger visits the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) headquarters in Azerbaijan
16 April 2010	Opposition leader Levan Gachechiladze says that he will not run for the Tbilisi mayor's office during the next local elections in May and will not support any of the opposition candidates
16 April 2010	Azerbaijan and Russia reach an agreement on the delimitation of state borders
16 April 2010	Head of Legislation and Legal Expertise Department of the Azerbaijani Presidential Administration Shahin Aliyev says that Azerbaijan faces a shortage of lawyers
18 April 2010	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili attends the state funeral of Polish President Lech Kaczynski

20 April 2010	Georgian Trade Unions start a miners' warning strike in Zestafoni and Chiatura in Western Georgia to demand better safety conditions to counter an increasing number of accidents
20 April 2010	Georgia detains a Russian tanker in the port of Batumi and fines it for polluting the Black Sea
23 April 2010	Georgian People's Party leader Koba Davitashvili and Conservative Party leader Kakha Kukava visit Moscow for talks with Russian politicians and Georgian diaspora groups about the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia
23 April 2010	Georgia condemns David Wilshire, a monitor from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), for meeting with a South Ossetian official in the embassy of the breakaway region in Moscow
26 April 2010	Head of the Armenian Apostolic Church Catholicos Garegin II makes a first-ever trip to Azerbaijan and joins with Azerbaijan's Shi'a Muslim leader Sheikh ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazade and Russian Orthodox Church leader Patriarch Kirill in calling for a peaceful resolution to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict
26 April 2010	Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze visits Turkey
27 April 2010	Turkish Energy Minister Taner Yildiz says Turkey and Azerbaijan have reached an agreement on the price and volume of Azerbaijani gas to be shipped to Turkey through the Nabucco gas pipeline
27 April 2010	Georgia's ranking remains "partly free", the rankings of Armenia and Azerbaijan remain "not free" in Freedom House's survey of global press freedom
29 April 2010	Newly appointed Russian co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group Igor Popov visits Stepanakert in Nagorno-Karabakh
29 April 2010	Abkhaz leader Sergei Bagapsh says that he will not allow international observers on the territory of Georgia's breakaway region of Abkhazia and that he is "cautiously optimistic" over the possible recognition of Abkhazia by Ukraine and Belarus
29 April 2010	Georgian ex-public defender and co-chairman of the opposition Alliance for Georgia Sozar Subari withdraws from the election race for the Tbilisi mayor's office
30 April 2010	Nine candidates apply to the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) to run for the May mayoral elections in Georgia's capital Tbilisi
May	
1 May 2010	Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze visits Syria

3 May 2010	Iranian Interior Minister Mostafa Mohammad-Najjar visits Azerbaijan
5 May 2010	Leader of Georgia's breakaway region of South Ossetia Eduard Kokoity visits Russia to discuss Russia's assistance on reconstruction and infrastructure projects
6 May 2010	Policy Day is celebrated in Georgia
7 May 2010	Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian meets with Chinese President Hu Jintao in Shanghai on the sidelines of the 2010 World Expo
7 May 2010	FBI director Robert Mueller visits Georgia and meets with Interior Minister Vano Merabishvili and Justice Minister Zurab Adeishvili
7 May 2010	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili meets Pope Benedict XVI in the Vatican
7 May 2010	A poll conducted by the Caucasus Resource Research Centers (CRRC) for the U.S. National Democratic Institute (NDI) shows a decrease in support for NATO membership in Georgia
8 May 2010	Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin says that Moscow is ready for talks with "constructive forces" in Georgia
11 May 2010	Some Azerbaijani politicians blame Iran for contributing to the flooding of villages in southeastern Azerbaijan by manipulating reservoirs near Azerbaijan's border
11 May 2010	Georgian Prime Minister Nika Gilauri appoints Giorgi Pertaia as business liaison adviser
11 May 2010	The State Commission for constitutional reform in Georgia agrees on the draft of a new constitution which would significantly increase the powers of the Prime Minister if adopted
12 May 2010	Azerbaijan, Georgia and Romania sign a protocol on forming a joint venture to export gas to Europe
12 May 2010	Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian and Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian reaffirm Armenia's commitment to closer relations with NATO during a meeting at the NATO headquarters in Brussels
12 May 2010	EU commissioner for enlargement and European neighborhood policy Stefan Füle says that Georgia is committed to take up the opportunities offered by the EU through the Eastern Partnership and European Neighborhood Policy
12 May 2010	Georgian media mogul and leader of the People's Orthodox Movement Malkhaz Gulashvili flees to Tskhinvali in South Ossetia
12 May 2010	Azerbaijani villages continue to be evacuated due to massive floods

13 May 2010	The EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM) welcomes the release of three Georgians by the authorities of the breakaway region of South Ossetia
14 May 2010	Ukrainian Foreign Minister Konstantine Grishchenko says in an interview with the Russian newspaper Kommersant that Kyiv is not considering the recognition of Georgia's breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia
19 May 2010	The International Monetary Fund (IMF) says that the Armenian economy is recovering faster than expected from the global recession
20 May 2010	The European Parliament adopts a non-binding resolution on the South Caucasus calling for a greater EU involvement in the region
22 May 2010	Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt visits Georgia
22 May 2010	Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister Nino Kalandadze says that Iran-Georgian relations are entering a "new stage" and that Tbilisi hopes that they will further deepen
22 May 2010	A new political party "Iron" is established in South Ossetia
30 May 2010	Local municipal elections are held in Georgia
30 May 2010	The Georgian port of Batumi renames a street in the city after the late Polish President Lech Kaczynski
June	
2 June 2010	The Central Election Commission in Georgia announces a victory for the ruling party United National Movement in the municipal elections
3 June 2010	The Georgian police says that it has detained members of an international cartel engaged in cocaine trafficking from Latin America into Turkey via Georgia
4 June 2010	Ukrainian President Victor Yanukovich says that the recognition of Abkhazia and South Ossetia is "a violation of international laws and norms"
11 June 2010	Ukrainian President Victor Yanukovich meets with Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze in Kiev
11 June 2010	Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov says that Russia's decision to recognize the independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia is irreversible
17 June 2010	US President Barack Obama promises in a letter to Azerbaijan that the US support for the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict is a top priority
17 June 2010	The European Union and Georgia sign a visa facilitation agreement in Brussels

17 June 2010	Russian President Dmitry Medvedev meets with the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan on the sidelines of the St. Petersburg economic forum to discuss the Nagorno Karabakh conflict
17 June 2010	The Armenian leadership of the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh says that it is skeptical about the meeting between the Azerbaijani and Armenian presidents and their chances to find a solution to the conflict
17 June 2010	International organizations criticize a new law in Armenia that they say will allow the Armenian government to retain its control of media broadcasting
18 June 2010	The head of the World Bank in Armenia Aristomene Varoudakis urges the Armenian government to take action against the country's large shadow economy
21 June 2010	Clashes between Armenian and Azerbaijan forces continue around the region of Nagorno Karabakh
21 June 2010	Georgian opposition representatives propose to constitutionally bar Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili from becoming Prime Minister after his term expires
22 June 2010	Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian meets with German Chancellor Angela Merkel during an official visit in Berlin and discusses bilateral relations, the Nagorno Karabakh conflict and the Armenian-Turkish rapprochement
23 June 2010	Iranian Ambassador to Armenia Seyed Ali Saghaeyan says that Tehran is strongly opposed to any U.S. involvement in a multinational peacekeeping force that would be deployed in Nagorno Karabakh in the event of an Armenian-Azerbaijani peace agreement
24 June 2010	The breakaway region of Abkhazia temporarily suspends its participation in the Geneva international talks
24 June 2010	Prime Minister of the breakaway region of Abkhazia Sergey Shamba says that the possible abolition of the post of European Union Special Representative for the South Caucasus would reduce contacts between Abkhazia and the EU
24 June 2010	Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian and Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian visit Nagorno-Karabakh
24 June 2010	International and local human rights groups urge the Council of Europe to take concrete measures to improve the human rights situation in Azerbaijan
25 June 2010	The statue of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin is removed from the central square in his hometown of Gori in Georgia
25 June 2010	The Georgian company Silk Road Group says that US businessman Donald Trump is planning to invest in Georgia

26 June 2010	Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian claims that the international community holds Azerbaijan responsible for the latest upsurge in ceasefire violations around Nagorno Karabakh
28 June 2010	Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze is stripped of his Russian citizenship after he had requested the Russian authorities to renounce it in November 2009
July	
4 July 2010	U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visits the South Caucasus
8 July 2010	A French warship arrives at Georgia's Black Sea port of Batumi for exercises with the Georgian coast guard
14 July 2010	The EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus Peter Semneby meets with Abkhaz leader Sergey Bagapsh and prime minister of the breakaway region of Abkhazia Sergey Shamba in Sukhumi
15 July 2010	French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner visits Tbilisi
16 July 2010	EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Catherine Ashton meets with Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili in Georgia's Black Sea port of Batumi
23 July 2010	The leaders of the breakaway Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia Sergei Bagapsh and Eduard Kokoity meet with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in Caracas
23 July 2010	Georgian Prime Minister Nika Gilauri visits Azerbaijan
26 July 2010	The EU extends the mandate of the EU monitoring mission in Georgia (EUMM) by one year until 14 September 2011
27 July 2010	The twelfth round of the Geneva international talks is held
29 July 2010	The World Bank approves a 50 million dollar loan for Georgia
August	
4 August 2010	Russian colonel Valery Yakhnovets becomes Defense Minister of the breakaway region of South Ossetia
7 August 2010	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili visits Colombia to attend the inauguration of President-elect Juan Manuel Santos Calderón
8 August 2010	Russian President Dmitry Medvedev visits Abkhazia on the anniversary of the 2008 Russian–Georgian war

10 August 2010	Georgian economy minister Vera Kobalia says that the first free industrial zone in Tbilisi will open in two years
11 August 2010	Russia deploys long range S-300 air defense missiles in Abkhazia
12 August 2010	Several hundred displaced persons from the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia protest a police attempt to evict them from a former Soviet military building in Georgia's capital Tbilisi
12 August 2010	BP Azerbaijan announces that Turkmen oil is flowing through the Baku–Tbilisi–Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline
13 August 2010	Abkhaz leader Sergey Bagapsh dismisses Interior Minister of the breakaway region Otar Khetsia
15 August 2010	Moldovan acting President Mihai Ghimpu visits Georgia
16 August 2010	Turkish President Abdullah Gul meets with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev on a visit to Azerbaijan
20 August 2010	Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian sign a deal extending Moscow's lease of a military base on Armenian territory by 24 years
20 August 2010	Georgian private airline company Airzena starts chartered flights from Tbilisi to Moscow
September	
1 September 2010	The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry says that three Armenian soldiers and two Azerbaijanis were killed during a clash on the border of the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh
2 September 2010	Russian President Dmitry Medvedev visits Azerbaijan
3 September 2010	Azerbaijan's state energy company SOCAR and Russia's Gazprom sign an agreement under which Azerbaijan will double its natural-gas exports to Russia
6 September 2010	Deputy head of the Interior Ministry's unit in the North Caucasus Federal District Nikolai Simakov says that Georgia has camps on its territory to train militants to join insurgents in the North Caucasus
8 September 2010	U.S., Russian, and French mediators with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's (OSCE) Minsk Group meet with leaders of the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh in Stepanakert
13 September 2010	The International Court of Justice (ICJ) begins hearings on charges by Georgia of Russian human rights abuses in the two breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia

14 September 2010	Azerbaijan, Georgia, Romania and Hungary sign a joint declaration in Baku on the implementation of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) transportation project
16 September 2010	Armenian Energy Minister Armen Movsisian says Iran and Armenia will start building two major hydroelectric power stations on the Armenian–Iranian border
22 September 2010	Abkhaz leader Sergey Bagapsh appoints Leonid Dziapshba as the new Interior Minister of the breakaway region of Abkhazia
24 September 2010	U.S. President Barack Obama meets with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York and calls on him to improve Azerbaijan’s record on human rights
25 September 2010	Emergency Situations Minister Armen Yeritsian says that Armenia is receiving thousands of tons of grain and cooking oil from Russia to help the country cope with a sharp increase in international prices
October	
1 October 2010	NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen visits Georgia
1 October 2010	Georgian State Minister for Euro-Atlantic Integration Giorgi Baramidze and head of the EU delegation to Georgia Per Eklund sign a memorandum of understanding on a EU-funded Comprehensive Institutional Building Program to help the institutional strengthening of Georgian state agencies
1 October 2010	The Georgian Ministry of Defense says that four Georgian military servicemen were killed in Afghanistan
3 October 2010	Russian President Dmitry Medvedev criticizes Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko’s statement explaining the motives for Minsk’s decision not to recognize the two breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, as Moscow was not ready to share the negative consequences of such a decision
4 October 2010	Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze visits Armenia
5 October 2010	An Armenian man detained in Azerbaijan in September in unclear circumstances is found dead in his prison cell
7 October 2010	Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian publicly accuses the Azerbaijani authorities of killing an Armenian man found dead in custody in Azerbaijan
8 October 2010	One man is killed and two others wounded in an attack on a mosque in Gudauta in the breakaway region of Abkhazia

11 October 2010	Iranian Defense Minister Ahmad Vahidi visits Baku to discuss bilateral military cooperation between Iran and Azerbaijan and regional security
12 October 2010	Iranian parliament speaker Ali Larijani praises deepening relations between Armenia and Iran during an official visit to Yerevan
13 October 2010	Abkhaz leader Sergey Bagapsh says in an interview with the Russian newspaper Kommersant that Russian state oil company Rosneft will soon start exploration off Abkhazia's Black Sea coast
14 October 2010	The Russian Foreign Ministry says in a statement that Georgia's decision to introduce visa-free rules for Russian citizens residing in the North Caucasus republics is a "provocation"
15 October 2010	A new constitution which will reduce the powers of the President in favor of the Prime Minister is adopted by the Georgian Parliament
18 October 2010	Russian troops withdraw from the village of Perevi at the administrative border between Georgia and the breakaway region of South Ossetia
18 October 2010	Armenian officials in Yerevan deny allegations made by opposition media that Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian entertained close relations with the ringleader of an Armenian-American crime syndicate and "vor v zakone" (thief in law) Armen Kazarian
22 October 2010	Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov accuses Tbilisi of helping Chechen militants
23 October 2010	Opposition leaders from the election bloc Azerbaijan's Popular Front/Musavat refuse to meet with a delegation of election observers from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) prior to the November parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan and accuse long-term observers from PACE of not being objective in their previous assessments of elections.
24 October 2010	Georgian Prime Minister Nika Gilauri visits China
24 October 2010	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili participates in the Francophone Summit in Montreux, Switzerland
25 October 2010	Georgian Minister for Reintegration Temur Yakobashvili rejects as "without foundation" the claims of Chechen Republic head Ramzan Kadyrov's that Georgia is providing a safe haven for Chechen militants
27 October 2010	Russian President Dmitry Medvedev hosts Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev for peace talks on the disputed region of Nagorno Karabakh in the southern Russian city of Astrakhan.
29 October 2010	The Azerbaijani opposition says that the ruling authorities are preparing to falsify the November parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan

November	
2 November 2010	The Georgian air company Georgian Airways launches Tbilisi–Tehran direct flights
3 November 2010	Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki signs a visa-free travel arrangement between Georgia and Iran with Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze on an official visit to Georgia
3 November 2010	Ukrainian Defense Minister Mykhailo Yezhel visits Georgia
5 November 2010	A group of 13 alleged spies suspected of spying for Russia are arrested in Georgia
7 November 2010	The ruling Yeni Azerbaijan (New Azerbaijan) Party wins a majority during the parliamentary elections held in Azerbaijan
8 November 2010	The Georgian Interior Ministry says that two Armenians have pleaded guilty on trying to smuggle uranium into Georgia
9 November 2010	The passing of a constitutional amendment to make a referendum binding in case the government wants to increase taxes is delayed in Georgia
9 November 2010	Two deputy ministers of health are dismissed on corruption charges in Armenia
11 November 2010	More than 100 workers in two chemical enterprises protest to demand the payment of their unpaid wages in Armenia’s capital Yerevan
11 November 2010	Georgian former foreign minister and leader of the opposition party Georgia’s Way Salome Zourabichvili announces that she will temporary quit politics
16 November 2010	Head of the State Committee on Nuclear Safety Ashot Martirosian denies that the uranium seized by the Georgian authorities from two Armenian citizens was stolen from the Metsamor nuclear power plant in Armenia.
16 November 2010	The Armenian parliament passes a bill to raise the minimum monthly wage in Armenia to 32,500 drams (90 US dollars) starting in January.
17 November 2010	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili meets with European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso in Brussels
18 November 2010	Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sarkisian praises the “radical” reform proposals received from the agriculture, finance, education, and health ministers in response to his criticism of corruption and his request to dismiss high-level officials on corruption and mismanagement charges in these ministries.

19 November 2010	Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian announces that he will boycott the NATO summit in Lisbon because of the plan to adopt a draft resolution during the summit calling for solutions to the ethnic conflicts in the South Caucasus based only on the principle of territorial integrity warning that the wording of the resolution would complicate efforts to resolve the Nagorno Karabakh conflict with Azerbaijan.
20 November 2010	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili meets with U.S. President Barack Obama on the sidelines of the NATO summit in Lisbon to discuss the strategic partnership between the United States and Georgia, the U.S. reset policy with Russia and Georgia's NATO aspirations.
20 November 2010	The final declaration of the NATO Lisbon summit reiterates the decision taken at the NATO Bucharest summit in 2008 that Georgia will become a member of the alliance in the future.
22 November 2010	The EU's Special Representative for the South Caucasus Peter Semneby welcomes the release from custody of the two Azerbaijani bloggers Emin Milli and Adnan Hajizada.
23 November 2010	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili calls for a direct dialogue with Russia during a speech at the European Parliament and declares that Georgia will not resort to force.
24 November 2010	Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili meets with Moldovan acting President Mihai Ghimpu during a two-day visit in Moldova.
25 November 2010	The EU's high representative for foreign affairs and security policy Catherine Ashton welcomes Georgia's non-use of force pledge.
26 November 2010	Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Karine Kazinian says Armenia will start negotiations on a visa facilitation agreement with the EU in December 2010
28 November 2010	One person dies in two explosions in Georgia's capital Tbilisi
30 November 2010	The Georgian National Bank reports that the inflation rate in Georgia by the end of 2010 is predicted to climb to 10.6%
December	
1 December 2010	The United Kingdom, Germany and Sweden call for the restoration of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) mission in Georgia at the OSCE summit in Astana
2 December 2010	A leading member of Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian's Republican Party denies U.S. claims disclosed in WikiLeaks of Armenian arms transfers to Iran

3 December 2010	The United States donates 74 off-road vehicles worth 2.8 million US dollars to the Georgian Interior Ministry as part of the U.S. post-war assistance to Georgia
4 December 2010	The Georgian police arrest six persons in connection with five explosions in Georgia
6 December 2010	Leaders of the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia Sergey Bagapsh and Eduard Kokoity make non-use of force pledges
6 December 2010	The Georgian Foreign Ministry condemns Russia's reported deployment of Smerch (Tornado) multiple-launch rocket systems in South Ossetia
7 December 2010	The Russian Foreign Ministry hails the non-use of force pledges made by the Abkhaz and South Ossetian leaders as opening the way for a full-fledged legal enshrinement of a non-use of force regime between Tbilisi and Sukhumi and Tbilisi and Tskhinvali.
9 December 2010	The Russian Foreign Ministry accuses Georgia of provocations against Moscow in linking espionage acts and explosions in Georgia to a Russian military officer based in Abkhazia
9 December 2010	Armenian Justice Minister Gevorg Danielian is dismissed for his failure to punish a high-level official in the Justice Ministry allegedly involved in violent conduct
10 December 2010	Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian says that Armenia will recognize the Nagorno-Karabakh region as independent if Azerbaijan should choose to use force to resolve the dispute over the region
10 December 2010	Leader of the breakaway region of Abkhazia Sergey Bagapsh signs a decree to hold local elections in Abkhazia in February 2011
11 December 2010	U.S. Republican Senator John McCain calls again for the United States to resume arms sales to Georgia, at a minimum providing Georgia with early warning radars
11 December 2010	The police in Azerbaijan's capital of Baku break up a demonstration for the right to wear Islamic head scarves in schools
13 December 2010	The Russian Foreign Ministry criticizes a draft resolution initiated by the U.S. senate that calls for the recognition of Abkhazia and South Ossetia as territories "occupied" by Russia
13 December 2010	Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian and Armenia's National Security Council approve a five-year plan to modernize the Armenian army
14 December 2010	The European Parliament approves agreements signed between the EU and Georgia on visa facilitation and the readmission of irregular immigrants

15 December 2010	The Georgian Parliament passes a constitutional amendment making a referendum binding in case the government decides to increase taxes
15 December 2010	The Georgian Parliament passes a draft law on tax breaks for IT companies
27 December 2010	More than a hundred civil servants protest in Yerevan against layoffs amid plans to disband the State Social Security Service
28 December 2010	Azerbaijani opposition leaders agree on creating a new Civic Movement for Democracy—Public Chamber
29 December 2010	Matthew Bryza is appointed US ambassador to Azerbaijan by US President Barack Obama

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