



## Chronicle: The Caucasus In the Year 2013

| <b>January</b>  |  |
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| 9 January 2013  | The Georgian State audit agency launches a probe into the alleged violation of funding political parties' rules by the United National Movement during the electoral campaign of 2012  |
| 11 January 2013 | Russian President Vladimir Putin congratulates the head of the Georgian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Ilia II, on his 80th birthday   |
| 18 January 2013 | During an official visit to Armenia, Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili promises to the head of the Holy Armenian Apostolic Church Catholicos Karekin II that Armenian history will soon be taught in Georgian schools                    |
| 19 January 2013 | police in Baku clash with shopkeepers protesting a rent increase by the managers of Azerbaijan's largest shopping center   |
| 24 January 2013 | The Azerbaijani police break up protests in the town of Ismayilli demanding the resignation of the local governor Nizami Alekberov   |
| 26 January 2013 | Hundreds of people demonstrate in Baku to express their solidarity with the protests in the town of Ismayilli and some 40 participants are detained by the police including the blogger Emin Milli and investigative journalist Khadija Ismayilova |
| 26 January 2013 | A statue of Azerbaijan's late President Heydar Aliyev is removed from a park in Mexico City  |
| 27 January 2013 | Three activists involved in a 26 January protest in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku are given prison sentences   |
| 28 January 2013 | The Azerbaijani and Armenian foreign ministers meet in Paris for talks mediated by the OSCE Minsk Group and aimed at settling the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh   |
| 28 January 2013 | Georgian Foreign Minister Maia Panjikidze meets with Polish Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski in Warsaw with Poland reiterating its support to Georgia's European aspirations   |
| 29 January 2013 | The head of the Adjara's Revenue Service who was appointed by the new Georgian government under Bidzina Ivanishvili in mid-November 2012 is  |

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|                  | arrested on corruption charges  |
| 31 January 2013  | Armenian presidential candidate Paruyr Hairikian is shot by an unidentified attacker in the street of the capital Yerevan   |
| <b>February</b>  |   |
| 4 February 2013  | The deputy chairman of the opposition Musavat Party Tofiq Yaqublu and the chairman of the REAL movement Ilqar Mammadov are charged with organizing mass disorders in Azerbaijan   |
| 6 February 2013  | The US embassy expresses concern over the arrest of two opposition leaders in Azerbaijan  |
| 7 February 2013  | The Georgian State Minister for Reintegration Paata Zakareishvili says that the government plans to initiate draft amendments to decriminalize the entry into the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia from territories other than those controlled by Georgia                       |
| 7 February 2013  | Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev strips Azerbaijani writer Akram Aylisli of the title “People’s Writer” after he published a novel sympathetic to Armenia   |
| 7 February 2013  | Azerbaijan launches its first telecommunications satellite into orbit   |
| 8 February 2013  | Chaotic scenes at the National Library in Tbilisi delay Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili’s presidential address with members of the United National Movement party being assaulted by protestors  |
| 10 February 2013 | Armenian presidential candidate Paruyr Hairikian, who was the victim of an apparent assassination attempt in January 2013, asks the Constitutional Court to postpone the country’s presidential elections for two weeks   |
| 10 February 2013 | Protesters in western Azerbaijan burn the books of Azerbaijani writer Akram Aylisli after he was stripped of his “People’s Writer” title for having published a novel sympathetic to the Armenians in the relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia  |
| 11 February 2013 | Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili offers a four-point proposal to be a focus of negotiations between the Georgian Dream coalition and Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili’s United National Movement party after the latter offers to meet him                                     |
| 11 February 2013 | Wounded Armenian presidential candidate Paruyr Hairikian withdraws his request for a delay in the country’s presidential elections  |
| 12 February 2013 | The prosecutor’s office summons for questioning the former Prime Minister and Secretary-General of the United National Movement party Vano Merabishvili over an ongoing investigation into the alleged misspending of money on UNM activists during the last parliamentary election campaign in |

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|                  | 2012  |
| 13 February 2013 | Azerbaijani politician Gular Ahmadova is arrested on corruption charges after she was shown on video in 2012 discussing a bribe to secure a seat in parliament  |
| 14 February 2013 | Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili visits Turkey following visits to Azerbaijan in December 2012 and to Armenia in January 2013  |
| 15 February 2013 | The Russian Interior Ministry announces that an arrest warrant has been issued against Georgian parliamentary deputy Givi Targamadze for allegedly organizing mass disorders in Russia  |
| 18 February 2013 | Armenia's presidential elections end in the re-election of Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian with 58.6 percent of the vote. 36.8 percent of the vote went to opposition candidate Raffi Hovannisian, according to the Central Election Committee's preliminary results |
| 19 February 2013 | Armenian opposition leader Raffi Hovannisian rejects as fraudulent the official results of the presidential elections, which gave the victory to Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian, in front of thousands of supporters gathered in Yerevan                            |
| 21 February 2013 | Armenian opposition candidate Raffi Hovannisian meets with incumbent President Serzh Sarkisian and calls on protesters after the meeting to suspend their rally and gather again for an officially approved rally on 22 February on Liberty Square in Yerevan           |
| 22 February 2013 | Thousands of protesters gather in Yerevan to demonstrate against the re-election of incumbent President Serzh Sarkisian   |
| 22 February 2013 | Georgian Defence Minister Irakli Alasania says that Georgia will provide training to Afghan troops in Georgia and on the ground in Afghanistan after the NATO-led operation ends in 2014 during a meeting at the NATO headquarters in Brussels                          |
| 22 February 2013 | The Georgian Finance Ministry's Investigations Service says that criminal charges will be filed against Tbilisi mayor Gigi Ugulava  |
| 22 February 2013 | The Azerbaijani Parliament approves an amendment to the law on religions limiting the sale of religious material to the ones officially allowed for sale in the country in specially designated stores  |
| 24 February 2013 | Prosecutors request the court to suspend the mayor of Tbilisi Gigi Ugulava from office as he is facing charges of money laundering and misspending of public funds  |
| 25 February 2013 | Armenia's Central Election Commission officially certifies Serzh Sarkisian as the winner of the 18 February presidential election   |
| 25 February 2013 | The EU Commissioner for Home Affairs Cecilia Malmström hands over to  |

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|                  | the Georgian leadership an action plan for visa liberalisation during a meeting with Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili in Tbilisi  |
| 25 February 2013 | Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov remarks that the new Georgian government “acts pragmatically” but that the deepening of economic ties between the two countries will not be “at the expense of our brothers in Abkhazia and South Ossetia”   |
| 27 February 2013 | Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili starts a two-day visit to Azerbaijan and meets with Azeri President Ilham Aliyev   |
| 27 February 2013 | The prison population in Georgia more than halves in the period of January-February 2013 after a law on amnesty goes into effect  |
| 27 February 2013 | The head of the Georgian Orthodox Church Patriarch Ilia II receives a delegation of experts from the Russian state consumer protection agency RosPotrebNadzor who are inspecting wine and mineral producer factories in Georgia as part of a process that may see the resumption of exports of Georgian wines and mineral waters to the Russian market        |
| <b>March</b>     |   |
| 1 March 2013     | Hundreds of people gather to commemorate in Yerevan the deadly clashes between protesters and security forces in 2008   |
| 1 March 2013     | The Georgian Prime Minister’s special representative for relations with Russia Zurab Abashidze meets in Prague with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin and says that Russia is considering easing visa rules for Georgian citizens, while progress has been made in restoring trade relations and transportation links between the two countries |
| 2 March 2013     | Supporters of the defeated presidential candidate Raffi Hovannisian gather in Yerevan to protest against the victory of Serzh Sarkisian in the last presidential election and declare Hovannisian as the true winner of the election  |
| 3 March 2013     | The Georgian Dream parliamentary majority initiates amendments in the Georgian Parliament that foresee transferring the Intelligence Service from the President to the Prime Minister   |
| 4 March 2013     | Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili and Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili held talks in the state chancellery  |
| 5 March 2013     | Hundreds of supporters of defeated presidential candidate Raffi Hovannisian rally in the streets of Yerevan   |
| 5 March 2013     | Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili says he is in favor of not replacing direct presidential elections in Georgia   |
| 5 March 2013     | Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili’s fortune is estimated at 5.3   |

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|               | billion US dollars in the Forbes annual list   |
| 6 March 2013  | Former Armenian presidential candidate Vardan Sedrakian is arrested in connection with the shooting of rival candidate Paruyr Hairikian on 31 January 2013   |
| 6 March 2013  | The Russian state agency for consumer protection RosPotrebNadzor says that 35 wine and 4 mineral water producers in Georgia can apply for registration to resume the export of their products to the Russian market                            |
| 6 March 2013  | The Georgian government makes public the signing of a contract between the Georgian Ministry for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration and a Brussels-based lobbying and public relations firm  |
| 6 March 2013  | Azerbaijani officials say that an army conscript has died during military manoeuvres following two other conscript deaths in a week  |
| 7 March 2013  | The Georgian parliament adopts a resolution drafted jointly by Georgian Dream and the United National Movement party that reiterates Georgia's commitment to join NATO and the EU  |
| 8 March 2013  | Georgian Defense Minister Irakli Alasania visits Armenia and meets with newly re-elected Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan and Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan to discuss cooperation between the two countries in the defence sector |
| 10 March 2013 | The defeated presidential candidate Raffi Hovannisian goes on a hunger strike in Armenia and calls on incumbent President Serzh Sarkisian to step down   |
| 10 March 2013 | The former Georgian State Security Minister Valery Khaburdzania says that he intends to establish a pro-Russia party in Georgia  |
| 12 March 2013 | Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow as part of his first foreign trip after his re-election   |
| 12 March 2013 | The President of the breakaway region of Abkhazia Alekandr Ankvab meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow  |
| 14 March 2013 | Armenia's Constitutional Court rejects a claim by defeated presidential candidate Raffi Hovannisian that the February elections in Armenia were rigged   |
| 14 March 2013 | Two Azerbaijani activists, including an employee of the US-funded National Democratic Institute (NDI), are detained in Baku  |
| 18 March 2013 | Georgian Defense Minister Irakli Alasania visits Azerbaijan and meets with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev to discuss deepening cooperation between the two countries   |
| 18 March 2013 | Georgian Defense Minister Irakli Alasania says that Georgia is negotiating   |

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|               | with the European Union its contribution to the EU military training mission in Mali  |
| 22 March 2013 | The Russian Foreign Ministry criticizes Georgian–US military exercises held at the Vaziani military base in Georgia and says that they are a “cause for concern”                                  |
| 22 March 2013 | Georgia starts the rotation of its two battalions stationed in the Helmand province of Afghanistan  |
| 25 March 2013 | A constitutional amendment is passed by the Georgian Parliament that strips the President of his right to appoint a new government without the Parliament’s approval                              |
| 25 March 2013 | Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian signals that he is ready to engage in a dialogue with defeated presidential candidate Raffi Hovannisian  |
| 27 March 2013 | The twenty third round of the international Geneva talks is held with a discussion on a revised draft of a statement on the non-use of force  |
| 28 March 2013 | The Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey sign a plan to expand cooperation between the three countries in Georgia’s Black Sea port of Batumi                                       |
| 28 March 2013 | Senior clerics of the Georgian and Russian Orthodox Churches meet with leader of the breakaway region of Abkhazia Alexander Ankvab in Russia’s Black Sea resort of Sochi                          |
| 30 March 2013 | The Georgian Foreign Ministry expresses “grave concern” over Russian military exercises in the Black Sea  |
| <b>April</b>  |   |
| 9 April 2013  | Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili visits Turkey and meets with Turkish President Abdullah Gül in Ankara  |
| 10 April 2013 | The Azerbaijani Azad Fikir University (Free Thought University), set up to promote democratic values, is closed following a visit from officials from the Azerbaijani Prosecutor General’s Office |
| 10 April 2013 | Thousands of workers held a protest at the headquarters of Qafqaz LTD Company, which manages the World Bank-sponsored Silk Road Project in Azerbaijan, to demand the payment of their salaries    |
| 11 April 2013 | The chief of Russia's consumer protection agency Rospotrebnadzor says that the Georgian Borjomi mineral water has been reregistered and is officially eligible to resume exports to Russia        |
| 12 April 2013 | Defeated presidential candidate Raffi Hovannisian travels to Moscow on a one-day visit  |

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| 19 April 2013 | Supporters of the Georgian opposition United National Movement party hold a rally in the centre of Tbilisi  |
| 22 April 2013 | Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mamadyarov meets with Israeli President Shimon Peres on a visit in Israel to discuss the Middle East situation and the conflict over the disputed region of Nagorno Karabakh                               |
| 24 April 2013 | Thousands of people gather to commemorate in Yerevan the mass murder of Armenians during World War I in Ottoman Turkey  |
| 25 April 2013 | A park opens in honour of the late Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv  |
| 29 April 2013 | Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili asks for assistance from international partners to re-establish ties with Russia disrupted during the Russian–Georgian war of 2008  |
| <b>May</b>    |   |
| 2 May 2013    | The Georgian State Ministry for State Reintegration says that Romania has become the eleventh country to recognize Georgia's neutral travel documents designed for residents of the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia           |
| 2 May 2013    | The Georgian Parliament launches the discussion of a package of bills partly decriminalizing the entry of foreign citizens into the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia from territories other than those controlled by Tbilisi   |
| 2 May 2013    | Azerbaijan protests the arrests of two Azerbaijani citizens along with four Iranian activists of Azerbaijani origin in the city of Tabriz in Iran   |
| 2 May 2013    | The Georgian National Olympic Committee votes in favour of Georgian athletes taking part in the Sochi Winter Olympics of 2014   |
| 3 May 2013    | EU Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighborhood Policy Stefan Fuele urges Azerbaijan to meet its democracy and human rights commitments and expresses hope that the presidential elections will be held fairly during a visit to the country |
| 7 May 2013    | Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili meets with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in Baku on the sidelines of the South Caucasus Forum to discuss the ongoing construction of the Baku–Tbilisi–Kars railway line                           |
| 7 May 2013    | The Azerbaijani Parliament approves an amnesty for nine thousand inmates  |
| 8 May 2013    | Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian visits the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh to mark the 68th anniversary of the end of World War II   |
| 8 May 2013    | FBI Director Robert Mueller visits Georgia and meets with Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili to discuss law-enforcement cooperation  |

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|             | between the United States and Georgia, in particular against international crime and terrorism   |
| 11 May 2013 | Georgian Defense Minister Irakli Alasania meets with his Turkish counterpart İsmet Yılmaz in Istanbul to discuss bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the defense sphere   |
| 12 May 2013 | First Deputy Interior Minister Gela Khvedelidze is arrested in Georgia and charged with breach of privacy over the leaking of a sex video purportedly featuring a man who had criticized him   |
| 13 May 2013 | Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko meets with Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian during a visit to Armenia to discuss bilateral relations, including trade and economic issues, the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and Armenia's experience in nuclear energy  |
| 14 May 2013 | Azerbaijan starts military exercises near the disputed region of Nagorno Karabakh  |
| 14 May 2013 | The Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu visits a military base near Gudauta in the breakaway region of Abkhazia   |
| 14 May 2013 | The Azerbaijani Parliament approves a law making online "libel" criminal and allowing harsh punishment for cases of slander  |
| 16 May 2013 | The Patriarch of the Georgian Orthodox Church Ilia II calls on the authorities to ban a gay rights rally planned for 17 May in Tbilisi   |
| 17 May 2013 | Violent scenes occur in Tbilisi after thousands of Orthodox activists derail the plan of a gay rights group to hold a rally to celebrate the International Day against Homophobia  |
| 19 May 2013 | An Azerbaijani scholar and her driver are freed following three weeks in custody in Iran   |
| 21 May 2013 | Former Prime Minister Vano Merabishvili and the former healthcare minister Zurab Tchiaberashvili are arrested in Georgia on charges of allegedly mispending public funds during the electoral campaign of the United National Movement party as well as embezzlement charges against Merabishvili dating from the time when he served as Interior Minister |
| 23 May 2013 | The Georgian Interior Ministry says that two clerics of the Georgian Orthodox Church are charged in connection with violent acts when a gay rights rally was disrupted on 17 May   |
| 26 May 2013 | Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili marks the country's Independence Day by visiting Georgian troops serving in the Helmand province in Afghanistan   |
| 28 May 2013 | Prince Charles visits Armenia and attends charitable events dedicated to the preservation of the country's cultural heritage   |

| <b>June</b>  |   |
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| 1 June 2013  | The Head of the Georgian Orthodox Church Patriarch Ilia II appeals to Russian President Vladimir Putin over the reported shift of the South Ossetian administrative border line deeper into Georgian territory  |
| 3 June 2013  | A Georgian platoon in Kabul serving previously under French command continue their service under US command as French troops are gradually pulling out of Afghanistan   |
| 2 June 2013  | Krzysztof Lisek, a Polish member of a European Parliament delegation, visits former Georgian Prime Minister Vano Merabishvili in jail   |
| 5 June 2013  | The Georgian Prime Minister's special representative for relations with Russia Zurab Abashidze meets with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin in Prague in the framework of an informal dialogue about the restoration of Russian–Georgian bilateral relations focused on economic, trade, humanitarian and cultural issues |
| 6 June 2013  | Seven Georgian soldiers are killed and nine wounded during a truck attack in Afghanistan  |
| 7 June 2013  | The ruling New Azerbaijan Party nominates incumbent Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev to run as presidential candidate in the upcoming elections in October 2013   |
| 11 June 2013 | Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili convenes a session of the National Security Council to discuss the 6 June attacks on Georgian soldiers in Afghanistan and the release of a “jihad threat” video against Georgia with Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili declaring that he will not attend the session                            |
| 12 June 2013 | Russian President Vladimir Putin says that Russia is prepared to restore relations with Georgia “in full scale” and calls for cooperation between the security services of the two countries  |
| 12 June 2013 | Georgian Defence Minister Irakli Alasania announces the closure of two bases for Georgian troops in Afghanistan during a visit to the country and following the death of ten Georgian soldiers  |
| 12 June 2013 | Former Georgian parliament speaker Nino Burjanadze announces that she will run as candidate during the presidential elections in Georgia in October 2013  |
| 13 June 2013 | The Tbilisi City Court orders the pre-trial detention of two suspects originating from Dagestan and arrested by the Georgian Interior Ministry's Anti-Terrorism Center on charges of illegal arms possession  |
| 13 June 2013 | Russia's deputy foreign minister Grigory Karasin says that the easing, but not lifting of visa rules for Georgian citizens travelling to Russia is being  |

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|              | envisaged   |
| 15 June 2013 | Georgia resumes wine exports to Russia following a seven-year break   |
| 17 June 2013 | The Georgian Interior Ministry says that a large arms cache that was set up under the previous authorities is unearthed in the region of Samegrelo  |
| 17 June 2013 | Georgian Defense Minister Irakli Alasania visits Azerbaijan to discuss bilateral military cooperation between the two countries   |
| 17 June 2013 | The lawyer of former Georgian Prime Minister Vano Merabishvili, Giorgi Chiviashvili, says that his client has begun a hunger strike as he demands a TV set in his prison cell   |
| 19 June 2013 | The US Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) approves a five-year 140 million US dollar program to boost the Georgian education sector, while the former program was mainly focused on infrastructure development  |
| 24 June 2013 | Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili starts a two-day visit to Israel  |
| 25 June 2013 | The Armenian National Security Service says that three individuals have been arrested for spying for Azerbaijan   |
| 25 June 2013 | Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem and says that he wants to make the relations between the two countries “exemplary”  |
| 25 June 2013 | In a comment to journalists in Jerusalem, Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili says that he does not exclude the possibility of Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili being arrested after leaving office following the presidential elections of October 2013  |
| 26 June 2013 | The Russian Foreign Ministry says that the results of the twenty fourth round of the international Geneva talks have caused a “sense of disappointment” and concerns over the future prospects of this format of negotiations. The talks seek to resolve the problems around the separatist regions of Georgia. |
| 27 June 2013 | NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen says during an official visit to Georgia that the country is “on the right path” towards NATO integration  |
| 28 June 2013 | The deputy mayor of Tbilisi Davit Alavidze is arrested on charges of embezzlement together with three other municipality officials  |
| <b>July</b>  |   |
| 1 July 2013  | The Georgian presidential press service announces that the date for the presidential elections in Georgia are set on 31 October 2013 with Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili not seeking another term in office as he has   |

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|              | already been re-elected for a second term   |
| 1 July 2013  | Georgian Foreign Minister Maia Panjikidze meets with French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius in Paris to discuss bilateral relations between the two countries, Georgia's political situation and its NATO integration   |
| 1 July 2013  | Georgian Interior Minister Irakli Garibashvili starts a two-day visit to Armenia  |
| 2 July 2013  | Prominent screenwriter Rustam Ibragimbekov is chosen as the presidential candidate of the united opposition in Azerbaijan at a session of the National Council of Democratic Forces   |
| 2 July 2013  | The Georgian Foreign Ministry announces that Georgia has revoked visa-free entry for Iranian citizens after the two countries had agreed to visa-free travel for short visits in 2010   |
| 2 July 2013  | Twenty nine people go on trial in Azerbaijan for allegedly plotting terrorist attacks during the Eurovision contest, including the planned assassination of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev  |
| 3 July 2013  | The date of presidential elections in Georgia is changed back to 27 October 2013  |
| 4 July 2013  | The Georgian State Audit Office says that the United National Movement party received an illegal donation of 5.2 million Georgian Lari in public money ahead of the parliamentary elections of 2012   |
| 4 July 2013  | The Georgian Interior Ministry says that the Georgian police seized 116 kg of heroin and arrested two foreign citizens  |
| 7 July 2013  | An Iranian lawmaker says that Georgia's unilateral decision to revoke visa-free travel for Iranian citizens will have a negative impact on bilateral ties between the two countries   |
| 10 July 2013 | Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister Davit Zalkaliani says that Georgia has sent invitations for international observers to monitor the October presidential elections  |
| 11 July 2013 | The European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle meets with Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili in Batumi and says that they both hope to initial the Association Agreement between Georgia and the EU at the Eastern Partnership summit in Vilnius in November |
| 11 July 2013 | The EU will allocate 16 million Euros to Georgia to improve its capacities in the field of border management and migration  |
| 11 July 2013 | Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili leaves for Moldova to participate in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Eastern Partnership summit of the European People Party (EPP) leaders   |

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| 12 July 2013  | Tengiz Gunava, who was appointed governor of the Samegrelo region in western Georgia by Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili in January 2013, is found guilty of embezzlement during the time he served as head of the Interior Ministry's internal investigations unit in 2012 and sentenced to four years in prison |
| 14 July 2013  | The Georgian Foreign Ministry announces that Georgia has established diplomatic relations with the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu, which recognizes Georgia's "internationally recognized borders" including the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia  |
| 15 July 2013  | Three youth activists are sentenced to jail in Azerbaijan for "violating social order" as they were distributing anti-government leaflets   |
| 16 July 2013  | Armenia Defence Minister Seyran Ohanyan visits Georgia and meets with Georgian Defence Minister Irakli Alasania to discuss cooperation between the two countries  |
| 18 July 2013  | Tamar Sanikidze is appointed new Education Minister in Georgia to replace Giorgi Margvelashvili who is the ruling party Georgian Dream's candidate for the presidential elections in October 2013   |
| 22 July 2013  | The European Union and Georgia "successfully conclude" negotiations for a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) that will allow Georgia better access to the EU market for its goods and services  |
| 27 July 2013  | The leader of the minority parliamentary group United National Movement (UNM) David Bakradze is named UNM presidential candidate for the presidential elections in October 2013   |
| 29 July 2013  | Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili visits Singapore and meets with President Tony Tan to discuss bilateral relations and the deepening of cooperation between the two countries in the areas of trade and investments, noting that the Singaporean model served as a guarantor of success for Georgia's reforms     |
| 30 July 2013  | The state-owned Azerbaijani SOCAR company says that it is forming a consortium with Western oil companies to construct a Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) to transport Azerbaijani gas via Greece, Albania, and across the bottom of the Adriatic Sea to Italy   |
| 31 July 2013  | Angry Azerbaijani homeowners stage a protest against the demolition of their homes in Baku's Xutor district where houses have been demolished to create space for a new local highway in Baku   |
| <b>August</b> |   |
| 8 August 2013 | Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili says that Tbilisi is open for dialogue "with our Ossetian and Abkhazian brothers" during a speech to newly enlisted soldiers in the Georgian city of Gori five years after the  |

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|                   | Russian-Georgian war   |
| 8 August 2013     | Azerbaijani forces reportedly capture an ethnic Armenian serviceman from the defence forces of the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh who had accidentally entered the territory of Azerbaijan   |
| 11 August 2013    | Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili and Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili attend a reception on a visiting US navy ship making a four-day port call in Georgia's Black Sea port of Batumi   |
| 13 August 2013    | Russia's state-run Rosneft and the Azerbaijani state energy company SOCAR sign a broad oil and gas cooperation agreement on the sidelines of a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in Baku   |
| 15 August 2013    | Russian President Vladimir Putin meets with Abkhaz leader Alexander Ankvab in Sochi to discuss cooperation ties  |
| 15 August 2013    | Internal Security Minister of Israel Yitzhak Aharonovitch visits Georgia and meets with Georgian Interior Minister Irakli Garibashvili to discuss cooperation in the fight against organized crime and in the sphere of public security  |
| 16 August 2013    | The presidents of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey meet in Qabala in Azerbaijan for a summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States to discuss the potential formation of a free-trade zone between the four countries as well as a proposal by Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambaev to build a railway connecting Turkey with the Chinese western city of Kashgar via Central Asia |
| 27 August 2013    | Hundreds of Georgian Muslims gather in Tbilisi to protest the removal of a mosque's minaret by local authorities in the village of Chela in the Samtskhe-Javakheti province  |
| 29 August 2013    | A group of Georgian Orthodox Christians protest the restoration of the minaret of a local mosque in the Samtskhe-Javakheti province and try to block the road leading to the village of Chela in an attempt to prevent the return of the minaret after inspectors examined it in the capital Tbilisi   |
| <b>September</b>  |  |
| 2 September 2013  | A new statue of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin is vandalized hours after it is unveiled in the Georgian town of Kevali   |
| 5 September 2013  | Georgian Interior Minister Irakli Garibashvili announces that 144 audio and video recordings containing scenes of an intimate character involving politicians, journalists and celebrities made under the previous government have been destroyed  |
| 13 September 2013 | EU Enlargement Commissioner Stefan Fuele says that Armenia cannot sign association and free trade agreements with the EU while it also wishes to   |

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|                   | join a Customs Union with Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus during an informal meeting of foreign ministers of the Eastern Partnership member states   |
| 17 September 2013 | Georgian Defense Minister Irakli Alasania visits Georgian troops stationed in the Afghan province of Helmand during his fourth visit since he became Minister in October 2012   |
| 17 September 2013 | A new cathedral of the Armenian Apostolic Church opens in Moscow  |
| 19 September 2013 | The Armenian government adopts a preliminary roadmap toward joining a Customs Union with Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus   |
| 19 September 2013 | The Georgian Prime Minister's special representative for relations with Russia Zurab Abashidze and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin meet in Prague in the framework of a format launched in December 2012 to address trade, economic, humanitarian and cultural issues in Russian–Georgian bilateral relations           |
| 21 September 2013 | A former official of the Constitutional Security Department, Oleg Melnikov, is extradited from Ukraine to Georgia where he faces criminal charges, among others related to the high-profile murder of banker Sandro Girgvliani  |
| 23 September 2013 | Georgian Foreign Minister Maia Panjikidze meets with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York  |
| 23 September 2013 | An Armenian court sentences former presidential candidate Vardan Sedrakian to 14 years in prison for the attempted murder of a rival before the presidential elections of February 2013   |
| <b>October</b>    |   |
| 8 October 2013    | The Russian consumer-protection agency Rospotrebnadzor denies access to the Russian market to 28 alcoholic beverages produced in Georgia  |
| 9 October 2013    | Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev is reelected for a third term with nearly 85% of the vote  |
| 9 October 2013    | Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili offers to hold a session of the National Security Council (NSC) over the process of “shifting occupation lines” deeper into Tbilisi-controlled territory through the installation of fences by Russian troops across the administrative boundary line with the breakaway region of South Ossetia |
| 10 October 2013   | The US State Department says that the presidential elections in Azerbaijan fell short of international standards  |
| 10 October 2013   | Georgia President Mikheil Saakashvili congratulates Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev on winning a third term, adding that it is a “fully deserved   |

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|                 | historic victory”  |
| 12 October 2013 | Opposition activists hold a demonstration at a stadium in Baku to protest the presidential elections’ results in Azerbaijan with the Azerbaijani police briefly detaining around ten activists at the end of the rally                                     |
| 14 October 2013 | An appeals court in Yerevan orders the release of prominent opposition youth activist Tigran Arakelian ruling that he can be freed under a national amnesty announced by the government to mark the 22 <sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Armenia’s independence |
| 15 October 2013 | Former Georgian Defense Minister David Kezerashvili is arrested in France after a Tbilisi court issued an arrest warrant against him in absentia on charges of corruption  |
| 18 October 2013 | An Azerbaijani man is charged with the murder of a Russian man in Moscow on 10 October which sparked violent antimigrant riots in Moscow’s Biryulyovo district   |
| 22 October 2013 | Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili says that outgoing Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili may face prosecution, among others, in a case related to the death of former Prime Minister Zurab Zhvania in 2005                                    |
| 23 October 2013 | The Foreign Ministers of Poland and Sweden visit Georgia and hail the country’s progress ahead of the Eastern Partnership summit in Vilnius, but warn against the use of selective justice   |
| 25 October 2013 | The Georgian Prosecutor’s office says that new power abuse charges will be brought against former defence minister and prison system head Bacho Akhalia  |
| 27 October 2013 | Presidential candidate Giorgi Margvelashvili from the Georgian Dream party is elected President in Georgia with 62% of the votes   |
| 28 October 2013 | The EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton and the EU Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle congratulate Giorgi Margvelashvili on his victory in Georgia’s presidential elections in a joint statement                              |
| 31 October 2013 | Georgian parliamentary deputies from the Georgian Dream party initiate a bill in Parliament that foresees cutting the Tbilisi mayor’s powers   |
| <b>November</b> |  |
| 2 November 2013 | Former Georgian Interior Minister Irakli Garibashvili is named as Georgia’s new Prime Minister following the announcement by billionaire Bidzina Ivanishvili to resign from this post  |
| 5 November 2013 | The Armenian police clashes with dozens of nationalists trying to march to the presidential residence in Yerevan   |

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| 6 November 2013  | Armenia signs a memorandum of cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Commission, a body overseeing the integration of former Soviet republics into the Russia-led Customs Union, during a meeting of Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sarkisian with visiting senior officials from the Customs Union's member states Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan in Yerevan |
| 6 November 2013  | Georgian Defence Minister Irakli Alasania visits France to meet with his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian and representatives of the French "military-industrial complex" to discuss bilateral cooperation   |
| 12 November 2013 | Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian visits the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh to inspect military forces  |
| 12 November 2013 | Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev visits Turkey on his first trip abroad since his reelection in October to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries  |
| 12 November 2013 | The Georgian border police says that a cargo ship en route to Turkey is being detained for unauthorized entry into the breakaway region of Abkhazia   |
| 14 November 2013 | Georgian Foreign Minister Maia Panjikidze meets with the EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle in Brussels to discuss preparations for initiating the Association Agreement between Georgia and the EU during the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius   |
| 15 November 2013 | Outgoing Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili says in a written statement that he will not attend the presidential inauguration of President-elect Giorgi Margvelashvili on 17 November as he is involved in launching an international research center and will "refrain from participating in Georgia's everyday politics"                                |
| 16 November 2013 | US President Barack Obama congratulates Georgia and the role of the outgoing President and the new President in "strengthening" democratic institutions on the eve of the presidential inauguration of Giorgi Margvelashvili  |
| 17 November 2013 | Giorgi Margvelashvili is sworn in as Georgia's fourth President for a five-year term during an oath-taking ceremony which also marks the entry into force of a new constitution significantly cutting the presidential powers in favor of increasing the authority of the Prime Minister  |
| 18 November 2013 | Georgian acting Interior Minister and Prime Minister designate Irakli Garibashvili and Israeli deputy interior minister Faina Kirschenbaum sign a visa-free agreement between the two countries which will allow Georgian citizens to stay in Israel without a visa for a maximum of 90 days  |
| 19 November 2013 | The US State Department praises the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia for meeting in Vienna under the auspices of the OSCE's Minsk Group as "an important step toward restoring dialogue" in the negotiations over a peaceful settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict  |

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| 20 November 2013 | Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka begins a two-day visit in Azerbaijan to advance bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two countries   |
| 21 November 2013 | Georgian Prime Minister's special envoy for relations with Russia Zurab Abashidze and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin meet in Prague to discuss trade, economy, humanitarian and cultural issues in the bilateral relations between the two countries   |
| 24 November 2013 | Georgian billionaire and former Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili announces his withdrawal from politics during a party congress following the presidential elections of October 2013  |
| 26 November 2013 | The Georgian authorities arrest six men suspected of a deadly shooting at the Sadakhlo checkpoint on the Georgian-Armenian border   |
| 26 November 2013 | The Azerbaijani Ministry for National Security announces the arrest of a third member of a group that allegedly planned an attack against a mosque in Baku  |
| 28 November 2013 | An Association Agreement (AA) between Georgia and the European Union is technically initiated in Vilnius on the first day of the Eastern Partnership summit   |
| 29 November 2013 | Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili and French President François Hollande meet on the sideline of the Eastern Partnership summit in Vilnius with Margvelashvili thanking his French counterpart for supporting Georgia's Euro-Atlantic integration  |
| 29 November 2013 | Georgian State Minister for reintegration Paata Zakareishvili says that the State Ministry for Reintegration will be renamed into State Ministry for Reconciliation and Civil Equality starting from 1 January 2014 to ease direct contacts with the authorities in the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia |
| <b>December</b>  |   |
| 2 December 2013  | About one thousand activists protest Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to Yerevan and Armenia's plans to join the Russia-led Customs Union   |
| 2 December 2013  | Russian President Vladimir Putin declares that Russia will strengthen its positions in the South Caucasus during the third Russian-Armenian Interregional Forum in Gyumri, an Armenian town hosting a Russian military base   |
| 2 December 2013  | The Azerbaijani government announces a sharp increase in the state-regulated price ceiling for gasoline   |
| 2 December 2013  | Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili says in an interview with Russia Today that no Georgian government delegation will be attending the 2014  |

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|                  | Sochi Winter Olympic Games   |
| 4 December 2013  | Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mamadyarov and Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian meet on the sidelines of a session of the OSCE's Ministerial Council in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv and agree to pursue their talks on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in the coming weeks |
| 4 December 2013  | Ancient Georgian wine-making techniques are added to the UNESCO's list of "intangible heritage" in need of preservation  |
| 4 December 2013  | The NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen says that while there is still work to be done, Georgia has "moved much closer to NATO" and a lot has been achieved since the launch of the NATO-Georgia Commission in 2008   |
| 6 December 2013  | US Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland hails Georgia's "remarkable progress" in reforms during a visit to the country   |
| 7 December 2013  | Former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili addresses pro-Europe protesters in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv   |
| 9 December 2013  | Georgian Defense Minister Irakli Alasania meets with his Israeli counterpart Moshe Ya'alon during a two-day visit to Israel to discuss future cooperation in the military sphere between the two countries   |
| 10 December 2013 | Baku requests 300 billion dollars in "damages" caused by Armenia's "occupation" of the disputed region of Nagorno Karabakh   |
| 11 December 2013 | The Georgian Parliament adopts a statement on events in Ukraine expressing "deep concern" over the use of force against peaceful demonstrators and saying that Russia or any other countries have no "right to interfere" in the decision of Eastern Partnership states to pursue European integration     |
| 11 December 2013 | A scuffle erupts in the Georgian Parliament after a lawmaker from the Georgian Dream party verbally insults Giorgi Baramidze from the United National Movement party   |
| 12 December 2013 | Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu visits Armenia for a meeting of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Group and meets with Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian   |
| 13 December 2013 | The Georgian Parliament passes in its first reading a bill on local self-governance reform envisaging the direct election of mayors in twelve Georgian towns   |
| 13 December 2013 | The Georgian Parliament adopts in its first reading a draft law on the legal status of foreigners and stateless persons that seeks to regulate and create a legal framework for "effective" migration management in view of implementing the visa liberalisation action plan with the EU                   |

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| 14 December 2013 | A group of senior Georgian and Armenian members of parliament meet in Armenia during a conference organized by the OSCE to discuss inter-parliamentary cooperation between the two countries  |
| 15 December 2013 | Hundreds of Baku residents organize a rally over the rising costs of fuel and food  |
| 16 December 2013 | Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili meets with Azeri President Ilham Aliyev in Baku to discuss issues of “strategic cooperation” as his first trip abroad since he took office  |
| 19 December 2013 | The twenty sixth round of international Geneva talks is held with the participants agreeing to continue working on a joint statement on the non-use of force  |
| 20 December 2013 | Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov says that “legal issues,” in particular related to the absence of diplomatic ties with Georgia, need to be removed before lifting visa requirements for Georgian citizens travelling to Russia |
| 22 December 2013 | The Tbilisi city court rules to suspend the directly elected mayor of the Georgian capital Gigi Ugulava from office after he is charged with misspending public funds   |
| 23 December 2013 | The Armenian parliament ratifies a natural gas agreement that gives the Russian Gazprom company that already owns 80 percent of the ArmRosgazprom Armenian–Russian joint venture, the remaining 20 percent, amid protests             |
| 30 December 2013 | Georgian chief prosecutor Otar Partskhaladze resigns less than six weeks after taking office after becoming embroiled in allegations of having a past criminal record in Germany  |

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