

**RCT/EMPATHY**

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# **Consequences of Russian Brutal Military Attacks in Georgia**

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## Experience of the RCT/EMPATHY

- ❑ Was founded in 1996; Is accredited member of the IRCT and member of the European Network, Member of the Section “Sequels to Torture and Persecution” of the Georgian Psychiatrist’s Society
- ❑ Experience of founder members since 1994
- ❑ Target groups: war victims, prisoners and former prisoners with torture and ill treatment experience, state repressive system victims, other ill treatment victims categories
- ❑ Ongoing activities: Programme of Rehabilitation of Torture Victims in Georgia (EU, UNVFVT, IRCT)
- ❑ Provided trainings: since 1997 on stress related disorders and on Istanbul Protocol, treatment and rehabilitation of victims of torture, rehabilitation of prisoners and former prisoners, as well as for Doctors “at Risk”
- ❑ Prison and Forensic Psychiatry, Prison Health Care
- ❑ In ongoing activities - Training on Documentation, reporting and on Traumatic Stress held in August 2008 for 20 persons psychiatrists, psychologists, GP, from MHA, Research Institute of Psychiatry, Multi-profile Treatment Centre, Municipal Psychiatry Hospital and TSMU Residents and students.

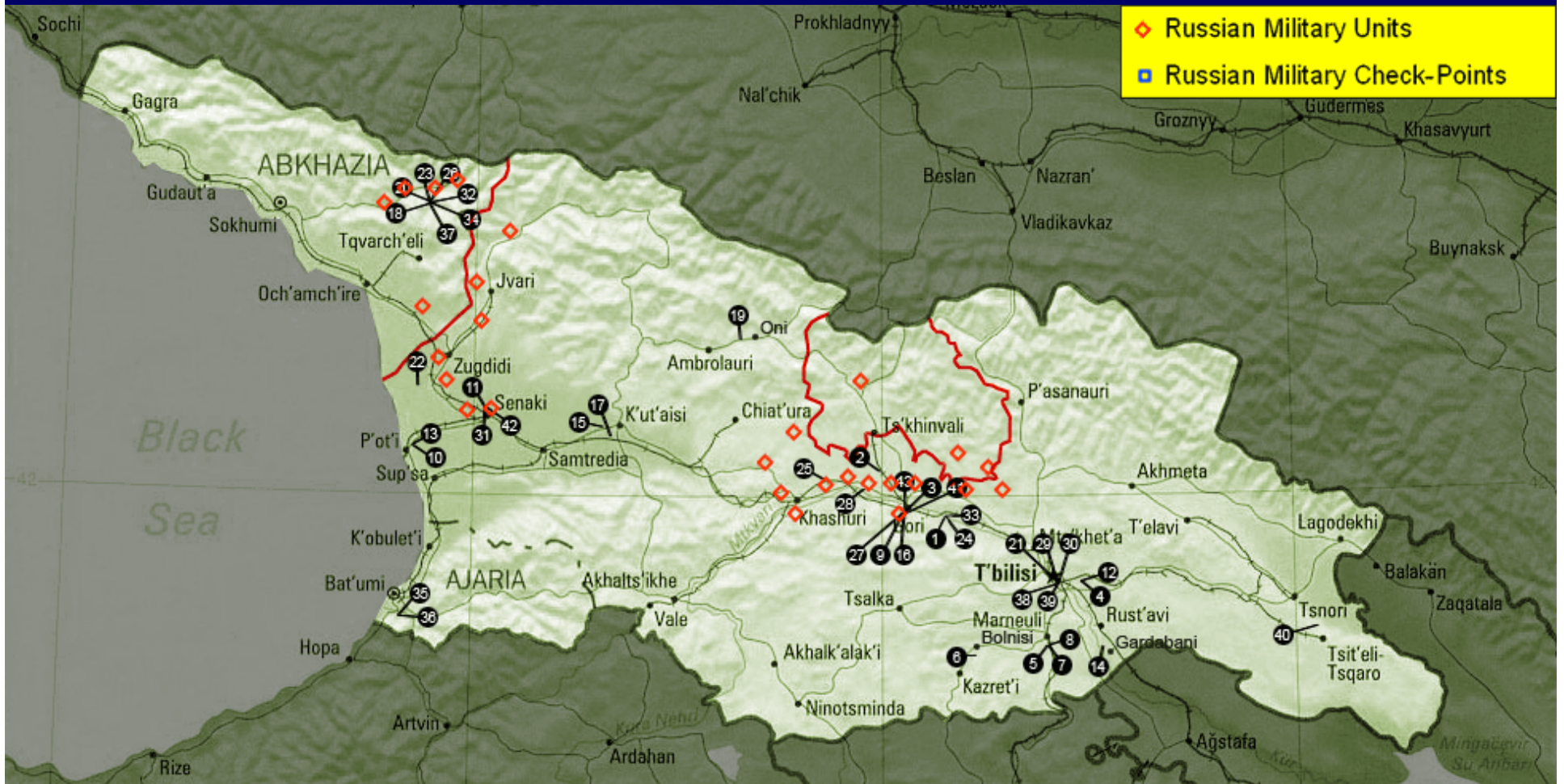
- ❑ **As it is already known, in 7-8 August 2008 Russian military invasion was implemented towards to Georgia.**
- ❑ **As a result of this aggression more than 150000 civilians became victims of ethnic cleansing. Civilians were bombed by Russian air-jets, widely took place marauding, robbery, mass violence, burning of living houses, destroying of villages;**
- ❑ **cornfields and forests were burnt;**

## *Consequences*

- ❑ wide range of infrastructure was destroyed in Georgia, among them medical facilities;
- ❑ much civilians were wounded and killed, among them journalists and medical personnel.
- ❑ It should be specially indicated, that mentioned above actions were continuing after August 12 cease-fire agreement; Up today takes place captivity, torture, slavery of civilians, living in conflict areas. All this acts require detailed documenting and prompt and adequate response.

# Georgian territories bombed by Russian jets

[www.mod.gov.ge](http://www.mod.gov.ge)



## ***Crisis Intervention***

- Taking in consideration these extreme conditions, the Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture RCT/EMPATHY, since August 8, 2008, is implementing crisis intervention program***

# **Crisis Intervention**

***Includes medical, mental/psychological, social and legal assistance, based on multi-profile, client oriented multidisciplinary approach.***

***Period covered by this report : From 11 of August till 7 of September , 2008***

# *Methods*

- During 8-10 August 2008 by the RCT/EMPATHY was elaborated study and assistance methodology based on international standards and guidelines, based on Principles of Istanbul Protocol.
- This methodology includes examination of client by using multi- profile medical file, clinical- psychological interview by using “Harvard Trauma Questionnaire (Molica et al, 1992)” and “PTSD (Watson et al, 1994) rating scale”;



# METHODS

**During this period were also elaborated legal application forms in order to assess violations of Human rights and damage implemented during the barbarous military aggression and ethnic cleansing towards civilian population.**

# METHODS

- **Brief trauma recovery programme (1) includes: Exposure therapy, anxiety management and psycho – educational techniques(3), as well as social therapy and management of the urgent medical problems. (2) Long term rehabilitation programme.**
- **References: 1) Edna B. Foa, David S. Riggs, Brief Recovery Programme (BRP) for Trauma Survivors, University of Pensilvania, 2001. 2) Matthew J. Friedman, Terence M. Keane, Patricia A. Resick, Handbook of PTSD, New York, London, the Guilford Press, 2007. 3) Experts consensus guidelines. Clinical Psychiatry 1999.**

# *Services*

**Totally 27 professionals (psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, several specialty doctors, legal experts) from the RCT/EMPATHY and partners (GMA and TSMU Psychiatry Division) are involved in the indicated activities.**

- **Five mobile groups were created in the RCT/EMPATHY in the framework of above mentioned program, as well as there is going on outpatient type services for clients in office, works hotline and duty doctor's post in 24 hour regime.**

- **In August 10, 2008 the special appeal was sent to the international, intergovernmental, national governmental and non-governmental agencies. This appeal, signed by RCT/EMPATHY and GMA, especially was focused on the facts of violation of international humanitarian law and other relevant international standards. appeal is published [www.empathy.ge](http://www.empathy.ge)**

# Places

- During the indicated period, the crisis intervention program was implementing in following hospitals and refugee collective living centers: Iashvili children hospital, Zhvania children hospital, Burn Trauma Hospital, Gudushauri hospital, Tbilisi Hospital #4, Surgery National Centre, TSMU clinic; TSMU student dormitory, children gardens #206, #209, (Tbilisi ,Ponichala #3), children garden on 12 Kandelaki str. in Tbilisi, former outpatient- type clinic on 8 Vazha Pshavela ave, Tbilisi, Hotel “Abkhazeti”. (Total N = 14 facilities)

# Results

<b>Table 1</b>	<b>Gori</b>	<b>Villages of so called South Osetia</b>	<b>Other Surrounding areas of Gori and Kareli</b>	<b>Gali</b>	<b>Total</b>
Number of Individual or family applications submitted to the RCT/EMPATHY	45	107	83	2	237
Number of the Collective applications how many persons signed	28	163	70	0	261
<b>Total Number</b>					<b>498</b>

## *Results*

**Total Number of persons  
investigated: N = 298**

**Legal Applications received: N = 498**



# Results

Table 2

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Men	103	34.56
Women	180	60.40
Child	15	5.03
Total	298	100.00

# Results

**Table 3**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Under 14</b>	<b>19 - 45</b>	<b>46 - 64</b>	<b>Over 65</b>	<b>Total</b>
Men	8	43	38	22	103
Women	7	83	62	35	180
Child	15				
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>298</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>5.03</b>	<b>42.28</b>	<b>33.56</b>	<b>19.13</b>	<b>100</b>

# Results

**Table 4**

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Georgian	279	93.62
Osetian	12	4.03
Russian	1	0.34
Azerian	1	0.34
Armenian	0	0.00
Other	5	1.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Table 5 Methods of Violence (physical and psychological) Total N = 298**

Methods	Men	Women	Child	Old	Total N	%
Bombing of Civilian Population	82	144	15	40	281	94.61
Captivity			0	8	17	5.72
Rape or sexual abuse	0	1	0	0	1	0.34
Torture	9	6	0	9	24	8.08
Inhuman treatment by side of Russian Forces and other illegal military terrorist groups created by the Russian, shooting of civilian population, or other kind of threatening	68	111	8	39	226	76.09
Lost of family members	6	10	0	5	21	7.07
Killing of family members	2	7	3	3	15	5.05
Be witness of mass violence	83	117	15	30	245	82.49
Hearing of about such actions	67	120	15	32	234	78.79
Forcibly migration	86	154	15	41	296	99.66

# Table 5 Methods of Violence (physical and psychological) Total N = 298

Limitation of medical aid during the violence	54	107	8	30	199	67.00
Limitation food and water	55	109	8	27	199	67.00
Specially implemented attacks for psychological damage and fear	76	126	15	41	258	86.87
Other kind of military crime	9	33	7	9	58	19.53
Be under the fear and situation of death	76	127	15	41	259	87.21
killing of someone, illegal execution	2	1	0	0	3	1.01
Total	680	1177	124	355	2336	786.53
F						7.87

# Table 6 Mental/Psychological Problems

Mental/ Psychological	Men	Women	Child	Old	Total	F
Acute Stress Related Disorder	10	12	4	6	32	<b>0.108</b>
PTSD	63	132	10	37	242	<b>0.815</b>
PTSD with Depression	3	0	1	1	5	<b>0.017</b>
PTSD with Phobic - anxiety symptoms	0	1	0	0	1	<b>0.003</b>
Dissociate (conversion) disorders	0	2	0	0	2	<b>0.007</b>
Exposure to disaster, war and other hostilities	6	0	0	2	8	<b>0.027</b>
Exacerbation of psychosis after the Stress (Like Schizophrenia)	2	1	0	0	3	<b>0.010</b>
Other, please, specify	2	1	0	2	5	<b>0.017</b>
<b>Total</b>					<b>298</b>	<b>1.00</b>

## Table 7. Physical Problems 167 of 298 (56 %)

Physical	Men	Women	Child	Old	T N	F
Injuries of several parts of body	34	9	7	22	72	0.43
Lost of limbs or other parts of body	3	0	0	4	7	0.04
Head Injuries and traumas	10	4	2	3	19	0.11
Burning	2	3	2	1	8	0.05
Other injuries	1	2	2	1	6	0.04
Exacerbation of chronic diseases and worsening of the physical illness	17	15	1	16	49	0.29
Psycho – Somatic reactions	18	21	0	14	53	0.32
Total	85	54	14	61	214	1.28
F Fact per person						1.28

# Table 8 Damage

<b>Have Moral Damage</b>	Men	Women	Child	Old	Total N	%
Have psychological/Mental Outcomes (Direct and indirect)	81	145	15	57	298	100
Have physical outcomes (Direct and indirect)	57	55	10	45	167	56
Have social damage (Lost of role, relations, becoming refugee etc)	81	145	15	57	298	100
Material (Lost of Home, ground etc)	81	145	15	57	298	100
Legal (Be victim of mass war violence, ethnic cleansing and attempts of Genocide that is planed and implemented by the Russian forces specially for the aimed purpose), Lost of Documents, Passport etc)	81	145	15	57	298	100



***HTQ (Molica et al 1992)***  
***PTSD (Watson et al 1994)***

- **Trauma Index K 1 E = 3,84 (N < 2, 5)**
- **PTSD Index K2 E = 2,56 (N < 2,5)**
- **PTSD Rate E = 89, 01**

## *Conclusion*

- **Observation was done among traumatized victims of severe violation of International Humanitarian law from the ethnic cleansing region of Georgia (so called “South Osetia”), practically immediately (during one month) after the trauma experience.**

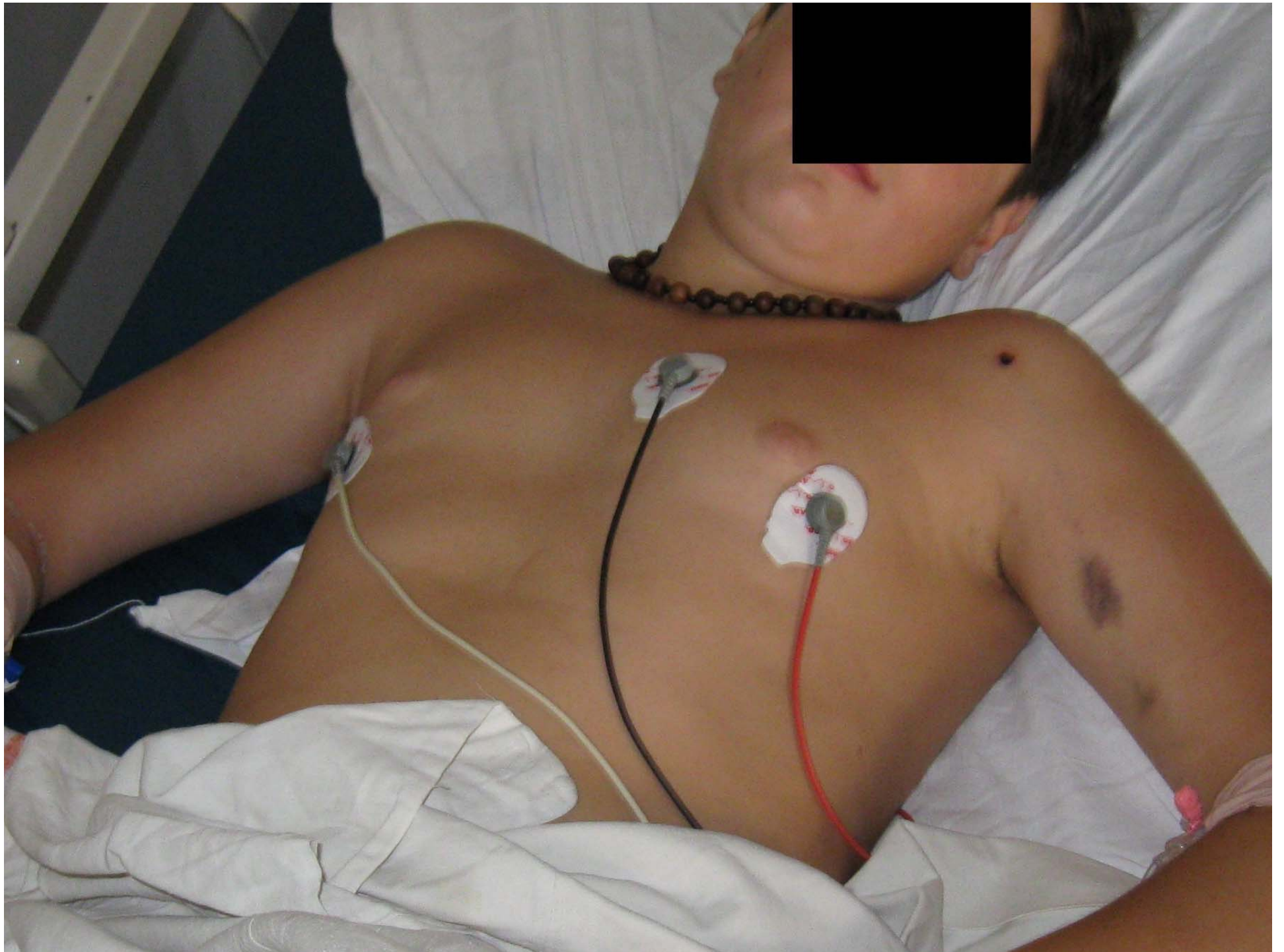
# *Conclusion*

- In all cases of listed above life stress events have severe consequences that reveals in acute stress disorder and PTSD symptoms (2). The most common symptoms were revealed as follows: recurrent images, thoughts, dreams, episodes of flashbacks, symptoms of depersonalization and derealization, as well as dissociate amnesia and stupor were revealed too. These symptoms were followed by vital feelings of feebleness, humiliation, fear of extinction and deep depression senses. In addition, we propose to address following studies: whether or not PTSD or other stress related disorders fully met the consequences of violation of vital fundamental rights of Human being.



## ***Case 1(Picture K, L, 4 years, 13/08/2008, Burn Trauma Centre)***

- 4 years old Lika lived in Gori. 9/08/2008 was bombed her house by Russian air-jet, as a result were killed her 12 years old brother, her grandmother and relatives, home was fully destroyed. Lika suffers from 5% second and third A degree burn of body and face and first degree burn of both cornea, plural injuries of body and extremities, and acute stress reaction.***





***Case 2 (Picture G, T, 13 years, and picture T, K, 68 years, 13/08/2008, Zhvania Children Hospital)***

***13 years old Givi and his grandmother Tsitsino, 68 years, lived in Gori, 9/08/2008 was bombed their house by Russian air-jet, as a result was killed Givi's mother(Tsitsino's daughter), home was destroyed. Givi has right hip's transparent wound made by bomb fragment with injure of hip bone and femoral artery as well as post traumatic stress disorder. Tsitsino has hypertonic crisis and PTSD. She told us that in Russian TV breaking news was plot with her and her killed daughter with comments: "Osetian mother bewailing her daughter killed by Georgians"***





## ***Case 3 (Picture D, R, 7 years, 13/08/2008, Iashvili Children Hospital)***

- 7 years old Dimitri lived in Gori, 9/08/2008 was bombed their house by Russian air-jet, as a result were killed Dimitri's pregnant mother and father, home was fully destroyed. Dimitri has plural burned wounds on whole body and extremities, caused by bomb fragments, occipital injury and left hip's transparent wound caused by bomb pieces, PTSD .***



## ***Case 4 (Picture K, J, 25 years, 14/08/2008, Ghudushauri Hospital)***

- 25 years old Ketevan, resident of Gori, in 11/08/2008 was walking in Gori central area to buy some food. She saw Russian Air-jet, which threw cluster bombs and she lost her consciousness. She suffers from abdominal wounds with injure of several organs, caused by bomb fragment, peritonitis, hemorrhagic traumatic shock III degree, acute stress reaction.***



## ***Case 5 (Picture G, B-A, 48 years, 19/08/2008, Surgery Hospital)***

- 48 years old Giuli, mother of 6 children, resident of Gori region village Berbuki, in 9/08/2008 was selling dairy products in Gori, when Russian Air-jet threw down bomb in street. As a result she has plural injuries and wounds of body and extremities, abdominal trauma with damage of liver, chest trauma, dissociative disorder with mutism.***



## ***Case 6 (Picture T, T, 74 years, 15/08/2008, Ghudushauri Hospital)***

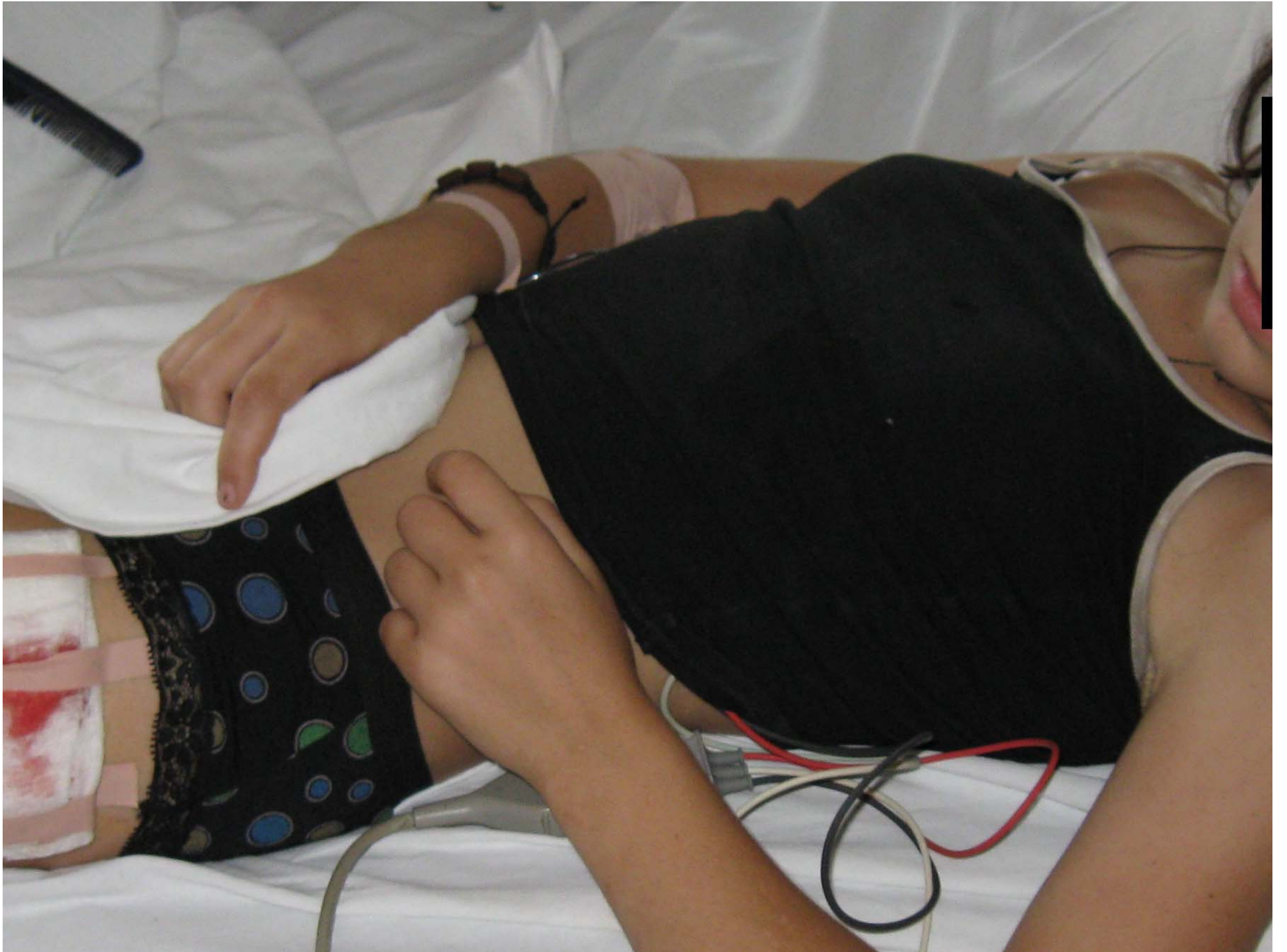
- 74 years old Tsiala, resident of Gori in 9/08/2008 was in own living home (she herself told us that it happened in 8/08/2008, but date when she was took in hospital is 9/08/2008, thus she couldn't remember exact date due to her stress), when bomb was thrown on her house by Russian Air-jet. home was wholly destroyed, she was severely wounded and burnt, a fire set to her dress, she suffered with comminuted fracture of left hip caused by bomb fragment, and then she lost consciousness. After this the leg was incompletely amputated in hospital. She has as well acute stress disorder.***





## ***Case 7 (Picture R, B, 48 years, 21/08/2008, Ghudushauri Hospital)***

- 48 years old Ramaz, resident of Gori in 13/08/2008 in order to leave the town together with his mother-in-law, was driving own car, when he was stopped by ossetian marauders. Then he was told to be out of the car, but he didn't obeyed and drove away. Marauders shot him from automatic guns and wounded him severely. He reached hospital, entered there but inside there was no one. His car was stolen by Kazak marauder in few minutes. After calling by mobile phone he received emergency medical aid from acquaintance doctor who came in empty hospital after five hours he had been wounded. He was hiding there about eight hours. Then Security Council members find him and transferred in Tbilisi hospital. He suffers from transparent wound of abdomen caused by gun bullet, with injures of several organs; part of guts, one kidney and spleen were extracted after surgery operation.***



***Case 8 (Picture E, K, 12 years, 13/08/2008,  
Zhvania Children Hospital)***

- 12 years old Elene, resident of Gori region village Tortiza,† in 12/08/2008 was in her own yard with family members when Russian Air-jet flied over and threw down bomb. She and her family members were wounded, home was destroyed; she suffers from wound in left hip area caused by bomb fragment and acute stress disorder.***



## **Case 9 (Picture N, C, 56 years, 18/08/2008, Ghudushauri Hospital)**

- 56 years old Nunu, resident of Gori region village Pkhvenisi, in 11/08/2008 was in her husband's car in road near village Saqasheti(Gori region), his husband drove the car. There she saw post of Russian soldiers and tanks together with Osetian and north Caucasian militants. It was dark, soldiers stopped the car, her husband told them:” we are peaceful population”, he just finished say this, one militant came nearer the car and threw hand grenade inside it. Explosion immediately killed her husband and wounded her severely, she lost consciousness. She suffers from severe cranial trauma, commotion, II -III - V ribs fracture, bruises, and wound in left hip area caused by hand grenade fragment and acute stress disorder.**



## ***Case 10 (Picture N, O, 27 years, 13/08/2008, Burn Trauma Centre)***

- 27 years old Nino, resident of town Oni, (region Racha in western Georgia, which is very far from conflict zone –so called South Osetia), in 9/08/2008 was together with her husband in husband's home in Oni. They were married 10 days before the accident. The Russian air-jet flied over and threw down bomb on their home. Niño and her husband were severely wounded, their home was wholly destroyed. She suffers from 3% burn of body, face and extremities, plural injuries of body and extremities, wounds in head area and acute stress reaction.***



# Thank You For Attention