



Chronicle: The Caucasus In the Year 2014

January	
1 January 2014	The Georgian State Ministry for Reintegration is renamed into State Ministry for Reconciliation and Civic Equality in a move that Tbilisi officials say will help engagement with the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia
4 January 2014	Russia pledges over 180 million dollars to the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia in 2014–2016 through a decree signed by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev with the financial aid to be provided via the Russian Ministry of Construction
14 January 2014	Hungary becomes the twelfth country to recognize Georgia's neutral travel documents designed for residents of the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia
16 January 2014	Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili says that Russia lacks the levers to deter the country's signing of an Association Agreement with the European Union although provocations are expected
20 January 2014	Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili meets with his Turkish counterpart Abdullah Gül and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan during a visit to Turkey that includes meetings with representatives of the Georgian diaspora
30 January 2014	Czech President Milos Zeman says during Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian's official visit to Prague that the mass killings of Armenians during the Ottoman empire amounted to a "genocide"
February	
3 February 2014	Azerbaijani parliament speaker Oqtay Asadov calls on religious clerics to perform prayers in Azeri and not in Arabic to make it easier for people to fully understand the prayer
4 February 2014	European Council President Herman Van Rompuy says that one of the EU's main objectives is the signing of an Association Agreement with Georgia before the end of the year following talks with Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili
5 February 2014	EU Enlargement Commissioner Stefan Füle says that Russian pressure on

	the EU's Eastern neighbors is unacceptable and it should not interfere in Georgia's and Moldova's efforts to sign Association Agreements with the EU later this year
10 February 2014	Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili says he will "thoroughly" consider recent remarks by Russian President Vladimir Putin indicating a willingness to sit down for talks
10 February 2014	Azerbaijani foreign minister Elmar Mammadyarov says during a visit to Iraq that Baku is open to shipping Iraqi natural gas to Europe via Azerbaijan's pipeline network
10 February 2014	Up to 17 Georgian prison inmates in the Georgian western province of Imereti are hospitalized after harming themselves in protest at what they call abusive prison conditions
16 February 2014	About 1,000 people gather in downtown Baku to protest against the government's offer of what they see as too low housing compensation for the destruction of homes as a part of an urban renewal plan
17 February 2014	Former Georgian Prime Minister Vano Merabishvili is sentenced to five years in prison on charges of abuse of office, bribery of voters and inefficient use of budget funds
18 February 2014	The Azeri investigative journalist Khadija Ismayilova is summoned for questioning as a witness by the Department for Grave Crimes in Baku in an investigation into the leaking of state secrets
24 February 2014	Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili meets with US President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden in Washington. They urge Garibashvili to work with civil society and the country's political leaders to advance democracy and the rule of law, while thanking Georgia for being a reliable partner in global and regional issues
24 February 2014	Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sarkisian meet in the Black Sea resort of Sochi to discuss bilateral ties including Armenia's roadmap to join the Russia-led customs union
27 February 2014	Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili starts an official two-days visit to Armenia and meets with his counterpart Serzh Sarkisian before holding talks with the head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Catholicos Garegin II
27 February 2014	Georgian former Prime Minister Vano Merabishvili receives another jail sentence of four and a half years after being found guilty of exceeding his powers while dispersing protesters in 2011
27 February 2014	A French court rules not to extradite former Georgian Defense Minister David Kezerashvili who is suspected of money laundering and illegal property sales in Georgia
28 February 2014	Former Georgian warlord Emzar Kvitsiani is arrested on landing at Tbilisi

	airport after having served as governor in the Kodori Gorge in Western Georgia in the 1990s under former Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze
March	
1 March 2014	Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharian says that Armenia is ready to do the preparatory work to join the Russia-led customs unions which also includes Kazakhstan and Belarus within weeks
4 March 2014	EU Enlargement Commissioner Stefan Füle meets with Georgian Foreign Minister Maia Panjikidze on a visit to Tbilisi and expresses continued support for the country's efforts to build closer ties with the European Union
7 March 2014	The chief of the Azerbaijani parliament's Committee for Security and Defense, Ziyafat Asgarov, says that Azerbaijan is considering amendments to strengthen its antiterrorism laws that would increase penalties for involvement in "international terrorism, financing of terrorism, organizing, planning, and preparing terrorist attacks, intentionally stirring panic among the people, and using media outlets, the Internet, and social networks" for extremist purposes
14 March 2014	Romanian Prime Minister Victor Ponta visits Georgia following a visit to Moldova and says the EU should do "a lot more" for the two countries and Romania is the best advocate of Georgia and Moldova within the Union
17 March 2014	The leaders in the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia recognize the referendum for independence in Crimea
17 March 2014	A court in Azerbaijan sentences Ilqar Mammadov, head of the Republican Alternative movement and Tofiq Yaqublu, deputy head of the Musavat Party, respectively to seven and five years in prison for charges related to mass disturbances during riots in the town of Ismayilli in January 2013
21 March 2014	The Georgian leadership hails the EU's decision to sign the Association Agreement in June instead of August 2014 and congratulates Ukraine on signing the political part of the Association Agreement
21 March 2014	A forensic pathologist is arrested in Georgia on suspicion of negligence in his examination of the bodies of former Prime Minister Zurab Zhvania and his friend Raul Usupov, both found dead in 2005 after they were apparently killed by carbon monoxide poisoning leaking from a faulty gas heater
22 March 2014	The prosecutor's office in Georgia summons former President Mikheil Saakashvili for questioning as a witness in criminal investigations related to ten cases including a possible probe into the death of former Prime Minister Zurab Zhvania in 2005
23 March 2014	The US Department of State says that it is concerned by the decision of prosecutors in Georgia to summon former President Mikheil Saakashvili for questioning as it "raises legitimate concerns about political retribution"

25 March 2014	The spokesman of Abkhaz leader Sergei Bagapsh, Kristian Bzhania, said that holding a referendum on whether Abkhazia wants to join Russia or not is “out of the question”
25 March 2014	EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Štefan Füle says in a tweet that he is watching with concern the Georgian prosecutors’ decision to summon former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili for questioning
25 March 2014	A group of environmental activists disrupt an international mining conference in Yerevan where experts had gathered to discuss ecological safety in Armenia’s mining sector
26 March 2014	US President Barack Obama says at a press conference after the EU–US Summit in Brussels that there are no “immediate plans” for expanding NATO membership to Georgia and Ukraine
27 March 2014	The US co-chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe’s (OSCE) Minsk Group on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, James Warlick, reports on Twitter that the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan have met on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague on 24–25 March 2014
27 March 2014	Former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili rejects an offer made by prosecutors in Tbilisi to be questioned via Skype
31 March 2014	The three sons of late Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia call on the current authorities in Georgia to resume the official investigation into his death which was shelved in 2004
31 March 2014	Georgia signs an agreement to establish diplomatic relations with the South Pacific island nation of Tuvalu which has retracted its decision to recognize Abkhazia and South Ossetia under a previous government in 2011
April	
2 April 2014	Armenia’s Constitutional Court rules that several clauses in the controversial new law on pensions are illegal
2 April 2014	Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili starts a two-days visit to Poland and meets with his counterpart Bronisław Komorowski and Prime Minister Donald Tusk
3 April 2014	Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sarkisian steps down after six years in office
4 April 2014	Former secretary of Georgia’s National Security Council (NSC) Giga Bokeria is questioned by prosecutors in connection with an ongoing investigation into the misspending of budgetary funds at the NSC
7 April 2014	Georgian Interior Minister Alexander Tchikaidze says that the United

	National Movement party aims to “destabilize” the country and “overthrow state institutions” in an interview with a Georgian weekly newspaper
8 April 2014	The Georgian Defense Ministry says that a Georgian special mountain battalion has been deployed at an airbase in Kandahar as part of the ISAF mission in Afghanistan
8 April 2014	The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry says that an officer and two conscripts have been killed in a mine explosion at the border with an Armenian-controlled region
9 April 2014	Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev meets with his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rohani in Tehran to discuss strengthening ties between the two countries and the status of the Caspian Sea
9 April 2014	Danish Foreign Minister Martin Lidegaard meets with his Georgian counterpart Maia Panjikidze and Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili in Tbilisi and says that his visit aims to send a strong signal showing Danish and EU support for Georgia
13 April 2014	Ovik Abraamian is appointed as new Prime Minister in Armenia taking over from Tigran Sarkisian
14 April 2014	EU foreign ministers reaffirm their support during a meeting in Luxembourg for an “early” signature of the Association Agreements, including the comprehensive free trade agreements, with Georgia and Moldova no later than June
14 April 2014	The EU will hold investment conferences in Georgia and Moldova during the visit of EU Commission President José Manuel Barroso to the two countries on 12 and 13 June 2014
16 April 2014	Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin declares the sixth round of talks on the normalization of Georgian–Russian ties “constructive” after meeting with the Georgian prime minister’s envoy for relations with Russia Zurab Abashidze in Prague and discussing economic and tourism relations
21 April 2014	The Azerbaijani Prosecutor-General’s Office charges journalist Rauf Mirqadirov with high treason for having allegedly worked with Armenia’s security services and provided them with information on Azerbaijan’s state secrets
22 April 2014	Iranian President Hassan Rouhani meets with newly appointed Georgian ambassador to Tehran Ioseb Chakhvashvili and stresses the importance of developing a railway project to link Iran with Georgia via Azerbaijan
24 April 2014	French foreign minister Laurent Fabius and German foreign minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier meet with the Georgian leadership in Tbilisi ahead of Georgia’s signing of an Association Agreement with the European Union
25 April 2014	Head of the Georgian Orthodox Church Patriarch Ilia II says that Georgia

	should enter European structures as “it is necessary for us”
27 April 2014	Azerbaijani authorities detain prominent human rights activist Leyla Yunus, and her husband, Arif Yunus, at Baku airport as they prepare to travel to Doha
May	
1 May 2014	NATO Secretary General’s Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia James Appathurai says during a visit to Georgia that the country “continues to improve” on its path toward NATO and the Alliance is considering next steps to bring it “even closer”
6 May 2014	The presidents of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey gather in Tbilisi for a trilateral summit to discuss cooperation in energy, trade, transportation and economic sectors
7 May 2014	An antidiscrimination law comes into force in Georgia that is opposed by the head of the Georgian Orthodox Church Patriarch Ilia II as it includes “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” on the list of prohibited grounds for discrimination
9 May 2014	Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian visits the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh to mark Victory Day
12 May 2014	French President Francois Hollande urges the EU during a visit to Yerevan to accept a “specific model for Armenia” that would allow the country to enter into an Association Agreement with the EU while joining a Russian-led Customs Union
13 May 2014	French President Francois Hollande ends a South Caucasus tour in Tbilisi aimed at developing EU–South Caucasus relations and addressing security threats in connection with the Ukrainian crisis
22 May 2014	Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich says that it is Georgia’s sovereign right to sign an Association Agreement with the European Union, but it should consider the possible consequences pointing at Georgian exports to Russia
26 May 2014	The foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Turkey and Turkmenistan discuss bilateral and trilateral ties in Baku and sign the Baku declaration for cooperation between the three Turkic-speaking countries in the spheres of energy, transportation, culture, tourism and education
26 May 2014	The head of an election watchdog in Azerbaijan Anar Mammadli is sentenced to five and a half years in detention for tax evasion and illegal business activities
27 May 2014	A Tbilisi court acquits former Georgian Defense Minister Davit Kezerashvili on charges of money-laundering and illegal property sales

29 May 2014	The Georgian Parliament passes a package of legislative amendments with its first reading that increases oversight mechanisms over government surveillance agencies, but does not envisage restricting the security agencies' capabilities to access directly telecommunications service providers' networks
30 May 2014	Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garabishvili says that the Georgian police is "completely depoliticized" during a ceremony to mark the Georgian Police Day in the Black Sea town of Batumi
June	
1 June 2014	Abkhaz de-facto President Aleksandr Ankvab announces that he is stepping down in order to maintain stability in Abkhazia following demonstrations demanding the government's resignation
2 June 2014	German Chancellor Angela Merkel meets with Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili in Berlin and hails Tbilisi for pursuing European integration as well as trying to normalize relations with Russia, while saying that she does not think that a Membership Action Plan (MAP) for Georgia will be on the agenda of the NATO summit in Wales in September
3 June 2014	OSCE's chairman in office and Swiss Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter arrives in Yerevan at the end of a South Caucasus tour to discuss Armenia–EU ties and the situation in the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh
5 June 2014	Georgian peacekeepers head to the Central African Republic to join a European Union peacekeeping mission
7 June 2014	U.S. Vice President Joe Biden meets with Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili on the sidelines of the inauguration ceremony of new Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko in Kiev
9 June 2014	Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister Davit Jalagania meets with the Turkish ambassador to Georgia to convey protest over the visit of a group of Turkish MPs to the breakaway region of Abkhazia
11 June 2014	Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili says that comparing Crimea with the two breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia is a "big mistake" as Russia is "not interested in annexing" the two regions
12 June 2014	European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso arrives in Tbilisi and "underlines the EU support" for Georgia which is ahead of signing an Association Agreement with the Union
12 June 2014	German diplomat Herbert Salber is nominated as the new EU's special envoy to the South Caucasus
13 June 2014	Several civil society organizations in Georgia ask the EU in an open letter to European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle to extend the mission of its special adviser for legal reforms and human

	rights in Georgia, Thomas Hammarberg
14 June 2014	European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso says during a visit to Baku that the EU and Azerbaijan are stepping up efforts to implement the Southern gas corridor that aims at transporting gas from Azerbaijan via Turkey, Greece, Albania, Italy and Bulgaria onto other European countries
15 June 2014	Local elections are held in Georgia with early polls showing a possible runoff in several cities between Georgian Dream and United National Movement candidates
18 June 2014	Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan holds talks with the Georgian leadership during a visit to Tbilisi and discusses the consequences of Armenia preparing to enter a Russian-led Customs Union and Georgia signing an Association Agreement with the European Union
18 June 2014	Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov visits Azerbaijan and holds talks with his Azerbaijani counterpart Elmar Mammadyarov on bilateral relations, developments in the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh and the crisis in Ukraine
18 June 2014	The twenty-eighth round of Geneva talks is disrupted as representatives from the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia walk out as they demand removing issues related to displaced persons and refugees from the agenda
18 June 2014	The breakaway region of South Ossetia announces its recognition of the “Luhansk People’s Republic” in eastern Ukraine as a sovereign, independent country
21 June 2014	Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov visits Azerbaijan and holds talks with his Azerbaijani counterpart Elmar Mammadyarov on further deepening of cooperation between the two countries and the situation in the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh as well as the ongoing Ukraine crisis
23 June 2014	Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov holds talks with his Armenian counterpart Edvard Nalbandian on issues related to Armenia’s integration into the Eurasian Economic Union (EES)
23 June 2014	The Russian Foreign Ministry says that a phone conversation was held between Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin and Georgian Prime Minister’s special envoy for relations with Russia, Zurab Abashidze, on technical consultations between Georgian and Russian experts on the potential effects on Georgian–Russian bilateral trade of deep and comprehensive free trade agreements (DCFTA) signed with the EU
24 June 2014	Activists protest Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev’s speech at a session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) in Strasbourg
25 June 2014	NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen says the upcoming NATO summit in Wales in September will not address the question of

	granting Georgia a Membership Action Plan (MAP)
26 June 2014	The Russian Foreign Ministry announces that citizens of the Commonwealth Independent States (CIS), excluding member states of the Customs Union and Eurasian Economic Union (EES), will no longer be able to use their national identification documents to enter Russian territory as of 1 January 2015
27 June 2014	Georgia and the EU sign an association agreement, including a deep and comprehensive free trade area (DCFTA), with Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili saying at the signing ceremony that Georgia is “taking a big step towards free Europe”
27 June 2014	Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili welcomes Russia’s “constructive policy” and says that it has kept its promise not to interfere with the signing of an association agreement between Georgia and the EU
29 June 2014	US Congressman and Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman Chris Smith calls for a special envoy to be named to mediate between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh during a visit to Azerbaijan
30 June 2014	Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt holds talks with the Georgian authorities in Tbilisi and representatives of the opposition United National Movement party and underlines the importance of implementing the association agreement with the EU to accelerate Georgia’s modernization
30 June 2014	An Azerbaijani citizen suspected of the stabbing death of a Russian man in Moscow that had sparked riots in October 2013 pleads not guilty at Moscow City Court
July	
1 July 2014	Former chief of Georgia’s military police Grigori Dgebuadze is arrested in the Netherlands after Tbilisi issues an international arrest warrant against him on charges of illegal confinement and organizing torture
3 July 2014	Former mayor of Tbilisi Gigi Ugulava is detained at Tbilisi airport as he was travelling to Chisinau and Kiev after being accused of misuse and embezzlement of public funds
3 July 2014	Ukrainian Justice Minister Pavlo Petrenko and Minister of Infrastructure Maxim Burbak visit Georgia after the Georgian Prime Minister’s office says that Georgian Justice Minister Tea Tsulukiani has been tasked to visit Ukraine to share Georgia’s reform experience with Ukrainian counterparts
4 July 2014	The EU says it is closely following the arrest of former Tbilisi mayor and United National Movement party leader Gigi Ugulava and calls on the Georgian authorities to ensure that the judicial process is fully independent, transparent and free of political influence in a statement released by the spokesperson of the EU’s foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton

6 July 2014	Georgian Parliament speaker Davit Usupashvili visits Azerbaijan and meets with his Azerbaijani counterpart Oktay Sabir Asadov as well as Prime Minister Artur Rasizade and Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov
7 July 2014	Former Georgian President and Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union Eduard Shevardnadze dies at the age of 86
15 July 2014	Georgian troops end their four-year deployment in the Helmand province in Afghanistan as part of the ISAF mission
15 July 2014	An Armenian businessman based in Moscow, Levon Hayrapetian, is arrested at the Russian capital's Domodedovo airport over his alleged connections with a Russian criminal gang
17 July 2014	Armenian Prime Minister Ovik Abramian says to journalists that an agreement to allow Armenia to join the Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union (EES) will be signed in October
18 July 2014	The Georgian Parliament ratifies the Association Agreement between Georgia and the European Union at an extraordinary session
22 July 2014	An Armenian mayor is injured together with two other persons and one killed after their car hit a mine in the Kashatagh province of the disputed region of Nagorno Karabakh
24 July 2014	The Georgian prosecutor's office says that it has reached an agreement with a group of international criminal law experts to consult regarding high-profile and sensitive cases involving high-ranked officials
25 July 2014	President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Hugh Bayley meets with Georgian leaders in Tbilisi and says that Georgia is "the most important partner that NATO has"
28 July 2014	The Georgian prosecutor's office says that it files criminal charges against former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili in relation to the breaking up of demonstrations in November 2007
31 July 2014	Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili says that legal proceedings against Mikheil Saakashvili will be "objective and transparent"
31 July 2014	The United States voices deep concern after Azerbaijani authorities charge human rights activist Leyla Yunus with treason, tax evasion and fraud
31 July 2014	Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili says that Russia's planned suspension of a free trade agreement with Georgia is "not a tragedy" and that consultations will take place over the issue
August	
1 August 2014	Two Azerbaijani men are charged with high treason and sentenced to life in

	prison for spying for Iran in Baku
1 August 2014	The Polish Foreign Ministry says that it is concerned about the investigations carried out against former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili as they could take the form of a “selective application of justice”
2 August 2014	The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry says four Azerbaijani soldiers have been killed near the disputed region of Nagorno Karabakh
4 August 2014	Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili expresses concern over rising tensions in the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh and says that Armenia and Azerbaijan are equally important for Georgia and hopes that peace will be restored soon
7 August 2014	Georgian Defense Minister Irakli Alasania visits Georgian troops in Kabul and meets with outgoing commander of the US and NATO forces in Afghanistan, General Joseph Dunford
10 August 2014	The presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Sochi to discuss the conflict over Nagorno Karabakh amid tensions rising in the region
14 August 2014	Yazidis rally in Yerevan to call on the government to offer help, including weapons, to Yazidis in northern Iraq
19 August 2014	Defense Ministers of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey meet in Nakhchivan and agree to hold trilateral meetings once every six months
21 August 2014	Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili meets with his Armenian counterpart Hovik Abrahamyan in Yerevan and says that no efforts will be spared to bring the two countries closer
24 August 2014	The European Union says that it does not recognize the presidential elections in the breakaway region of Abkhazia
25 August 2014	Russian President Vladimir Putin congratulates Raul Khajimba on his victory in the presidential elections in the breakaway region of Abkhazia
27 August 2014	Georgian Defense Minister Irakli Alasania visits Georgian troops serving as part of the EU military mission in the Central African Republic
28 August 2014	Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili attends the inauguration ceremony of president-elect Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in Turkey and declares that Turkey is a major partner of Georgia
28 August 2014	New Abkhaz leader Raul Khajimba meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence outside Moscow to discuss the signing of a cooperation treaty between Russia and the breakaway region of Abkhazia
29 August 2014	Georgian Defense Minister Irakli Alasania meets with his French counterpart

	Jean-Yves Le Drian in Paris to discuss France's support for Georgia's full integration into Euro-Atlantic structures
September	
3 September 2014	Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says after a meeting in Baku with his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev that Ankara will continue supporting Baku's efforts to resolve the situation in the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh
3 September 2014	US President Barack Obama says in a speech in Tallinn, Estonia, that NATO has to do more to help its partners to strengthen their defence, including Georgia and Moldova
3 September 2014	Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili says his country will ask for membership in NATO at the Alliance's summit in Wales
5 September 2014	Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev says at the NATO Summit in Wales that the Kars–Tbilisi–Baku railway will “create tremendous” trade opportunities for Afghanistan and Baku is ready to help with investment and reconstruction projects
5 September 2014	Georgian healthcare minister Davit Sergeenko says that Georgia will send humanitarian aid to Ukraine, including medical supplies and medicines
5 September 2014	Azerbaijani security officers raid the Baku office of the non-governmental organization IREX and confiscate documents and computers
7 September 2014	US Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel says in Tbilisi that the NATO Summit in Wales was “an important milestone in Georgia's efforts” to join the Alliance following a meeting with Georgian Defense Minister Irakli Alasania
11 September 2014	Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili says that the “strategic partnership” between Georgia and Azerbaijan is further deepening and that Georgia is Azerbaijan's “reliable partner” during a visit to Baku and a meeting with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev
11 September 2014	Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili condemns as a “provocation” the nailing of a pig's head to the door of a yet to be opened Muslim school in the Kobuleti town in Georgia's Adjara region on 10 September
11 September 2014	Former Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili criticizes Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili for “obstructing” government activities through his actions
12 September 2014	Georgia sends a cargo plane to Ukraine to deliver humanitarian including mainly medical supplies
12 September 2014	The US State Department says in a statement that the US is concerned over the risk posed for Georgian democracy by politicized prosecutions, referring to the recent arrests of high-level officials from the Saakashvili

	administration
16 September 2014	Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili visits the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and meets with Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan before visiting Dubai and Ras Al Khaimah
18 September 2014	Foreign minister of breakaway Abkhazia Viacheslav Chirikba says that the Geneva talks should continue but demands a change of format and agenda, in particular regarding the issue of displaced persons and refugees
24 September 2014	Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian criticizes Baku for preventing a peaceful settlement of the dispute over the Nagorno Karabakh region in a speech at the UN General Assembly and thanks countries that have recognized as genocide the massacre of Armenians by Ottoman forces during World War I
24 September 2014	Georgian Defense Minister Irakli Alasania visits Yerevan and meets with his Armenian counterpart Seyran Ohanyan to discuss bilateral cooperation in defense as well as regional security
24 September 2014	The US places a Georgian national and native of Pankisi Gorge Tarkhan Batirashvili, known as Omar al-Shishani, and a ISIL commander on a list of 21 “specially designated global terrorists”
26 September 2014	In a speech at the UN General Assembly, Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili says that Georgia is “now another world” which has made significant progress and “restored the rule of law”
28 September 2014	Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili meets with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in Istanbul and discusses regional security issues, including developments in Ukraine and ISIS as well as the deepening of Georgian–Turkish relations and the importance of Azerbaijani–Georgian–Turkish joint projects
October	
2 October 2014	The Russian Foreign Ministry says that it takes seriously the official denial voiced by Georgia that training centers for Syrian rebels are being set up on Georgian territory
8 October 2014	Georgian parliament speaker Davit Usupashvili says during the visit of his Armenian counterpart Galust Sahakyan in Tbilisi and at a meeting of the Armenian–Georgian parliamentary cooperation group that the different foreign policy orientations chosen by the two countries should in no way affect bilateral ties
10 October 2014	Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian signs an agreement to join the Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union (EES) at a meeting of regional heads of states in Minsk
10 October 2014	Thousands of demonstrators rally in Yerevan to demand the resignation of

	President Serzh Sarkisian and protest against the country's slow economic growth, corruption and Sarkisian's decision to enter the Eurasian Economic Union (EES)
13 October 2014	The Abkhaz news agency Apsnipress posts the text of the draft "Agreement Between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Abkhazia on Alliance and Integration" that envisages the setting up a Abkhaz–Russian group of forces for collective defense
16 October 2014	Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Tajik President Emomali Rahmon sign a declaration in Dushanbe stating the "inadmissibility of changing internationally recognized borders" and the necessity to find a peaceful settlement to the conflict over the disputed region of Nagorno Karabakh
22 October 2014	14 people are arrested during a confrontation in a Georgian village in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region after the local Muslim population tries to prevent the rebuilding into a library of a partially destroyed building which was once a mosque
23 October 2014	US State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki says that the US is closely following the prosecution of former government officials in Georgia and stresses the importance for the Georgian government to apply the rule of law in order to avoid the perception of political retribution
27 October 2014	Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili says the project of independent Abkhazia and South Ossetia is a "utopia"
27 October 2014	A group of Iranian lawmakers visit Georgia to meet with their counterparts and government officials as part of the Iran–Georgia parliamentary friendship group
22 October 2014	Former Georgian Defence Minister Bacho Akhalaia is condemned to 7.5 years by a Tbilisi City Court for torturing convicts in 2006
27 October 2014	French President Francois Hollande hosts Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in Paris for talks on the disputed region of Nagorno Karabakh
27 October 2014	Russian airline Aeroflot resumes flights between Moscow and Tbilisi six years after the Russian–Georgian war
28 October 2014	Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian says in a statement that talks in Paris on 27 October between Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev on the disputed region of Nagorno Karabakh were "constructive, useful and sincere" with the two heads of state discussing confidence-building measures proposed by French President Francois Hollande
30 October 2014	Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili speaks against depriving the Interior Ministry of access to telecommunication operators' network systems amid the passing of a bill to put in place tighter rules for law enforcement

	agencies to carry out surveillance
30 October 2014	Georgian Defense Minister Irakli Alasania meets with his counterpart Ursula von der Leyen in Berlin to discuss bilateral cooperation as well as the situation in the Caucasus region and relations with Russia
30 October 2014	The European Commission says that Georgia has met the requirements in the first phase of its visa liberalization dialogue with the EU and is now entering a second phase
November	
3 November 2014	The European Union pledges to provide aid to Armenia over the next three years for a range of reforms in the private and public sectors
4 November 2014	Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili says he has dismissed Georgian Defense Minister Irakli Alasania
4 November 2014	The International Monetary Fund predicts economic growth in the Caucasus and Central Asia will slow due to the economic slowdown in Russia
5 November 2014	Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili says that allegations voiced by former Georgian Defense Minister Irakli Alasania and Maia Panjikidze, who stepped down as Foreign Minister, about changes in the country's pro-Western foreign policy course are "naïve" and "ridiculous"
7 November 2014	Armenian Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamia says that several state agencies will be merged to form a new Interior Ministry
8 November 2014	Former Georgian Defense Minister Irakli Alasania is elected chairman of the Free Democrats (FD)
11 November 2014	Danish Foreign Minister Martin Lidegaard says after meeting with his Georgian counterpart Tamar Beruchashvili in Tbilisi that Denmark wants to support Georgia in making full use of its Association Agreement with the EU
12 November 2014	Azerbaijan declares the airspace above the disputed region of Nagorno Karabakh as closed after the Azerbaijani military shoots down a helicopter belonging to the region's forces
12 November 2014	Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili meets with Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev in Astana and stresses the strategic partnership between the two countries
13 November 2014	Oligarch Kakha Bendukidze, a key figure behind the economic liberalization drive in Georgia after the Rose Revolution, dies in London
18 November 2014	Leader of non-parliamentary opposition Democratic Movement-United Georgia party Nino Burjanadze says that Georgia needs to make a clear distinction between EU and NATO membership and should decide between

	“illusionary NATO membership” and restoration of territorial integrity
21 November 2014	The United States transfer three Yemeni detainees from the Guantanamo Bay prison to Georgia
24 November 2014	Russian President Vladimir Putin and Abkhazia’s de facto president Raul Khajimba sign the “Allied Relations and Strategic Partnership” treaty in Sochi that states that an armed attack on Abkhazia will be considered an armed attack on Russia, and vice-versa
24 November 2014	Russia pledges to allocate at least 9.2 billion rubles to the breakaway region of Abkhazia after signing a treaty on strategic partnership
25 November 2014	Georgia’s state minister for European and Euro-Atlantic integration says that Tbilisi has called on the UN Security Council to discuss the legality of the treaty signed between Russia and the breakaway region of Abkhazia
25 November 2014	Latvia President Andris Bērziņš, whose country will hold the first half of the EU’s rotating presidency in 2015, visits Georgia
27 November 2014	Georgian prosecutors charge former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili with complicity in the murder of banker Sandro Girgvliani in January 2006
December	
1 December 2014	Former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili says he has rejected an offer for a high-level government post in Ukraine as it would require him to renounce Georgian citizenship
2 December 2014	Protesters gather in front of the Armenian Parliament against a treaty to join the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU)
4 December 2014	The Armenian Parliament overwhelmingly approves a treaty to join the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU)
4 December 2014	Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili visits Poland and meets with his Polish counterpart Bronislaw Komorowski to discuss cooperation on defense and security as well as Georgia’s EU and NATO integration
4 December 2014	NATO Secretary General’s Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia James Appathurai says during a visit to Tbilisi that the implementation of a “substantial package” of enhanced cooperation to help Georgia prepare for NATO partnership is “going well”
5 December 2014	Head of the Georgian Central Bank Giorgi Kadagidze says that the country faces no economic and financial threats whatsoever as the national currency falls to its lowest levels since May 2004
8 December 2014	German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier meets with Georgian high-level officials during a two-days visit to Tbilisi

8 December 2014	German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier speaking in Tbilisi says that Germany does not recognize the agreement signed between Moscow and the breakaway region of Abkhazia
10 December 2014	The foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey meet in the Turkish city of Kars to continue the format of trilateral meetings launched in 2012 to contribute to the consolidation of regional stability and security
11 December 2014	Armenian Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan meets with his counterpart Irakli Garibashvili in Tbilisi and says that modernization of border crossing points between the two countries was discussed
13 December 2014	Former Georgian deputy interior minister Eka Zguladze is granted Ukrainian citizenship and is expected to take the same position in the Ukrainian government with the hope that she will eradicate corruption in the Ukrainian traffic police.
14 December 2014	Azerbaijani opposition activists demand the release of political prisoners during a rally in Baku
14 December 2014	Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili visits Ashgabat and meets with Turkmenistan's President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov to discuss economic cooperation between the two countries, including trade and tourism
16 December 2014	The mandate of the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in Georgia is extended for two more years
18 December 2014	The European Parliament ratifies the Association Agreement between the EU and Georgia, including the deep and comprehensive free trade agreement, during its session in Strasbourg
20 December 2014	Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili says he is ready for results-oriented talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin following the latter's remarks during an annual news conference that there is a possibility of a meeting between the Georgian and Russian leaderships
20 December 2014	The Georgian Ministry of Defense expresses condolences in a statement over the death of a Georgian volunteer in eastern Ukraine in battle and says that "representatives of former authorities" are to blame for his death as they encourage Georgian citizens to fight in Ukraine
22 December 2014	The Georgian Ministry of Defense apologizes for a statement published after the death of a Georgian volunteer in eastern Ukraine following widespread condemnation
26 December 2014	Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili distances the government from former Georgian army officers fighting in Ukraine and emphasizes that only humanitarian aid is provided to Ukraine by Georgia
26 December 2014	A parliamentary session in the Georgian town of Kutaisi is disrupted when

	scuffles break out between parliamentarians of the opposition UNM party and the ruling Georgian Dream coalition
28 December 2014	The Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Baku bureau is raided by Azerbaijani prosecutors who say they have a court ruling that the office should be closed down
29 December 2014	US State Department spokesman Jeff Rathke expresses concern over the human rights situation in Azerbaijan following the crackdown on RFE/RL's Baku office

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