15 Jun '12

Daily News Online



Last updated: 15:45 - 15 Jun.'12



## **BANK OF GEORGIA**

Home News Politics Defense Photos Economy Interview Elections Archive

## Russia Warns Against Travel to Georgia

Civil Georgia, Tbilisi / 12 Apr. 12 / 17:57



The Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on April 12, that since this February three citizens of Russia had been subject to criminal persecution upon arrival in Georgia for violating Georgia's law on occupied territories. One of the provisions of that law makes it illegal in Georgia to enter into breakaway Abkhazia and South Ossetia from territories other than those controlled by Tbillisi. The law also sets whole set of exceptions to this rule. Violation of the law can result into a fine or a jail term from two to four years. The Russian Foreign Ministry said that in two cases Russian citizens were released after paying fine and in the most recent case one person was remaining held in detention in Zugdidi, western Georgia, pending investigation.

Russia called on Georgia to revise this law in early March after Georgia unilaterally lifted visa requirements for the Russian citizens. At the time Russia conditioned reciprocating with lifting visa rules for Georgian citizens to revision of this law by Tbilisi, but Georgia responded it would not change its law and if Russia wanted to reciprocate it should do it without preconditions.

The Russian Foreign Ministry also said on April 12, that the Georgian special services "continue systematic capturing of and repressions against Russians arriving" in Georgia.

It also said that President Saakashvili's visit on the Russian border at the Kazbegi-Zemo Larsi crossing point on April 9 and welcoming Russian citizens arriving in Georgia was part of his "propaganda".

"The Russian Foreign Ministry once again draws attention to absence of security for our citizens in Georgia and recommends refraining from traveling to this country," it said.

Georgian President's spokesperson, Manana Manjgaladze, said on April 10 that since Georgia's unilateral decision to lift visa rules with Russia on February 29, number of visits from Russia reached 30,000, which, she said, was a 70% increase over the same period of last year.

Anbefal

Vær den første af vennerne, der anbefaler dette.

Share Tweet 0

## RELATED

Lavrov to Georgia: Revoke Law on Occupied Territories

Moscow 'Disappointed' by Tbilisi's No to Restoring Diplomatic Ties

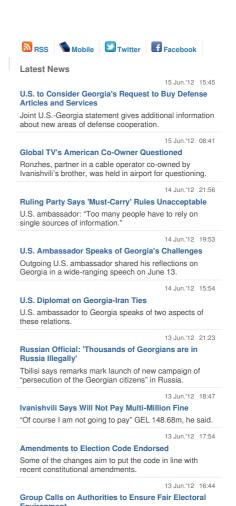
Tbilisi to Russia: 'Reciprocate on Visa without Preconditions'

Moscow Sets Condition for Reciprocating on Visa-Free Rules, Offers Restoring Diplomatic Ties

Georgia Says Visits by Foreign Citizens Increased 39.4% in Q1

About Civil Georgia Civil.Ge © 2001-2008, Daily News Online Registered office: 2 Dolidze Str, 4-th Floor. 65

9,265,448 Visitors Since July 1, 2001



Watchdog and media organizations call on Saakashvili "to immediately carry out adequate measures."

Ivanishvili Says Return of Georgian Products to

Ivanishvili campaigned in Samegrelo region on June 12.

Russian Market Not a Problem