

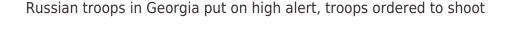
Russian troops in Georgia put on high alert, troops ordered to shoot

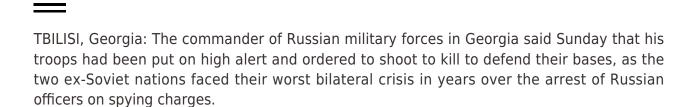
By Global Research

Global Research, October 02, 2006

The News Pakistan 2 October 2006

Region: Russia and FSU





Gen. Andrei Popov said the Russian law authorizes the military to use force to defend their bases abroad from aggression. "We are ready to thwart any possible attempts to penetrate our facilities using all means, including shoot to kill," he told reporters.

Moscow, infuriated by Wednesday's arrest of four Russian officers, recalled its ambassador, evacuated its citizens and denounced Georgia as a "bandit" state.

Ties between Tbilisi and Moscow had already been strained over Georgia's bid to join NATO, and allegations that Russia was backing two Georgian separatist provinces.

Moscow denies that claim.

Along with some 2,500 peacekeepers in breakaway provinces of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, Russia has between 3,000 and 4,000 troops at two military bases in Georgia that it pledged to withdraw by the end of 2008 under a deal signed last year.

Russian Gen. Alexander Baranov, the commander of the North Caucasus military district, said Saturday that Moscow was suspending planning for further withdrawals because of the officers' arrests.

Popov reaffirmed Sunday that scheduled troop withdrawal from the two Russian military bases left in Georgia after the collapse of the Soviet Union could be affected by the spy scandal.

`If the situation continues to worsen, we would be physically unable to fulfill the task to withdraw weapons and equipment," he said.

Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page

Become a Member of Global Research

Articles by: Global Research

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca