



UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES
United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE

PR/2007/83
Tbilisi, 15 March 2007

**UNOMIG CLARIFICATION ON THE ONGOING JFFG INVESTIGATION
IN THE UPPER KODORI VALLEY**

A number of media have carried reports that the UN would have found evidence of Russian gunship involvement in the missile attacks in the upper Kodori valley on 11 March 2007.

The Mission recalls that the investigation into last Sunday's events is carried out by the Joint Fact Finding Group (JFFG). The JFFG, while headed by the United Nations Observation Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), also includes representatives from the Georgian Government, the Abkhaz de facto authorities and the Peacekeeping Forces of the CIS. The JFFG, which has been in existence since January 2000, can be convened by UNOMIG's Chief Military Observer or requested by any of the other participants. Its conclusions reflect the views of all four members of the JFFG.

Since 13 March, the JFFG has been examining the multiple sites of Sunday's incident. The United Nations has not made any preliminary assessment or engaged into speculation as to the outcome of the investigation, whether it relates to the kind of weaponry involved in the incident or its origin. On 13 March the Secretary-General's spokesperson at United Nations Headquarters made it clear that the United Nations would not comment on the contents of the enquiry until the JFFG has concluded its work.

In view of the gravity and sensitivity of the events reported last Sunday, UNOMIG commends the Government of Georgia for having promptly agreed to activate the JFFG, which offers the best guarantees of transparency. The Mission appreciates the willingness of all members of the JFFG to contribute their expertise to the investigation.

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