

Hello, it is my honor to address you today,

My name is Tamar Oniani and I represent Georgian Coalition for the ICC, and Georgian Young Lawyers' Association, I am also representative lawyer of more than 3 hundred victims of the August 2008 war before the European Court of Human Rights.

First of all, I would like to send my condolences to all the Ukrainian families and everyone at the global level who ever encountered the gravest results of the international crimes.

More than 14 years after the 2008 August War, the consequences of the international crimes committed back then are still impacting victims' lives today. As you know, about 28,000 ethnic Georgians have been displaced and 20% of Georgia remains occupied by the Russian Federation. The victims and communities living in the conflict zone are subject to the ongoing persecution in the villages along the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL) to the occupied Tskhinvali region (South Ossetia) and this fact was once again attested by the recent CoE Secretary General's Consolidated Report which says human rights challenges persist in conflict-affected areas in Georgia.

The situation is further aggravated by the fact that violated rights have not been restored, nor has justice been served 14 years after the war, what we recently received is 3 arrest warrants issued by the pre-trial chamber in June 2022 against the representatives of the separatist regimes, and not against directly the officials acting on behalf of the Russian federation, while the involvement of Russian officials and the degree of their participation in the 2008 August War is confirmed by numerous international institutions. Now it is critically important for these decisions to be executed in a due manner in order not to have the victims' hopes disappointed even more.

The victims live in unbearable Socio-economic conditions in the places of resettlement and near the administrative boundary line. The grave housing conditions, the non-existence of the employment opportunities, impossibility of agricultural work, lack of medical services, **lack of income generating activities** and educational opportunities are especially problematic.

Now I want to speak about trust fund. According to the information disseminated by the Trust Fund, the program is addressed for victims of the 2008 August War who live in the IDP settlements, as well as those living on both sides of the administrative boundary line. However, as it seems now, the program covers only rehabilitation direction, and there is not a focus on the support for the improvement of the livelihood conditions and income generating activities which is more than essential for them.

Therefore, the main call of my speech today is for first to enhance cooperation for the execution of the decisions of the arrest warrants, and to support the trust fund in order to have income generating activities for the victims of the 2008 war.

Impunity for Russia for all these past actions accumulated in gravest crimes now in Ukraine. So maybe it is time for the international justice system in general to find more effective ways out than it did in past and also more effective ways how to provide more victim-oriented justice system.