



PGA Statement on the current situation in Georgia

PGA continues to monitor, with growing consternation, the deteriorating and unfolding situation in the territory of Georgia

PGA believes that the intense fighting in the South Ossetian conflict zone, if it continues unchecked, could escalate very precipitously with a consequentially devastating impact in the wider region.

PGA wishes to recall that, in addition to the more customary panoply of serious crimes as defined under domestic laws, the killing of innocent civilians can also be qualified as a crime against humanity or, in case of armed conflict, as a war crime, both under domestic and international law.

PGA therefore urges all engaged in these hostilities to declare a cease fire and to end military action immediately, without pre-conditions, to ensure full protection of civilians and the territorial integrity of Georgia

PGA further extends its appreciation for the efforts of the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, Finnish Foreign Minister Alexander Stubb and the French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner, to seek a prompt resolution to this crisis.

PGA urges its members in the Georgian and Russian Federation parliaments pro-actively to consult with each other and reflect on possible short and long terms means of addressing the concerns in the region.

PGA expresses its heartfelt condolences to the the families, relatives and friends of the victims of the fighting of the past few days in the South Ossetia area.