

COST OF CONFLICT: Core Dimensions of the Georgian-South Ossetian Context

Center for Peacemaking Practice, George Mason University, USA
<http://scar.gmu.edu/cpp>



2016

"... Somewhere, deep inside in my consciousness, I admit the possibility that the war could really start again. So I am not sure that it will never happen. Nobody knows what tomorrow will bring. My generation grew up in war. We got used to it. We became accustomed to it. At certain times we even feel more comfortable with the fighting than with civilian life. During the fighting, we clearly understand how and what we do, as opposed to a peaceful life. And yes, I understand, this is how we grew up. And it's wrong. It should not be like this. I do not want future generations to also grow up with arms and do the same as we did. And I'd rather do more than allow that them to grow up with arms again. Because, if each generation grows up with arms, then we don't move forward, but rather go back ... Recently, I often see dreams. Sometimes, these are just dreams about fighting. Sometimes, I see the events and those days when there was actual fighting. In these dreams sometimes I get killed, but more often I kill, or those who are around me get killed. I do not want to call these dreams prophetic, I don't want them to happen in reality. Let it all be just a dream. There you can be reborn as in a computer game. You cannot worry about those who are near you. But the fact that these dreams come more often than in the past, suggests the idea that something could begin again. Something that I ... really, really... do not want ... "

Tskhinval resident

"... You are talking about the cost of the conflict? The cost of conflict is huge. All paid a heavy price. I talk less about the material costs, although those are also very high. I want to talk more about the psychological cost. I personally went through significant trauma. All the best I had, the best years of my life, my youth, I gave to this conflict. So many nerves and emotional stress went into this conflict. All my life and, probably in the future until the conflict is settled, I will be haunted by thoughts about why this conflict started and how to resolve it. In my opinion, this is the biggest cost. The soul hurts the most because our children, the next generation will be alienated from each other. They will never know and never will believe in the warmth and love that existed between Georgians and Ossetians. For example, I am very hurt and sad that my school, the fourth middle school in Tskhinvali, was burnt down. My best memories are related to my school. I will never be able to come to my school and remember the best years of my childhood. After all, this certainly is a very high cost. And not to be biased, I would say that the same price was paid on the other side, because I'm sure that a lot of people also think as I think. And they also believe that the world has no alternative. The price that both sides paid was huge. The war has a big belly, and, to feed it, both Georgian and Ossetian sides had to pay a huge price ... "

Dvani resident



COST OF CONFLICT:

Core Dimensions of the Georgian-South Ossetian Context

2016

Editors: *Dina Alborova, Susan Allen, Nino Kalandarishvili*

Publication Manager: *Margarita Tadevosyan*

Circulation: 100

© George Mason University, USA