

South Caucasus

Russia Starts Large-Scale Military Exercises in Disputed Territories

The New York Times – March 5, 2015

Russia has large-scale military exercise in disputed territories including South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The exercise involves over 2000 anti-aircraft troops and 500 items of weaponry. It will last until 10th April like Interfax news agency reported. Exercise can be viewed in the West as a show of force in current tense relations between the West and Russia.

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/03/05/world/europe/05reuters-ukraine-crisis-russia-military.html>

On Crimea Anniversary, Russia Signs South Ossetia Deal

Deutsche Welle – March 18, 2015

Russia has signed treaty with South Ossetia – Georgian breakaway region. According to critics it paves the way for Russia to annex South Ossetia. In practice Russia also tightened its control over South Ossetia.



<http://www.dw.de/on-crimea-anniversary-russia-signs-south-ossetia-deal/a-18323719>

Armenia and Azerbaijan Clash Over Separatist Region

The New York Times – March 19, 2015

At least three Armenian soldiers were killed during clashes with Azerbaijan.

But the two sides gave conflicting accounts about who was to blame.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/20/world/middleeast/armenia-and-azerbaijan-clash-over-separatist-region.html?_r=0

Georgia Protests: Thousands Turn Out in Tbilisi Demanding Government Step Down

International Business Times – March 21, 2015

Thousands of protesters were demanding president Margvelashvili and his government to step down. Supporters of former president Saakashvili want to get closer to Europe and weaken influence of Russia.

<http://www.ibtimes.com/georgia-protests-thousands-turn-out-tbilisi-demanding-government-step-down-1854778>



Nagorno-Karabakh Says Three Soldiers Killed in Fighting

The New York Times - March 19, 2015

The defense ministry of separatist Nagorno-Karabakh region said three of its soldiers were killed and another four were wounded while repelling an Azerbaijani incursion. Azerbaijani on the other side blamed the Armenian side for clash.

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/03/19/world/europe/ap-eu-armenia-nagorno-karabakh.html>

Azerbaijan Frees Two Opposition Activist in Amnesty

The Daily Mail – March 19, 2015

Two jailed opposition activists in Azerbaijan have been pardoned and released as part of a wider amnesty announced by President Ilham Aliyev, state media said on Thursday.

Analysts say Aliyev has included some political prisoners in amnesties in recent years to smooth down Western criticism over the human rights record in Azerbaijan, a mainly Muslim ex-Soviet republic with oil and gas wealth.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3002317/Azerbaijan-frees-two-opposition-activists-amnesty.html>