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**NDI CONDEMNS MILITARY ATTACK ON GEORGIA;
CALLS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE EFFORTS**

The National Democratic Institute (NDI) today condemned the military attack in the Republic of Georgia and called for continuing international efforts to reach a peaceful resolution.

“Despite the Russian government’s order to halt the military action, the crisis extended well beyond the contours of the South Ossetian conflict and threatened the sovereignty and territorial integrity of an independent country and its democratically elected government,” said Madeleine K. Albright, chairman of NDI. “We are deeply concerned about the widespread loss of civilian lives and displacement of citizens.”

“Most immediately, the international community must broker and enforce a ceasefire and provide humanitarian assistance to those in need. A lasting resolution must also include impartial international mediation of the conflict, in the context of full respect for Georgia’s internationally recognized borders,” added Albright. “The attack on Georgia sends a chilling message about the independence and democratic prospects of countries throughout the region. Our thoughts are with the people of Georgia as they face this serious challenge.”

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