

Grid stabilization south ossetia

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Since the 1990s, South Ossetia has sporadically erupted into multiple deadly conflicts. Three people affected by these conflicts recount their experiences.

One may need a good reason to reach South Ossetia, and it can take a while. Approaching it in October last year, I could see the solid granite mountain tops already covered by snow. Driving further south, you face a growing mountain wall, that later becomes a world of Autumn colours - yellow, orange, and green - that, combined with the fresh air of the mountains, is rather like experiencing a fantastic example of National Geographic 4D reportage.

Half-hidden in the hills you start seeing the Massygs or Vainakhs, tower-like stone constructions common to the Caucasian region, which have served as dwellings or military fortresses for the past two thousand years. Almost without noticing, we entered Tskhinval/-i,\* South Ossetia's main city.

When I arrived, I saw a clean city, planned in a grid with high pines everywhere and mountains ever-present. The first thing you notice is the absence of traffic; there is a slow pace to things in general. I felt like time had stopped.

South Ossetia is also the place where the stories of the following three individuals unfold:

Sarka\*\* lived with her husband and two young sons in South Ossetia, when the 1991-92 conflict caught them by surprise. Her husband died unexpectedly and, during the harsh economic years following the fall of the Soviet Union, Sarka was unable to afford a permanent residence. She and her children were forced to wander, switching rented rooms 12 times until someone noticed their harsh situation and provided accommodation in exchange for help with the bills.



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