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Georgia to investigate war crime allegations related to conflicts in Ossetia

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By Agencies

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Georgian Chief Prosecutor Archil Kbilashvili on Tuesday set up an eight-member inquiry team to investigate alleged criminal acts during and after the August 2008 conflict in South Ossetia.

He said that the investigators would look into allegations of war crimes, that included attacks against Russian peacekeepers by the Georgian troops, attacks against civilians by both the Georgian and Russian troops, destruction of civilian properties, forcible displacement of civilian population, torture and other ill-treatment, and pillage of ethnic Georgian villages.

A similar investigation went underway with Georgia's previous government and is currently under preliminary consideration by the office of the Hague-based International Criminal Court.

Georgia is a state party to the Rome Statute under which the International Criminal Court was formed to prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

An International Criminal Court report dated December 2011 read in part that both Georgian and Russian appeared to be conducting relevant national investigations into these allegations. "Four years after the events (of the armed conflict), however, neither investigation has yielded any result."

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