



Georgia : woman in Gori, wounded in bombing by Russian forces on August 9, 2008. Shot by RVN Moscow cameraman Dmitry Madorsky.

2008 JOURNALISTS OF THE YEAR VIDEO STORY OF THE YEAR

The year's single best video story or package

GEORGIA WAR

"Reuters Television's outstanding work on the Georgia War is a terrific illustration of how a committed, hardworking team can, even in difficult reporting conditions, produce essential coverage of a critical story with major market-moving potential."

– David Schlesinger, Editor-in-Chief, Reuters

WINNER OVERVIEW

Reuters Television dominated this story from the very start, with coverage of Georgia's assault overnight on August 7-8 to regain control of the breakaway region's capital, Tskhinvali. We had a major global exclusive with the opening shots of the conflict thanks to David Chkhikvishvili's footage of Georgian artillery firing against what Tbilisi says was an imminent Russian advance into South Ossetia. The images became the iconic shots of the conflict for millions of people around the world, although most may not realize that they came from Reuters.

Reuters TV was first to provide coverage and live transmissions from the town of Gori, hit by Russian air strikes on August 9. Broadcasters around the world switched to our live signal, which showed devastation in the foreground and fighting to the north in the direction of South Ossetia and Tskhinvali. We were the only independent news gathering organization in Abkhazia, as separatists there backed by Russian forces pushed out the Georgian army from the strategic Kodori Gorge.

The TV file over the conflict period included our own images from Tskhinvali, of Ossetian and Georgian refugees fleeing the conflict zone, of the Russian navy enforcing a blockade of Georgia's Black Sea ports, and of the diplomatic moves that finally resulted in a French-brokered ceasefire. We provided a total of 68 live transmissions for our subscribers from Gori, Tbilisi, Tskhinvali, Alaghir, and Moscow. We were considerably superior to APTN in live coverage.

Thanks to the strenuous efforts of producer Nino Ivanishvili and the Reuters Moscow team led by Kate de Pury, Reuters consistently outperformed its rivals—especially in the early days of the conflict.

The team covering the Georgia War included: David Chikhvishvili, David Mikautadze, Nino Ivanishvili, Nikolai Pavlov, Dmitry Madorsky, Sergei Karazy, Nikolai Isayev, Vladimir Bomko, Kazbek Basayev, Ilya Kachaev, Sasha Reshetnikov, Olga Petrova, Irina Narodnitskaya, Kate de Pury, Leon Malherbe, Omer Berberoglu, Emin Caliskan, Shafik Qassem, Guy Desmond, Jennifer Marostica-Williams, and Soheil Afdjei.

**2008 JOURNALISTS OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

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