

NATO Raps Russia for Expanding Border Into Georgia

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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BRUSSELS — NATO has criticized Russia for expanding its border deeper into Georgia's breakaway Abkhazia region, a move Moscow has portrayed as a temporary step to expand a security zone around the Sochi Winter Olympics.

"We have noted the recent decision to temporarily extend the so-called border zone of Abkhazia further into Georgian territory without the Georgian government's consent," NATO chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen said.

"We are very concerned about that decision," he told a news conference in Brussels on Wednesday after talks with Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili.

Georgia condemned Russia last month for shifting its boundary with Georgia 11 kilometers deeper into Abkhazia, calling it an "illegal action" that violates Georgian sovereignty. Russia says it is a temporary step to create a security buffer around the Olympics in Sochi, which is

close to Abkhazia.

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