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KOKOITY, Eduard Dzhabeyevich

President of the Republic of South Ossetia
09/26/2009

Eduard Kokoity (Эдуард Джабеевич Коккойты) was born on October 31, 1964 in the South Ossetian town of Tskhinvali. He has been president of the Republic of South Ossetia since 2001.



As a teenager Kokoity was a freestyle wrestling champion. After working as an electrician for three years in the early 1980s, he served in the Soviet military between 1983 and 1985 in Kursk.

Upon completion of his military service, Kokoity enrolled at the South Ossetian State Pedagogical University and graduated in 1988, specializing in physical education. Kokoity started his Komsomol career while still at university and between 1988 to 1990 was the secretary of the Tskhinvali Komsomol Committee. In the early 1990s, Kokoity was a member of the South Ossetian parliament.

Kokoity fought in the war between Georgia and South Ossetia that took place from 1990 to 1992, heading a unit under the command of Gri Kochiev. After the war, Kokoity went into business in Moscow as well as running a charity that supported Ossetian war veterans. He joined Frang in 1996, a company which fostered Russian-Ossetian trade links and managed real estate in Moscow and St. Petersburg. Some Georgian officials accused him of smuggling drugs and arms in the mid 1990s.

In 1997 Kokoity was appointed trade representative to Russia and two years later he became an assistant to South Ossetian Dume deputy Anatoly Chekoyev. In 2000 he was made general director of Frang, serving in this role until he became head of the For Ossetia social movement the following year.

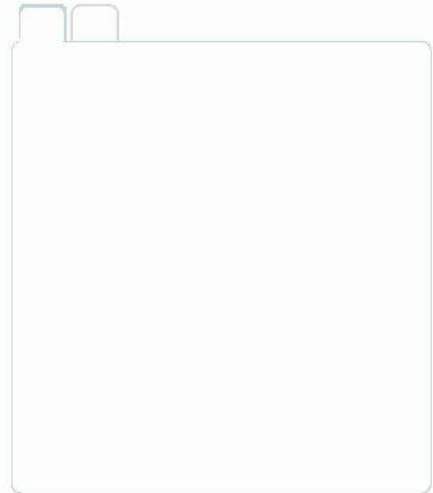
In December 2001 Kokoity won South Ossetian presidential elections in the second round, with 53 percent of the vote, compared to his nearest rival Stanislav Kochiev's 26 percent. Kokoity had a number of powerful allies during the campaign, including the Ossetian diaspora in Moscow, North Ossetian President Alexander Dzasokhov and the Tedeyev family. Kokoity took office on December 18.

In 2003, Kokoity broke links with the Tedeyev family, members of which he had appointed to prominent positions in the Ossetian customs service and security council.

Kokoity is against reunification with Georgia, but has said he is prepared to negotiate a peace treaty, if Georgia recognizes South Ossetian independence.

On November 12, 2006, Kokoity was reelected president of South Ossetia, with 96 percent of the votes. During the 2008 South Ossetian War, Kokoity led the South Ossetian Armed Forces. The conflict led to the deaths of an estimated 1,500 South Ossetian citizens and the displacement of a further 30,000, before Russian troops intervened to end the fighting. Kokoity signed the peace treaty to end the conflict on August 14, in the Kremlin.

Four days later Kokoity dismissed the government and declared a month-long state of emergency. On August 21, 2008 South Ossetia and another breakaway Georgian region Abkhazia appealed to the Russian government to recognize their independence. Four days later the Federation Council and the State Duma recognized the two states' independence. On August 27, Kokoity announced he would allow the Russian military to set up a base in South Ossetia. He refused to allow peacekeepers from countries suggested by Georgia, including the United States.



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Occupy Tskhinvali A "Protest Vote" in Tskhinvali Exposes Deep Frustrations for South Ossetians

By Andrew Roth
Russia Profile,
11/15/2011

Two candidates are in a tight race for the coveted title of president of South Ossetia, the Georgian breakaway republic with a 70,000-plus population recognized by only five countries in the world. Voters on Saturday launched what observers have called a "protest vote," opting by a small margin for the opposition candidate in lieu of Moscow's preferred choice. Yet experts and local press disagree about just how united Moscow's bureaucrats really are behind the establishment candidate, and how much pressure Russia is putting on the South Ossetian government to pick the right man in the coming run-off elections. >>

DZHIOEVA, Alla Alexandrovna South Ossetian Politician

11/30/2011
Alla Dzhioeva (Алла Александровна Джиоева) was born August 23, 1949 in Staliniri, South Ossetia. A former education minister of the de-facto Republic of South Ossetia, in late 2011 she ran in presidential elections in the republic, winning in the second round, before the result was cancelled, amid allegations of vote rigging. >>

BIBILOV, Anatoly Ilych South Ossetian Emergencies Minister and Presidential Candidate

12/05/2011
Anatoly Bibilov was born February 6, 1970 in Tskhinvali, South Ossetia. Bibilov had a

9/16/2015

Russia Profile - Background People - KOKOITY, Eduard Dzhabeyevich

By Justin Lyle

In late 2011, presidential elections were held in South Ossetia to choose a successor for Kokoity, whose term of office is due to expire at the end of December 2011. Kokoity, who is constitutionally banned from serving a second term made no attempt to amend the constitution. He backed Anatoly Bibilov against Alla Dzhioeva in the contest which ended in controversy following a second round of voting. Preliminary results indicated that Dzhioeva had won, but the Supreme Court annulled the vote. Fresh elections, in which Dzhioeva is banned from taking part are scheduled for March 25, 2012.

Kokoity is married and has three sons.

successful career in the military before being appointed the de-facto Republic of South Ossetia's Emergencies Minister in 2008. He was a South Ossetian presidential candidate in elections held in late 2011. >>

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