

# Friday, December 08, 2006

## Snapshot: Border Crossing Armenia-Georgia

Earlier this morning some observations that in themselves can almost serve as indicators:

- Number of trucks waiting on Armenian customs, headed towards Georgia: 51
- Number of interlocutors who had any idea what the reason for the actual problem was: 0
- Number of types of uniforms worn by officials on the Armenian side: 5 (probably more)
- Number of officials, or people acting as officials, wearing no recognisable uniform on the Armenian side: 6 (likely more)

If you want to get a first class fake \$20 bill, pay your \$30 Armenian visa with a \$50 banknote. I have now twice seen the friendly Armenian official returning a fake 20\$ bill as change for the 50\$ he received. Visually, the bill is almost perfect. The only significant difference is in its feel. ([Recently](#), it was claimed that large-scale production of counterfeit currency can be traced to South Ossetia)