

## Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine releases statement in support of Georgian territorial integrity for 14<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Russian invasion of Georgia

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine issued a statement in support of Georgia on the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Russia-Georgia 2008 war.

Ukraine supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia and states that the no proper response of the world community to the 2008 war led to the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2014 and 2022.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, the territories of Georgia and Ukraine should be de-occupied, and Russian war criminals should be held accountable. The MFA of Ukraine also writes that the aggressor Russia can be stopped by the unity of the international community, sanctions against Russia, and the help of the countries affected by Russia's aggression.

"August 7, 2022 marks fourteen years since the beginning of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Georgia. Until now, Russia continues its aggressive policy against Georgia, keeps under occupation Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region / South Ossetia grossly violates human rights in these Georgian territories.

Ukraine firmly supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders.

Having received no proper response to its aggression against Georgia from the international community in 2008, Russia con-



tinued its aggression against Ukraine in 2014. It had occupied Crimea as well as a part of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Since February 24, 2022, Kremlin wages a full-scale war against Ukraine.

We are convinced that it is possible to stop the aggressive policy of the Russian Federation together through joint efforts of the international community,

full compliance with the sanctions against Russia and comprehensive support from the part of the countries suffering from Russian aggression.

Russia must de-occupy Georgian and Ukrainian territories. Russian war criminals must be brought to account." The MFA of Ukraine statement reads.

On August 7, 2008, the long-standing Russian-Georgian con-

flict turned into open military aggression by Russia, resulting in hundreds of deaths, ethnic cleansing, and Russia's occupation of two regions of Georgia.

As a result of the interventions of the Russian occupying forces, 228 Georgian civilians, 170 soldiers, and 14 policemen died. 150,000 people left their homes, and most of them are still displaced.

Georgia is still facing Russia's so-called borderization, disinformation, and anti-west, anti-American, pro-Russian propaganda on a daily basis. Russia continues its creeping occupation, erects barbed wire fences, seizes Georgian lands, seizes people's properties and kidnaps, murders, and illegally holds Georgian citizens captive in jails.



Ministry of  
**Foreign Affairs**  
of Ukraine

### The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER  
STAFF

**'14 years have passed since the war of August 2008, but its consequences are still acutely felt' Public Defender issues a statement**

The public defender's office has released a statement saying that even though 14 years have passed since the war, its consequences are still acutely felt by the population remaining in the occupied territories and living in

the vicinity of the dividing line. According to the statement, the situation of internally displaced persons is also serious, who are still not given the opportunity to return to their homes. As a result of the conflicts of the 1990s and 2008, 289,925 internally displaced persons are registered in Georgia.

"The so-called illegal practice of arresting people for illegal border crossing. In contrast to the previous years, when the occupation regime was limited to the

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7178; Euro - 2.7806; GBP - 3.2959; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.4781; Swiss Franc - 2.8456

# Georgia receives International support letters on the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Russia-Georgia war

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Georgia has received several international support letters from friendly countries and institutions in time for Russian aggression's 14<sup>th</sup> year anniversary on August 7.

The United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee expressed its support to Georgia on the 14th anniversary of the 2008 Russia-Georgia war.

According to the committee, Russia's invasion of Georgia 14 years ago was an illegal, aggressive act.

The US Senate declares that Russia should stop occupying the territories of neighboring countries.

"14 years ago, Russia began its invasion of Georgia, an illegal act of aggression against a sovereign country. Today, we reaffirm our support for Georgia. Abkhazia & South Ossetia are Georgian territories.

Russian occupation of its neighbors' territory must end."

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lietuva expressed its support for the sovereignty and



territorial integrity of Georgia as well.

The MFA of Lietuva states that the world should have stopped Russia 14 years ago, but we failed to learn the lesson.

"Lietuva stands in firm support of Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty. 14y ago Russia invaded Georgia. The aggression showed renewed & ever-expanding Russian revanchism. The world must have stopped Putin then. Les-

sons weren't learnt. Russia Must be stopped in Ukraine now. Enough is enough", MFA of Lietuva wrote on Twitter.

Georgia received a support letter from the European Parliament as well, as members of the "Georgian Contact Group" MEPs published a joint statement, in which they condemned the Russian occupation and expressed their support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia.

The statement is signed by:

Petras Austrevichus, Michael Galler, Marina Kaljurand, Andrius Kubilius, Sven Mikser and Viola von Cramon.

According to MEPs, Russia's aggression in Georgia in 2008 went largely unpunished, and this led to the annexation of Crimea in 2014 and Russia's invasion of Ukraine today.

## MEPs condemn Russia's occupation of Georgia and illegal actions.

"14 years ago today, on August 7, 2008, in blatant violation of international law, Russia launched a war of aggression against Georgia. The ramifications of this war are now vividly felt all over Europe. Russian aggression that went largely unpunished has engendered the Annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the full-scale illegal, unjustified, and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine in 2022.

On this day, we reaffirm our unwavering support for Georgia's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity

within its internationally recognized borders. We condemn Russia's continued illegal occupation, the so-called borderisation, crippling occupation, the so-called passportization, as well as other steps towards the de-facto annexation of Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia.

In this light, we welcome the Judgment of the ECtHR establishing Russia's guilt in the grave human rights violations committed in the occupied regions of Georgia and call on the Russian Government to fulfill its obligation taken under the EU-mediated 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement and withdraw its military and security forces from Georgia's internationally recognized territories," the statement reads.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Pekka Haavisto also expressed strong support for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Georgia.

"On the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conflict between Russia and Georgia, I reaffirm Finland's strong support for Georgia's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. According to international law, Abkhazia and South Ossetia belong to Georgia," Haavisto said.

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Takalandze on July 26, 2022," "Along with the illegal arrests



determination of administrative offenses and the imposition of appropriate fines for detainees, the cases of long-term illegal imprisonment have become more frequent in the recent period. A clear example of this is the fact of the illegal arrest of Georgian citizen Kristine

of citizens, there are frequent cases of beating, ill-treatment, and torture of prisoners in temporary detention centers and prisons in the occupied territories; For example, the cases of Gennady Bestaev, Anri Ateiba, and Khvicha Mghebrishvili.

Public Defender also discussed educational issues caused by the illegal so-called borderization, saying:

"In the occupied territories, there is a difficult situation in terms of access to education in the mother tongue. According to

the decision of the de facto Ministry of Education of occupied Gali, teaching in the Georgian language was completely banned, including in the 11th grade, and the native language was turned into a subject of foreign language and literature.

According to the Ombudsman, the Georgian language is taught only in grades 9-11. Due to the barriers imposed by the occupation regime, the number of students in both occupied regions is decreasing year by year. The Public Defender has been talking in detail about the challenges in realizing the right to education for years in his annual reports," the statement reads.

## We call on Russia to stop illegal actions against Georgia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia releases statement

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia issued a statement that on the 14th anniversary of the occupation, Russia is not fulfilling the cease-fire agree-

ment signed on August 12, 2008, and is expanding illegal control in the occupied regions.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, human rights are fundamentally violated in the regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali. There is ethnic discrimination, and thousands of IDPs cannot return to their homes, which remains a heavy humanitarian burden of the occupation.

"By erecting barbed wire and other barriers on the occupation line, illegal arrests, and kidnappings, a gross violation of human rights, ethnic discrimination of Georgians, it is attacking the security, human rights and humanitarian environment on the ground, thereby, among other things, trying to isolate people living in the occupied territories from the rest of Georgia and the international from the society," announced the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In addition, according to the Ministry, "encouraging impunity in the cases of endangering the lives of Davit Basharui, Giga Ochtozoria, Archil Tatumashvili increases the danger of violence

on ethnic grounds."

The Ministry declares that Georgia "continues to implement the policy of peaceful resolution of the Russia-Georgian conflict" and tries to achieve the smooth development and peaceful development of the country through cooperation with international partners and legal instruments.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs thanks the international partners for their support of the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity and for their contribution to the resolution of the Russia-Georgia conflict, and calls on them to make efforts to de-occupy the territories and ensure peace in the region.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia calls on Russia to "stop illegal and provocative actions against Georgia, respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia, fulfill its obligations to the European Union under the ceasefire agreement of August 12, 2008, withdraw its forces from the territory of Georgia and change the so-called borders of the occupied territories. Illegal decision to recognize independence."

## Weather

Monday, August 8

Day Cloudy  
High: 27°C

Night Partly Cloudy  
Low: 20°C

Tuesday, August 9

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 29°C

Night Partly Cloudy  
Low: 21°C

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