

MFA Clarifies Why Georgia Didn't Join Ukraine's Lawsuit at ICJ



BY NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

More than 40 states support Ukraine's lawsuit against the Russian Federation in the UN International Court of Justice (ICJ) and appeal to Russia to immediately stop the war.

The signatory states of the document, supporting the lawsuit filed in the Hague Court, once again emphasize that Russia has no legal basis for starting and conducting the war, and its actions are in direct contradiction to international law.

Georgia is not among the signatory states of the statement. On this regard the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia has issued the statement.

They emphasized that Georgia, as usual, continues to support Ukraine in international organizations, including in relation to the mentioned issue. In this regard, it is significant that in March 2022, Georgia, along with 39 other states, petitioned the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Hague to initiate an investigation. The investigation has been started and is actively ongoing.

This statement refers to the second court in The Hague - the International Court of Justice (ICJ), where Georgia already joined the statement in support of Ukraine in May 2022. This particular case represents the usual work process, where it concerns the potential involvement of Georgia as a third party in this legal process and the taking of

relevant obligations (the signatories of the said declaration, which are parties to the Convention on Genocide, express their intention to be involved in the said process).

"Based on the fact that Georgia itself has filed lawsuits against Russia in various international courts, taking such commitments in advance may affect the processes conducted by Georgia, to which Georgia has directed its maximum efforts. Georgia will continue to actively support Ukraine in international organizations by engaging with the international community".

It is noted that on March 16, the UN International Court of Justice ordered Russia to immediately stop the military operation, although Moscow did not take into account the decision of the ICJ, which, in turn, implies an additional violation of international norms

Declaration signed by: EU, USA, Great Britain, Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Moldova, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

It is significant that in March Georgia joined the request of 39 states to investigate the war crimes committed in Ukraine by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Article by Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu
Minister of Republic
of Türkiye



"Terrorism has no nationality, ethnicity nor religion. FETO threatens humanity as a whole"

On the evening of July 15, 2016, the "Fethullahist Terrorist Organization" (FETO) launched a bloody coup attempt against the people and the government of my country. Their aim was to establish a radical, fundamentalist regime, loyal only to their ringleader Fetullah Gülen.

As FETO affiliated army units left their barracks to occupy key locations, such as the Bosphorus Bridge in Istanbul and fighter jets and attack helicopters bombed strategic targets including the Parliament, Presidential compound, army and police headquarters; thousands of civilians took to the streets to stop this unprecedented heinous coup attempt. The plotters killed 251 innocent civilians and left thousands injured. On that night the Turkish people defended democracy with their lives. This heroic response was something the conspirators did not foresee.

To understand what transpired, one has to understand the true nature of FETO. FETO was established in the late 1960's as a so-called "religious movement". In the guise of promoting education and inter-religious dialogue, it managed to cover its malign intentions.

The well-planned and wide-spread infiltration by FETO members and converts into the army, law enforcement, judiciary and numerous government institutions, including my Ministry, was carried out for decades clandestinely for an overarching plan, of which the final phase was unleashed on July 15, 2016.

Had the coup attempt succeeded, there would have been a very different Türkiye today. Democracy would not have existed and fundamental rights and freedoms would have been suspended indefinitely. The nation would have fallen in the hands of an extremist government.

FETO not only controlled a significant portion of educational institutions, but also owned numerous financial institutions. Their bank accounts were fed by prominent FETO members in industry and commerce, as well as by officials and members of the public. Many innocent civilians were also lured into contributing to FETO's finances as their piety was manipulated. The enormous income driven from their schools around the globe was channeled into these accounts clandestinely waiting for their ultimate move.

Following the bloody coup attempt of July 15, 2016, a resolute cleansing of the public sector, including government institutions and the military, as well as of the private sector from all FETO affiliated persons and companies was initiated. Some prominent conspirators have been apprehended. Others escaped justice and found refuge in foreign countries. The head of the FETO terrorist organization, Fetullah Gülen, still resides in the United States. Our government has been requesting the extradition of Gülen to Türkiye from the United States as well as that of FETO members from European countries for years. Unfortunately, these requests have not been fulfilled yet.

On the other hand, elsewhere in the world, an increasing number of governments understand the danger this terrorist organization also poses to them and are taking the necessary steps. FETO is also engaged in illegal activities such as visa fraud, money laundering and arms trafficking. Consequently, FETO members are being cleared from public and private sectors in many countries. Many schools affiliated with this terrorist organization abroad have been transferred to the Turkish Maarif Foundation after 2016. Today, Maarif Schools are functioning in many countries and are providing excellent education worldwide.

The nature and scope of Türkiye's fight against FETO is no different than that exercised by other countries against organizations which had terrorized officials and civilians alike, and endangered democratic values, fundamental rights and freedoms. Türkiye is doing what the respective countries in their fight against terrorism have done in the past. All procedures are in compliance with law.

Terrorism does not have a nationality, ethnicity or religion. This menace threatens humanity as a whole. Therefore, the response to this threat must be united and determined. No state has the luxury to differentiate between terrorists and no terrorist organization can be classified as "useful" according to preferences. FETO is responsible for the loss of hundreds of lives as well as other grave crimes against the Turkish people. Six years after July 15, 2016, Türkiye continues its resolute fight against FETO, just as it continues its fight against other terrorist organizations such as the PKK, PYD-YPG, DHKP-C and DAESH.

We expect the international community to stand in solidarity with Türkiye in the fight against terrorism.

EXCHANGE RATES: US DOLLAR - 2.8559 | EURO - 2.8613 | GBP - 3.3808 | 100 RUSSIAN RUBLE - 4.8160 | SWISS FRANC - 2.9020 |

US Senators Initiate Legislative Bill to Establish Strategy Toward Black Sea Region



► US Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Mitt Romney introduced the bipartisan legislation that directs the Administration to develop a strategy toward the Black Sea region.

By KHATIA BZHALAVA

On July 12, US senators initiated an important legislative bill in Congress, confirming the United States' growing interest and firm support towards the Black Sea region and Georgia, the Georgian Foreign Ministry reported. US Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Mitt Romney introduced the bipartisan legislation that directs the Administration to develop a strategy toward the Black Sea region. Senators Thom Tillis, Chris Coons, Roger

Wicker, and Ben Cardin co-sponsored the bill.

The senators note that the Black Sea region has increasingly become a critical point for European and global security amid Russia's unprovoked war in Ukraine and added that now, it has become clear that the United States must have both a strategy and presence in the region.

The bill requires the US Administration to develop a strategy to strengthen coordination between the US, NATO, and partners in the Black Sea to increase se-

curity, support economic prosperity, and promote democracy. The senators say that the national security of the Black Sea region, namely Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria, and Turkey, must be ensured.

Georgian Ambassador to the United States David Zalkaliani hailed the legislation, saying the move marked "the first time" the Senate had asked a US administration to develop a strategy for the region.

According to Zalkaliani, the bipartisan legislation envisaged the strategy to be 'comprehensive', with the main focus on strengthening security and defense capa-

bilities in the Black Sea region.

"It is an important bipartisan legislative initiative that should define the US strategy for the Black Sea region. This is the first time that the US Senate addresses the administration to develop a strategy for the Black Sea region, and it includes the definition of the Black Sea region, which directly refers to Georgia as well," Zalkaliani said.

The Ambassador further stressed that the economic component of the strategy was related to important economic projects that strengthen the stability of the Black Sea region and our defense capability.



► Georgian Ambassador to the US David Zalkaliani stressed that the economic component of the strategy was related to important economic projects that strengthen the stability of the Black Sea region and our defence capability.

NEWS IN BRIEF

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

European Commission representative says to submit a report on the priorities in the enlargement package in 2023, giving the political system of Georgia enough time to thoroughly work on the priorities

We will deliver a report on the top priorities for the expansion package in 2023, as asked by the European Council. According to the representative of the European Commission in the European Parliament, where the draft of the annual report on the implementation of the Association Agreement by Georgia was given, this will give the political system of Georgia the time to carefully work on the priorities.

"Of course, Russian aggression has changed the geopolitical reality. We are pleased to have great support for the Commission's approach to the region. The Commission approved the conclusion on June 17, then the European Council took into account our advice, and we are glad that Georgia has been given a European perspective and will be granted candidate status, as soon as a number of priorities are resolved. We are, of course, very interested in Georgia working hard, deeply and thoroughly on these priorities. Therefore, after careful judgment, we decided not to rush the political elite of Georgia in their efforts to depolarize the country, to sit at the same table, to work thoroughly on reforms. Therefore, as requested by the European Council, we will present a report on priorities in the enlargement package in 2023. This will give the political system of Georgia enough time to thoroughly work on priorities," said the representative of the European Commission.

Association Claims Erdogan's Recent Decision Will Increase Price of Turkish Medicines in Georgia by 30%

In Turkey, the price of medicines intended for the local market is increasing. The corresponding order was issued by the President of the country, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, on July 7. This document establishes new tariffs for pharmaceutical products. The previous order, which has been in effect until now, was adopted in 2017 and the need to revise it arose due to the devaluation of the Turkish national currency, lira. This resolution defines the maximum profit margin that the pharmacy chain and drug supplier can set for a drug of a specific value. The change in tariffs in Turkey affects the medicines available in the pharmacy chains in Georgia, which are imported from the neighboring state. Ketii Kozmanashvili, the head of 'Pharmadepo', confirms with BMG that the supplier has already been warned that when placing a new order, they will have to purchase Turkish drugs at a 25% higher price.

Association of Pharmacists also announces a 25-30% increase in prices, however, as the executive director of the association Ilona Kokiashvili explains, despite the price increase, Turkish drugs will still remain in the cheaper segment compared to European ones. The timing of when the new rates will be reflected in the networks depends on what stocks pharmacies have left over from old purchases.

More than 5 months have passed since the opening of the medicine market in the neighboring country. According to the information of the Ministry of Health on June 24, more than 400 names of medicines imported from Turkey are available in Georgian pharmacy chains. The prices of medicines are reduced by 60% - 80%, compared to previously existing alternatives. According to the agency's statistics, only from March to June 24, more than 155,000 citizens bought medicines imported from Turkey and paid approximately €23 million instead of 74 million at the old prices. Accordingly, citizens saved €51 million during this period.

FRIDAY		JULY 15	
Day		Sunny	
		High: 36°C	
Night		Clear	
		Low: 22°C	
SATURDAY		JULY 16	
Day		Sunny	
		High: 36°C	
Night		Partly cloudy	
		Low: 20°C	

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