

PM Irakli Gharibashvili Meets with President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Garibashvili met with the President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan on February 23 as part of his official visit to Turkey.

The PM later commented on the meeting, tweeting that he has confirmed Georgia's solidarity and strong support to the Republic of Turkey and the Turkish people to President Erdogan.

According to the Prime Minister, Georgia is ready to further provide support.

"Met with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan today in Turkey. Reaffirmed Georgia's solidarity and strong support to Turkey and its people in this difficult time. Georgia is ready to further provide support. We remain committed to the Georgian-Turkish strategic partnership & benefits it brings to our countries and the region," Gharibashvili wrote.

According to Giorgi Janjghava, the Ambassador of Georgia to Turkey, the Prime Minister of Georgia will visit the

zone affected by the earthquake. The planned visit includes the city of Antakya, Hatay province, together with the delegation.

According to the Ambassador, the Prime Minister will have meetings with the local leadership and other officials on the spot.

"The Prime Minister of Georgia, together with the accompanying delegation, will go to the disaster zone, namely, to the city of Antakya in Hatay province, where the earthquake caused the greatest damage to the region. As you know, there is a group of Georgian rescuers in this area, which changed its location through rotation and arrived from Adiyaman. The total number of Georgian rescuers was up to 200 people. The first rotation arrived in the amount of 112 people, then 85 lifeguards were added. Our heroic rescuers saved many lives.

The Prime Minister will have meetings with the local leadership and other officials on the spot. He will also visit the Afadi center, which is the disaster relief headquarters," Janjghava said.



BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

MFA of Georgia Ilia Darchiashvili Delivers a speech at UN General Assembly

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Ilia Darchiashvili, participated in the session of the UN General Assembly in New York, which was held in connection with the anniversary of the war in Ukraine.

In his speech, Ilia Darchiashvili condemned the war waged by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and noted that it is an attack on the entire international order and violates the architecture of global peace and security.

The minister noted that Russia's aggression in Ukraine resulted in severe humanitarian consequences, casualties and mass displacement of the population. According to him, restoration of peace is possible only in the conditions of strong responsibility, through the protection of the basic principles of the United Nations by the member countries of the organization.

Darchiashvili particularly noted the role of the United Nations in maintaining peace in the face of significant global challenges. On behalf of Georgia, he once again expressed his support for the 'Peace Formula' initiative, which, according to him, responds to the protection of the basic values and values of the United Nations, beyond the protection of Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

"Ukraine needs peace, our countries and peoples need peace. The world needs peace. We are facing global challenges of unprecedented scale: climate change, natural disasters, terrorism. This requires our joint efforts, our cooperation. The United Nations can do a lot in this direction. We have to do this for our children, for our future generations," said Ilia Darchiashvili.

The minister noted that Georgia is in



solidarity with the international efforts aimed at supporting Ukraine and emphasized the humanitarian assistance provided by Georgia to Ukraine.

Ilia Darchiashvili also spoke about Russia's occupation of Georgian regions - Abkhazia and Tskhinvali and the difficult situation in the country.

"Almost 15 years have passed since Russia's full-scale war against Georgia and the occupation of 20 percent of its territories, which grossly violates the

principles of the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, and the Paris Charter," Darchiashvili said.

The minister emphasized the importance of joint efforts of the international community.

"Georgia remains committed to the peaceful settlement of the Russian-Georgian conflict, which depends, on the one hand, on the de-occupation of the two regions of Georgia occupied by Russia, and on the other hand, on the reconciliation

and strengthening of trust between the population divided by the lines of occupation. Although Georgia is fully complying with the EU-mediated ceasefire agreement of August 12, 2008, a consolidated approach by the international community is necessary for Russia to fulfill its obligations under the ceasefire agreement and withdraw its military forces from the territory of Georgia. In this regard, Georgia is trying to use the Geneva international negotiations," Darchiashvili explained.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Circle of Russian Aggression Should be Broken, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg Says
NATO Secretary General Jens



Stoltenberg said in an interview with Reuters that with the end of the war in Ukraine, the circle of Russian aggression should be broken. According to him, Russia should not be allowed to undermine European security.

“We don’t know when the war will end, but we know that when this war ends, it must ensure that history does not repeat itself. This is part of a pattern: Georgia in 2008, Donbass, Crimea in 2014, and then a full-scale intervention last year. We must ensure that the circle of Russian aggression is broken. We must not allow Russia to undermine European security. Accordingly, we must ensure that Ukraine has military capabilities, strength, deter aggression, and also find mechanisms so that Russia does not attack anyone again after the end of this war,” said Jens Stoltenberg. According to Stoltenberg, Ukraine and Russia are not equal parties in the war, because one is the aggressor and the other is the victim. “If President Putin and Russia stop fighting, the war will end and we will have peace.” If President Zelenskyy and Ukraine stop fighting, Ukraine will cease to exist as a sovereign, independent country. So, these are not two equal sides - it is the aggressor and the victim of aggression,” said Jens Stoltenberg.

Lelo Gifts Kyiv City Hall Ambulance



Leaders of Lelo for Georgia, during an

official visit to Ukraine, gifted an ambulance to Kyiv City Hall. According to their report, the leaders of Lelo made this decision based on the necessary needs of the Ukrainian people, because one of the main things that a country at war needs today is humanitarian aid. According to Mamuka Khazaradze, chairman of Lelo, support for Ukraine will not be stopped. “Today, Kyiv needed ambulances and the necessary equipment, so we gave this gift to our friends, on behalf of the Georgian people. I promised Vitali [Klitschko] that our help will not stop as it has not stopped for the past year! Glory to the heroes! We will win together!” Mamuka Khazaradze wrote.

Op-Ed

One year of Russia’s war against Ukraine: acting together to ensure international law will prevail



BY JOSEP BORRELL

24 February 2022 will forever be recalled as the day when Russia started its brutal, unprovoked and illegal invasion of Ukraine. This was and remains a case of pure aggression and a clear-cut breach of the UN Charter. This war is neither ‘just a European issue’, nor is it about the ‘West versus the rest’. It is about the kind of world we all want to live in: no one is safe in a world where the illegal use of force – by a nuclear power and permanent

member of the Security Council – would somehow be ‘normalised’. That is why international law must be enforced everywhere to protect everyone from power politics, blackmail and military attack. One year on, there is a risk that people become inured to the images of war crimes and atrocities that they see – because there are so many; that the words we use start to lose their significance – because we have to repeat them so often; that we get tired and weaken our resolve – because time is passing and the task at hand is hard. This we cannot do. Because every day, Russia keeps violating the UN charter, creating a dangerous precedent for the whole world with its imperialist

policy. Every day, Russia keeps killing innocent Ukrainian women, men and children, raining down its missiles on cities and civilian infrastructure. Every day, Russia keeps spreading lies and fabrications. For the European Union and our partners, there is no alternative to staying the course of our ‘triple strategy’: supporting Ukraine, putting pressure on Russia to stop its illegal aggression and helping the rest of the world cope with the fallout. This is what we have been doing for one year now - and successfully so. We have adopted unprecedented sanctions; cut our dependency on Russian fossil fuels; and in close collaboration with key partners reduced by 50% the energy revenues the Kremlin gets to finance its aggression. Working together, we have also mitigated the global ripple effects with food and energy prices declining, partly thanks to our Solidarity Lanes and to the Black Sea Grain Initiative. It is not enough to say that we want Ukraine to be able to defend itself – it needs the means to do so. So, for the first time ever, the EU has supplied weapons to a country under attack. Indeed, the EU is now the leading provider of military training for Ukrainian personnel so they can defend their country. We are

also offering significant macro-financial and humanitarian aid to support the Ukrainian people. And we have decided to respond positively to Ukraine’s request to join the EU. Finally, we are working to ensure accountability for the war crimes that Russia has committed. Ukraine has shown its remarkable resilience, partly thanks to this support. And Russia has grown more isolated, thanks to global sanctions and the international condemnation by the overwhelming majority of states in the UN General Assembly. Our collective goal is and remains a democratic Ukraine that prevails, pushing out the invader, restoring its full sovereignty and, with that, restoring international legality. Above all, we want peace in Ukraine, a comprehensive and lasting peace that is in line with the UN Charter and international law. Supporting Ukraine and working for peace go hand in hand. Russia’s aggressive revisionism and its wider destabilising moves are a global threat, affecting the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries. We have seen the effects of Russia’s propaganda machine, trying to stir up legacies of the past and we see industrial-scale efforts at the manipulation of information and foreign interfer-

ence. That is why the EU is working with partners, in particular our future member states, to counter this threat. A key part of that is also supporting media freedom and political pluralism. We are also increasing our support to conflict resolution efforts in the South Caucasus. More broadly, the Russian invasion has underlined once again that countries and people must be free to determine their own future. The EU has made it clear that we are ready to respond our partners’ wish and integrate the Western Balkans, Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia into our Union and we are working hard to make this goal a reality. This means working together to build more resilient and inclusive societies and economies, develop and protect our democracies and strengthen social cohesion. History and justice are on the side of Ukraine. But to accelerate history and achieve justice, we need to amplify our ‘triple strategy’. We know this is a collective task. That is why the EU is counting on all its partners, to act in a spirit of joint responsibility and solidarity: to ensure that aggression fails and international law prevails. (Press and information team of the Delegation of the European Union to Georgia)

Weather

Friday, February 24
Day Partly Cloudy
High: 6°C
Night Partly Cloudy
Low: -1°C
Saturday, February 25
Day Mostly Cloudy
High: 7°C
Night Mostly Cloudy
Low: -1°C

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