

UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly calls on Russia to Fulfill 2008 Ceasefire Agreement Obligations

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The UK Foreign Secretary, James Cleverly, stated at a briefing held together with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Ilia Darchiashvili that the UK continues to support Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity and called on Russia to fulfill its obligations under the 2008 ceasefire agreement.

James Cleverly thanked Ilia Darchiashvili for a warm welcome and talked about the United Kingdom-Georgia partnership throughout the years.

"Thank you very much for giving me such a warm welcome in Georgia. We had the chance to meet on a number of occasions and talked regularly. Recently, I had the opportunity to host you in London, within the framework of the Wardrop Dialogue, but this is my first opportunity to come to Georgia. I was very warmly received in your beautiful country. Georgia has been an important and valuable strategic partner for the United Kingdom for a long time. Our countries have had a very solid relationship for the last 30 years, since we re-established diplomatic relations, went through a long period of bilateral cooperation, and got the maximum benefit from our historical ties.

I remember the visit of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to your country in 1987. Four years later, the collapse of the Soviet Union took place, and your desire for free-



dom and self-determination was clear even then, and now it is even stronger." Cleverly said.

In his speech, James Cleverly spoke about Russian aggression in Georgia in 2008 and its devastating impact on the country. Cleverly emphasized that South

Ossetia and Abkhazia are integral parts of Georgia and called on Russia to fulfill its 2008 ceasefire agreement obligations:

"Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, a total rejection of international law, territorial integrity and national sovereignty, is

certainly not shocking to you. In 2008, Russia's aggression in Georgia and its continued presence in South Ossetia and Abkhazia caused very deep human suffering, divided the country, families, and limited access to ancestral lands and sacred

religious places.

We continue to support your sovereignty and territorial integrity. South Ossetia and Abkhazia are integral parts of Georgia, and we call on Russia to fulfill its obligations under the 2008 ceasefire agreement," said Cleverly.

UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly Meets with Georgian Government Officials in Tbilisi

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, met with the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, James Cleverly during Cleverly's working visit to Georgia.

According to the information released by the government administration, the strategic partnership between Georgia and the United Kingdom and the high level of political dialogue was emphasized at the meeting. As Irakli Gharibashvili noted, James Cleverly's visit to Georgia emphasizes the positive dynamics of relations between the two countries.

The 'Wardrop Strategic Dialogue' between Georgia and the United Kingdom was discussed at the meeting, which covers the

entire spectrum of cooperation between the two countries and will further strengthen the strategic partnership and cooperation agreement. The importance of fully utilizing the potential of cooperation in various fields was emphasized.

Before meeting Prime Minister Gharibashvili, James Cleverly met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Ilia Darchiashvili. At the joint briefing held after this meeting, he stated that the United Kingdom is and will remain a firm and steadfast friend of Georgia.

Cleverly said that a strong and united NATO is vital for the security of countries in Europe and beyond.

UK Foreign Secretary urged



Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.5800; Euro - 2.7425; GBP - 3.1298; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.3599; Swiss Franc - 2.7814

UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly Meets with Georgian Government Officials in Tbilisi

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Georgia to strengthen its democracy by strengthening commitments to media freedom, civil society, and independence of the judiciary.

“That’s why a specially adjusted package was developed for Georgia in 2023. In 2023, the British Embassy, together with the Romanian Embassy, will act as a NATO contact person in Georgia. Our bilateral defense cooperation goes beyond military

cooperation and includes joint work on cyber security and countering disinformation.

Georgia has made great strides in the development of democracy after the historic visit of Margaret Thatcher. In order to consolidate democracy and strengthen democratic institutions, I urge you to strengthen your commitments to media freedom, civil society, and the independence of the judiciary. We are and will remain a firm and steadfast friend of Georgia.

I am glad to be in Tbilisi today. I expect that our relationship will be even stronger in the future,” said James Cleverly.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Ilia Darchiashvili told reporters after the meeting with UK Foreign Secretary that they discussed the importance of the Black Sea region and drew attention to the special role of Georgia in the energy security of Europe.

According to him, during the conversation, emphasis was

placed on the importance of the transit and logistics regional center. In addition, as Darchiashvili mentioned, the security environment in the region was discussed in detail.

“We talked about the growing importance of the Black Sea region in terms of security, economy, and energy. Considering the new regional context, we focused on Georgia’s special role in ensuring Europe’s energy security and the relevance of connectivity. We emphasized the

importance of Georgia as a transit and logistics regional center. We discussed in detail the current security environment in the region, which has been severely aggravated as a result of Russia’s full-scale military aggression against Ukraine. We exchanged information about active efforts to support Ukraine, be it political, diplomatic, or humanitarian. It was noted that Georgia was the first to experience Russia’s aggression and its consequences,” said Ilia Darchiashvili.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Bill Browder Calls on EU to Impose Sanctions on Those Responsible for Mikheil Saakashvili’s Case

European Union to impose sanctions on those people who are responsible for the condition of Mikheil Saakashvili in prison in an interview with POLITICO.

Browder said that it is time for the European Union to expand its sanctions list to include people who violate human rights

the case of Saakashvili, the facts of violation of human rights are obvious and quick action is needed, because Saakashvili’s life is in danger.

“There needs to be quicker action in this case because if nothing is done, he is going to die,” Browder said.

“The Magnitsky sanctions are not Russian sanctions. These are global... it applies globally. And if somebody is found to be a human rights violator, someone is perpetrating gross human rights violations — which I think is obvious in his case — then the sanctions should apply.”

Mikheil Saakashvili appealed to the author of the Magnitsky Act, Bill Browder, to help create a new Magnitsky list in connection with his case, to prevent “lethal consequences”. Bill Browder responded to Saakashvili on January 8 and asked him to hand over the documents that would indicate who is responsible for Saakashvili’s torture and poisoning.

James Cleverly Visits Village of Odzi Near Occupation Line

Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom James Cleverly, within the framework of his official visit to Georgia, visited the village of Odzi near the occupation line.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lasha Darsalia, and the Deputy Director of the Informa-

tion and Analytical Department of the State Security Service, Irakli Antadze, informed the British guest about the difficult humanitarian situation on the territory. Lasha Darsalia drew attention to the importance of supporting the international community in relation to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia.

James Cleverly also visited Odzi village high school and met with teachers and school students, as well as civil society representatives.



Bill Browder, the author of the Magnitsky Act, called on the European Union to impose sanctions on those people who are responsible for the condition of Mikheil Saakashvili in prison in an interview with POLITICO. According to Bill Browder, it is time for the European Union to expand its sanctions list to include people who violate human rights



Germany supports a new association partnership project in the area of organic farming and fair trade in Georgia

There is a potential in Georgia in organic farming and fair trade. Germany supports associations relevant to these topics to raise this potential.

Hence the global organic

farmer association Naturland e.V. is starting a capacity building project for organic food and farming organisations and association in Georgia. Together with its Georgian cooperation partner Sustain Caucasus International the project includes and targets at five local partners: The Organic Farming Association Elkana, Georgian Organic Tea Producers Association (GOTPA), Women Farmers Association

(WFA), Natural Wine Association (NWA), Georgian Farmers’ Association (GFA);

It is envisaged to strengthen the establishment of professional structures in the area of organic education, service development and inter-organisational cooperation as well as to support organic local and EU value chain development. The project is funded by the German Government and administered by SEQUA.



Weather

Monday, March 20

Day Rain
High: 12°C

Night Light Rain
Low: 7°C

Tuesday, March 21

Day Mostly Cloudy
High: 13°C

Night Cloudy
Low: 7°C

published by

The Messenger

43, Chovelidze st., Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia
Founded by Prof.

Zaza Gachechiladze

Tamar Gachechiladze
Publisher

Mob.: +995 599 565621; +995 577 760000
E-mail: messenger@messenger.com.ge
http://www.messenger.com.ge/

Nino Metreveli
Commercial Director

Mariam Mchedlidze
Editor-in-Chief

Khatuna Gogichaishvili
Layout Designer, Photographer

The Messenger welcomes your contributions. If you are interested in submitting an article or news item please contact.

All contributions should be submitted by e-mail.

The Messenger Georgia’s English language daily is an independent newspaper, and,

therefore, the opinions expressed in some articles do not necessarily coincide with those of the newspaper. We take no responsibility for any claims made in advertisements.

The Messenger preserves the style of a source written in English where possible.