

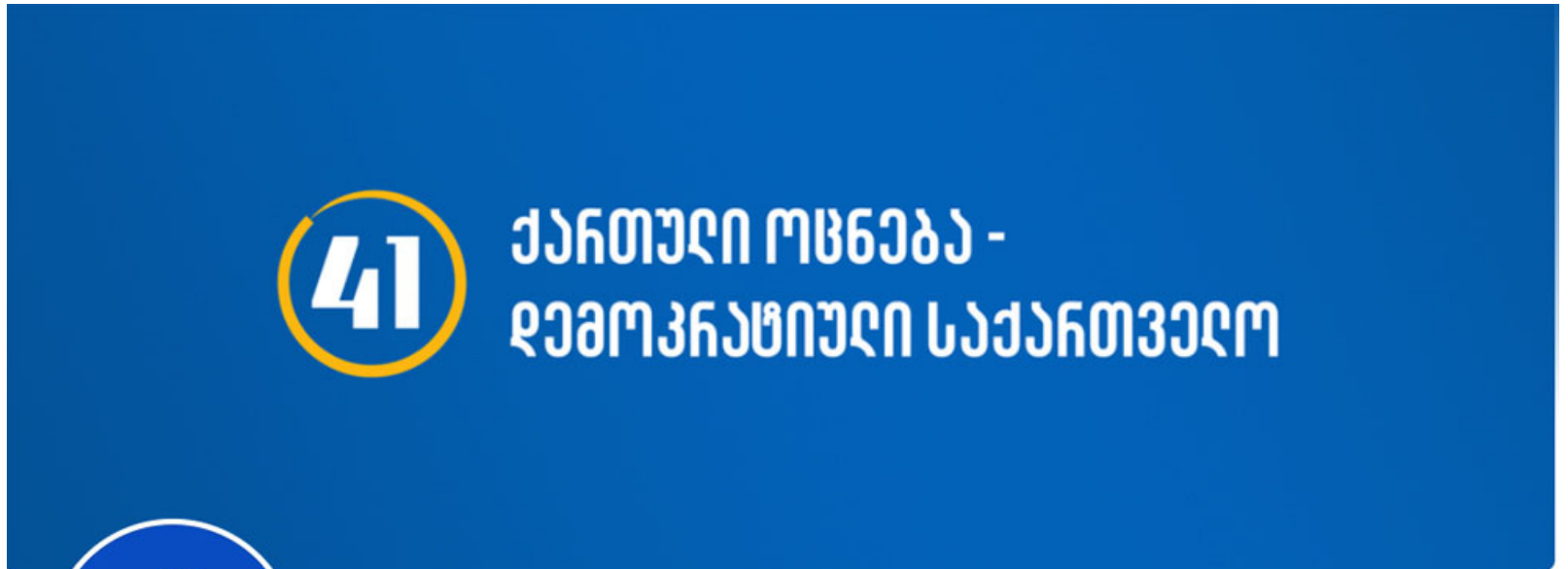
## Georgian Dream Accuses United National Movement of Provoking 2008 War

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

In a recent statement, the ruling Georgian Dream party has placed blame on the United National Movement for the August 2008 war, asserting that the former government's actions were a significant crime against Georgia. The party has promised that a proper legal assessment of these events will take place after the upcoming elections.

The statement from Georgian Dream described the 2008 conflict as the "biggest and most serious crime" committed by the UNM. It emphasized the need for a thorough legal evaluation to ensure the country's development and long-term peace.

"The United National Movement has committed many crimes against the country and people, but the biggest and most serious crime is the adventure committed in 2008," the statement reads. "In order to ensure the irreversible development of our country and to establish long-term peace in Georgia, it is of the utmost importance that these events be given a proper legal assessment. We promise the public that it will definitely happen after the elections."



ქართული ოცნება / Georgian Dream

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The statement also addresses concerns about the UNM's recent actions. It accuses the UNM of attempting to involve Georgia in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, suggesting that the party sought to reignite conflict in the region. "The two years that

passed in the background of the Russia-Ukraine war clearly showed us how diligently the United National Movement tried to drag Georgia into this military conflict and drag our country into the flames of war once again," the statement notes.

Georgian Dream accused the UNM of carrying out a deliberate provocation in 2008. The party alleged that the order for these actions came from external sources but chose not to disclose specifics at this time. "From whom this order came and

whose tasks were performed by the highest officials of the government at that time, we will not deliberately dwell on this issue here, because the public legal process will find out everything," the statement reads.

## Ukraine Calls for Russian Troop Withdrawal from Occupied Georgian Territories

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine issued a statement on the 16th anniversary of the August War, calling on Russia to immediately withdraw

its troops from the occupied territories of Georgia.

The statement emphasized that Russia's aggression against Georgia has continued beyond the 2008 war, with ongoing occupation, pressure, propaganda,

and other interventions.

"The Russian occupation has turned these regions of Georgia into an unpromising gray zone, where lawlessness prevails and human rights are violated," the statement read.

"Hostilities stopped in August 2008, but Russia's aggression against Georgia did not end here. Moscow continued the so-called borderization, which means creeping annexation of the territory of Georgia, pressure, propaganda and intervention with other hybrid methods."

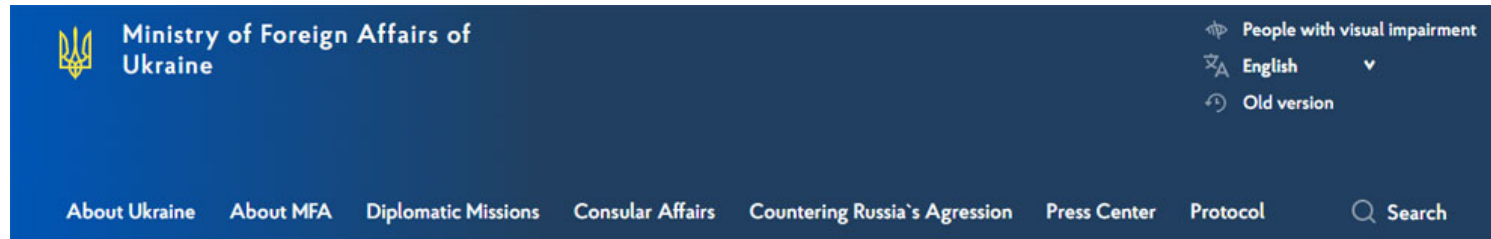
Ukraine reaffirmed its support for Georgia's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity within internationally recognized borders. "Ukraine supports the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders and strongly condemns the Kremlin's aggressive policy," the statement continued.

In accordance with the 2008 ceasefire agreement, Ukraine called on Russia to withdraw its forces from Georgian territory and revoke its recognition of the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia as "independent" states.

Ukraine linked Russia's actions in Georgia to a broader imperial strategy. "Russia's aggression against Georgia, and later against Ukraine, is only an episode of Moscow's long imperial policy, which has no right to exist in the 21st century," the statement reads.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine called for international action.

"We are sure that this aggressive policy of the Russian Federation will be stopped only by the joint efforts of the international community, forcing it to leave the temporarily occupied territories of Georgia and Ukraine and to answer to the law all Russian war criminals for the atrocities and crimes committed."



### Statement of the MFA of Ukraine on the 16th anniversary of the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Georgia

07 August 2024 12:45





The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

U.S. Marks 16th Anniversary of Russia's Invasion of Georgia, Reaffirms Support

stated. He noted that Russia continues to occupy 20 percent of Georgian territory and is taking actions that undermine Georgian sovereignty, including claims over strategic lands in Abkhazia and efforts to establish a permanent naval base

also urged Russia to reverse its recognition of the so-called independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which would help tens of thousands of displaced people return to their homes safely.

European Court of Human Rights' decisions against Russia. GYLA also criticized the government for opposing civil society efforts, stating, "Instead, the Georgian authorities are openly fighting against civil society, which plays an important role in protecting the rights of people affected by the conflict at the international and national level, with the 'Russian law'."



Today we mark sixteen years since Russia invaded the sovereign nation of Georgia and remember those killed, injured, or displaced by Russia's military campaign and illegal occupation. To this day, Russia continues to occupy 20 percent of Georgia's territory and impose its will on the people there, including by claiming the transfer of strategically important lands in Abkhazia to Russia and taking steps to establish a permanent naval base in Ochamchire.

On the 16th anniversary of Russia's invasion of Georgia, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken issued a statement remembering those affected by the conflict and reaffirming America's support for Georgia's sovereignty.

"Today we mark sixteen years since Russia invaded the sovereign nation of Georgia and remember those killed, injured, or displaced by Russia's military campaign and illegal occupation," Blinken

in Ochamchire.

Blinken emphasized the U.S. commitment to Georgia's territorial integrity and called on Russia to meet its obligations under the 2008 ceasefire agreement.

"We call on Russia to fulfill its commitments and obligations under the 2008 ceasefire agreement to withdraw its forces to pre-conflict positions and allow unimpeded access for the delivery of humanitarian assistance," he said. Blinken

GYLA Criticizes Government for Ignoring Compensation Fund Request for War Victims

On the 16th anniversary of the August War, the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association criticized the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for not responding to their request for an international compensation fund for war victims.

In a statement, GYLA revealed that they had submitted a formal request to the Ministry on January 26, 2024, asking for the creation of a fund to compensate victims of the 2008 conflict with Russia. As of now, GYLA has not received any response from the Ministry.

"On January 26, 2024, GYLA appealed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia to use the available resources in the Council of Europe to create an international compensation fund for victims of the Russian Federation as a result of the August war and in the subsequent period," the statement said. "GYLA's appeal has not yet received a response from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia."

The association stressed the importance of using diplomatic and international legal mechanisms to enforce the



GYLA's statement also raised concerns that restrictive measures like the "Foreign Agents" law could undermine Georgia's Euro-Atlantic goals and its constitutional guarantees of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Advertisement for the 'Night Serenades' festival. It lists dates and locations: 21 August Borjomi (Borjomi Likani Hotel), 23, 25 August Batumi (Batumi Drama Theater), and 15, 17, 18, 20 September Tbilisi (Tbilisi State Conservatoire). It also identifies the founder as Liana Issakadze and the artistic director as Giorgi Issakadze. The logo 'Alliance Art' is also present.

Weather forecast for Thursday, August 8. Day: Partly Cloudy, High: 33°C. Night: Clear, Low: 21°C.

Published by The Messenger. Commercial Director: Nino Metreveli. Editor-in-Chief: Mariam Mchedlidze. Publisher: Tamar Gachechiladze. Contact information: Mob.: +995 599 565621; +995 577 760000. E-mail: messenger@messenger.com.ge. http://www.messenger.com.ge/

Layout Designer, Photographer: Khatuna Gogichaishvili.

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