

Shaheen and Turner Reaffirm Support for Georgia, Call for Democratic Reforms

By Liza Mchedlidze

After visiting Georgia, US Senator Jeanne Shaheen and Congressman Mike Turner released a statement highlighting the United States' strong support for Georgia's independence and democratic future. However, they also voiced concerns about recent political developments.

"With growing threats from authoritarian nations like Russia, which invaded Georgia 16 years ago, it was crucial to show our unwavering support for the Georgian people's right to shape their own future," said Senator Shaheen. She mentioned that during their meetings with Georgian officials and civil society groups, they reaffirmed their support for Georgia's desire to join Europe. But she also made it clear that the US is worried about signs of declining democracy in the country. "We won't sit back amid democratic backsliding and false statements targeted toward the United States," Shaheen added.

Shaheen stressed the need for fair elections and urged the Georgian government to repeal the controversial foreign agents law. "We must see free and fair elections and efforts to repeal the foreign agents law that's harming Georgia's path to EU membership. The first step to get back on track must come from the Georgian government, and we're

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JEANNE SHAHEEN
U.S. SENATOR for NEW HAMPSHIRE

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After Meeting with Georgian Government Officials and Civil Society Organizations, Shaheen and Turner Return from Leading Bipartisan, Bicameral Congressional Delegation to Georgia Following Passage of Foreign Agents Law

Shaheen and Turner reaffirmed America's bipartisan support for the Georgian people's Euro-Atlantic aspirations and Georgia's territorial integrity

(Washington, DC) – U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), a senior member of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations, Armed Services and Appropriations Committees and Chair of the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation, and Congressman Michael Turner (R-OH), Chair of the U.S. House Permanent

waiting for their proposal," she said.

Congressman Mike Turner echoed these concerns, noting that the U.S.-Georgian relationship, historically strong, is now at risk due to recent actions that go against democratic values. "The U.S.-Georgian relationship

has been one of the strongest in the region, but recent developments have raised serious concerns in the U.S. and Europe," Turner said. He emphasized that the US stance on these issues would remain consistent, no matter which administration is in power. "U.S. policy won't

change regardless of who's in office," he added.

Turner also emphasized the importance of the upcoming parliamentary elections in Georgia, calling for them to be conducted fairly and transparently. "It's crucial that the elections in October are free, fair, and trans-

parent for both the Georgian people and international observers," he said. Turner thanked Senator Shaheen for her strong commitment to the US-Georgian relationship and for inviting him to join her on this important visit.

Gia Volski Accuses United National Movement of Justifying Russian Occupation

By Liza Mchedlidze



Gia Volski, a member of the parliamentary majority from the ruling party Georgian Dream, has accused the opposition party United National Movement of justifying Russia's invasion and occupation of Georgia. Speaking to journalists, Volski criticized the National Movement for its involvement with the Taliavini conclusion and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe resolution.

Volski argued that these actions amounted to an endorsement of Russia's actions. "By signing the Taliavini conclusion and the resolution from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the United National Movement has justified Russia's entry and occupation of Georgian land," Volski said. He emphasized that these docu-

ments and their implications need further investigation.

According to Volski, the ruling Georgian Dream party has played a crucial role in maintaining Georgia's legal and political stability. "If it weren't for Georgian Dream's leadership and our legal victories in Strasbourg and The Hague, we cannot predict what the legal situation in Georgia would be today," he noted. Volski suggested that without the current ruling party, the country might face an even more precarious situation.

Volski also criticized former President Mikheil Saakashvili, accusing him of facilitating Russia's occupation of Georgian territory. "Saakashvili's actions, including unconstitutional elections and negotiations, allowed Russia to occupy Georgian land. These decisions need to be scrutinized," Volski added. He questioned the necessity of recent interviews with international figures like Taliavini, suggesting that these efforts have not clarified the situation or provided justice.

The News in Brief

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US Embassy Clarifies Focus of Senator Shaheen and Congressman Turner's Visit to Georgia

tion helps resolve disagreements," the statement read. "During the most recent visit of Senator Shaheen and Representative Turner, former President Saakashvili was not a topic of discussion. What was discussed is the United States' desire for a strong relationship with Geor-



The US Embassy in Georgia has released a statement addressing the visit of Senator Jeanne Shaheen and Congressman Mike Turner, clarifying that former President Mikheil Saakashvili was not a subject of discussion during their meetings.

The embassy emphasized that the primary focus of the discussions was the relationship between the United States and Georgia. According to the statement, Senator Shaheen underscored that the first step toward improving the current situation must be taken by the Georgian government.

"Neither disinformation nor specula-

tion helps resolve disagreements," the statement read. "During the most recent visit of Senator Shaheen and Representative Turner, former President Saakashvili was not a topic of discussion. What was discussed is the United States' desire for a strong relationship with Geor-

Georgian Dream Accused of Using Dark Money by US Helsinki Commission; Mikanadze Responds

The US Helsinki Commission recently accused Georgia's ruling party, Georgian Dream, of using money from scam call centers worldwide to fund its activities and target political opponents. The commission urged the U.S. State Department



to crack down on these operations, calling them part of an "antidemocratic campaign" against the Georgian people.

Givi Mikanadze, a member of the Georgian Dream parliamentary majority, responded sharply, calling the commission's claims an interference in Georgia's pre-election process. He argued that the accusations were baseless and seemed to support opposition parties.

"This statement, which lacks any evidence, is clearly in favor of the opposition. The idea that there are call centers

involved in funding an anti-opposition campaign is complete nonsense. We expect proof, but you can't provide evidence for something that doesn't exist," Mikanadze said.

Mikanadze also accused the Helsinki Commission of double standards for not addressing the investigation into former Defense Minister Davit Kezerashvili's alleged involvement in call center scams or the human rights record during Mikheil Saakashvili's government.

Advertisement for the festival 'ლიანის სერენადები' (LIANA SERENADES) with dates 21 August (Borjomi), 23, 25 August (Batumi), and 15, 17, 18, 20 September (Tbilisi). Includes logos for Borjomi Likani Hotel, Batumi Drama Theater, and Tbilisi State Conservatoire.

Weather section for Wednesday, August 14. Day: Clear, High: 32°C. Night: Clear, Low: 18°C.

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