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## **SAAKASHVILI REJECTS REFUGEE STATUS AFTER LOSS OF UKRAINIAN CITIZENSHIP**

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APA

Georgias ex-president and former Ukrainian governor Mikheil Saakashvili vowed Thursday he would fight for the right to return to Ukraine after it stripped him of citizenship, APA reports quoting sputniknews.

"Now there is an attempt under way to force me to become a refugee. This will not happen! I will not remain anywhere else and will not change status! I will fight for my legal right to return to Ukraine!" he said on Facebook.

Ukraine's State Migration Service announced on Wednesday that Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko had issued a decree rescinding the citizenship of Georgian-born Saakashvili while he was in the United States.

He faces extradition to Georgia if he ventures back into Ukraine, local lawmaker Serhiy Leshchenko said. Saakashvili had his Georgian passport revoked after he was named governor of Ukraines Odessa region in 2015.

The politician is wanted in Georgia for several alleged felonies, including the embezzlement of \$5 million in state funds, accusations that he claims were fabricated.

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Kaynak/Source: