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## **AZERBAIJAN, GEORGIA INK MILITARY CO-OP PLAN FOR 2018**

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APA (09 March 2018)

Azerbaijans Minister of Defense, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov met with a delegation headed by Georgian Minister of Defense Levan Izoria n March 9, the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry told APA. The Georgian delegation first visited the Alley of Honor to laid wreaths and flowers at the graves of national leader Heydar Aliyev and prominent ophthalmologist, academician Zarifa Aliyeva. They also visited the Ally of Martyrs to pay tribute to Azerbaijani martyrs.

Later, an official welcome ceremony was held for the Georgian minister in the Defense Ministry. Levan Izoria passed along the guard of honor and national anthems of both countries were played. In accordance with the protocol, Izoria signed the guest book.

The ministers first held a one-on-one meeting, which was continued in an expanded format.

Having greeted the guests, Minister Hasanov stressed that the strategic partnership between the two countries is at a high level and this plays an important role not only in the development of our countries but also in ensuring security in the entire region.

Noting that military cooperation between the two countries is carried out by providing the security of regional economic projects, programs implemented both bilaterally and within the NATO, as well as within the format of the Azerbaijan-Turkey-Georgias military structures, Hasanov emphasized the importance of expanding areas of activity of this cooperation.

The Azerbaijani minister informed his Georgian counterpart that Armenia, as the occupying country, creates a serious threat to regional security and provides ongoing support for separatism on the state level. Minister Hasanov once again thanked the Georgian people for supporting Azerbaijan and recognizing its territorial integrity within the international organizations, and stressed that Azerbaijan also supports and recognizes the territorial integrity of Georgia.

L. Izoria, expressing satisfaction with his next visit to Azerbaijan, again stressed that this is a clear example of the high level of cooperation between the two countries.

Noting the important role of friendly relations between the heads of state in the development of relations between the two countries, the Georgian minister emphasized the significance of such meetings in terms of expanding cooperation.

During the meeting, the ministers discussed cooperation issues in the field of verification and arms

control. The sides also exchanged views on the prospects for cooperation in the military, military-technical spheres, and in the field of military education and military medicine, as well as conducting joint military exercises, the organization of working meetings and other issues of mutual interest.

In the end, a plan of bilateral cooperation for 2018 between the Ministries of Defense of Azerbaijan and Georgia was signed.

<http://en.apa.az/azerbaijan-military/azerbaijan-army-azerbaijani-armed-forces/azerbaijan-georgia-ink-military-co-op-plan-for-2018.html>

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