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**TURKISH DEFENCE MINISTER ATTENDS INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS IN TBILISI**

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The Defence Minister of Turkey Hulusi Akar joined Georgian leaders in celebration on Independence Day on May 26.

After attending the oath-taking ceremony on Freedom Square in central Tbilisi, Akar held meetings with President Salome Zurbishvili, Prime Minister Mamuka Bakhtadze and Defence Minister Levan Izoria.

At the meetings with the Georgian leaders, Minister Akar reiterated his countrys support for Georgia's territorial integrity as well as its aspirations to join NATO.

Today Georgians mark Independence Day, commemorating May 26, 1918 – the day when the Act of Independence was adopted, establishing the First Democratic Republic of Georgia.

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Kaynak/Source: