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**Ilia II to Steinmeier: With such a great experience in diplomacy it won't be difficult for you to move process forward**



President of the Federal Republic of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier is paying an official visit to Georgia. Within the framework of the state visit, he met with

Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia Ilia II.

I am delighted Your Holiness, it is a great honor for me to meet you, – Frank-Walter Steinmeier addressed Catholicos-Patriarch.

Ilia II blessed the guests.

“I extend my warmest welcome to you, your spouse and accompanying persons on behalf of the Church of Georgia. Your visit is very important and Georgian people have great expectations. As you know, there are many problems around the world, including in Georgia. The violated territorial integrity remains Georgia’s most painful problem. Twenty percent of our territory has been seized by a foreign country, but I would say that this problem is heavy burden for Russia as well. Everything must be done to solve it. We believe that Germany has so much power and authority to take an active part in this process. In my opinion, military bases should be withdrawn from occupied territories. You have such a great experience in diplomatic affairs, that it will not be difficult for you to move the process forward” – Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia Ilia II said during the meeting.

Regardless of what we will see at the administrative border, we are well aware of the situation there, President of the Federal Republic of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier said at a meeting with Georgian Patriarch Ilia II.

According to him, fencing and controlling these borders has become more frequent in recent months, and this fencing affects ordinary people living on both sides.

“When we talk about Georgia, we cannot but talk about the great challenge and problem of occupation of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. You mentioned that this situation should not be and ways should be found to resolve the conflict. I would like to remember : when I was in Georgia for the first time in 2008, in late July, we wanted to find a way out to avoid this conflict, but unfortunately we couldn’t. I know that your government is looking for a solution to the conflict through diplomacy, and of course the other side must be involved, and Russia’s active involvement here is inevitable, ” Steinmeier said.

- Source: [1tv.ge](http://1tv.ge) & [ipn.ge](http://ipn.ge)