Moldova Prime Minister, Government Resigns

Moldovan Prime Minister Natalia Gavrilita announced Friday she and her government were resigning after 18 months, as Russia's invasion of neighboring Ukraine stifled her efforts to initiate reforms aimed at joining the European Union.

At a news conference Friday in the capital of Chisinau, Gavrilita, who was appointed by President Maia Sandu in August 2021, lamented that she took over the government with an anti-corruption, pro-development and pro-EU agenda, but no one expected the nation to be facing so many crises.

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine nearly a year ago, Moldova – a former Soviet republic country of 2.5 million – saw Ukrainian refugees flood across the border, and Russia cut off its energy supplies, which helped drive inflation to nearly 30 percent.

The Ukraine war has spilled across the border as well, with Moldova suffering power cuts as the result of attacks on Ukraine's power grid. And in a video message Friday, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said a Russian missile targeting his nation passed through Moldovan airspace.

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