



# GIORGI KVIRIKASHVILI TO RESOLVE DISPUTES WITHIN HIS RULING COALITION

SALOME KHVEDELIDZE

The confrontation between the two political parties of the governing coalition has now been taking place for several weeks. On March 3, Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili released a statement via social networks in which he called on the parties to discuss “any dispute only within the coalition.” Otherwise, Kvirikashvili does not exclude the possibility of policy changes that will help stabilize the situation.

The statement was addressed to the Republican Party and “The Industry Will Save Georgia.” Recently, the leader of Industrialists, Gogi Topadze, accused Defense Minister Tinatin Khidasheli of rigging the mid-term elections of Oct. 31. As a result, the general prosecutor’s office opened a case under Article 332, abuse of authority. The Minister of Defense is ready to give evidence to the investigation.

“This is a campaign against the government’s pro-Western policies,” Khidasheli said. “These are dirty methods, which have recently appeared. And I am sure we will witness much more shameful and disgraceful campaigns the next few months during the election period.”

The Prime Minister condemned public accusations of Khidasheli. However, he noted that the defense minister, first of all, is a member of the government and should not be involved in such disputes. He also said that the Georgian army must be distanced from the political process, and Stalinist views, radicalism,

and marginal pseudo-traditions originating from the depths of the Soviet Union are alien and unacceptable for the future of Georgia.

Topadze soon responded to Kvirikashvili’s appeal: “The prime minister made a very specific and very accurate statement, diplomatic even. He knows very well who is right and who is wrong. We will meet at the Political Council. The debate will perhaps take place. And there we will decide. We have very strong positions on all the issues that we have raised.”

Industrialist Zurab Tkemaladze said they would obey the decision of the prime minister and the Council, which will be held on Sunday.

In contrast to Industrialists, the statement of Kvirikashvili caused confusion within the Republican party. To shed some light on the problem, there was a meeting with the prime minister March 3 at 9 p.m. Chairmen of the Republican Party Khatuna Samnidge and David Berdzenishvili, along with Khidasheli, Davit Usupashvili and Khatuna Samnidge, attended the meeting. According to Samnidge, they discussed the issues, which raised some questions – they exchanged views and expressed their positions. She also added that Republicans and the Georgian Dream would continue their strategic cooperation and the bipartisan agreement, which would lead to a stable environment for the elections already begun.

Considering the upcoming elections, experts and the opposition have been paying more attention to the dispute that exists within the coalition. Some think that we should not expect the end of the confrontation but rather its shifting to an active phase. Recently, Berdzenishvili reminded Industrialists about their low rating in the 2008 parliamentary elections. He sees the situation not as a political, but as an ideological, confrontation. He also added that in his statements, Topadze shaped a political path that does not go along with Georgian aspirations to Euro-Atlantic structures. Moreover, according to Khidasheli, this is a systematic campaign against the coalition and we can look for its leading forces in neighboring countries.

Comments on the situation were also made outside the coalition. Gigi Tsereteli, minority MP, said that the prime minister’s statement was an attempt to preserve the unity of the coalition, but it will not likely happen, because those coalition members oppose each other both personally and ideologically.

Free Democrats leader Irakli Alasania shares the same position. In his opinion, Kvirikashvili is attempting to bring order, but the ruling coalition is so uncoordinated it will fail to unite Georgia, and this can already be seen in the way our country is administered. Another skeptic is former Georgian Dream member Murman Dumbadze. He expressed his opinion on Rustavi 2



TV show Archevani, saying that the battle is not about ideology, but rather about party lists for elections. He also stressed that the Political Council meeting is a pure formality and it is an issue Bidzina Ivanishvili will solve alone. Tamaz Mechiauri, member of the Parliamentary majority, thinks that the parties of the Georgian Dream should run for the seats in the parliamentary elections independently.

However, members of the coalition hope the confrontation will soon be over. So said the member of the Parliamentary majority Ani Mirotadze. In her statement, she explains there is a resource for the confrontation to be over within the coalition, just like Kvirikashvili said. She pointed out that the situation will negatively affect the image of the ruling coalition. A similar opinion was voiced by Manana Kobakhidze and a few others.

Recent polls indicate that the current parliamentary major-

ity, as well as a minority, does not enjoy the big support of the population. A large part of the voters, when asked whom they will support in the elections, abstained from answering. Political analysts, given that the elections are not so far away, suppose that Georgian Dream does not have the luxury of collapsing – they will not be able to receive a considerable amount of votes as separate parties.

However, at the same time, it is clear that different outlooks and ideologies occur within the coalition. It is still unclear whether the ruling majority will be able to maintain the integrity, but one thing is safe to say: In recent years, a number of politicians left the rows of the coalition Georgian Dream and we will see a modified version of the list of 2012.

The population is keeping an eye on the situation and observing what changes Kvirikashvili meant in his statement.

## NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR ARRIVED IN TBILISI

France appoints 62 years old diplomat Pascal Meunier as his new ambassador in Georgia. Mr. Meunier recently served on the same position in Azerbaijan. He has also served in the French embassies in Tokyo, Prague, Warsaw and Stockholm. On 4 March 2016 the newly appointed Ambassador of the French Republic to Georgia Pascal Meunier presented copies of his credentials to Georgian Foreign Minister Mikheil Janelidze.

Following the presentation ceremony, Mikheil Janelidze congratulated the French diplomat on his appointment as Ambassador to Georgia and wished him success in his future activities. The Minister highlighted the close friendly relations between Georgia and the French Republic underlining the need to further develop co-operation in various areas.

For his part, Pascal Meunier reaffirmed the French Govern-

ment’s firm support for Georgia reaffirming the readiness to contribute to the further deepening of relations between the two countries.

Discussions focused on the ongoing processes in Georgia, the importance of visa-free travel to the EU countries, Georgia’s European and Euro-Atlantic integration, the situation in Georgia’s occupied territories and the recent developments in the region.



# LEGISLATIVE CHANGES' REPORT FOR VISA LIBERALIZATION TO BE ISSUED IN COMING DAYS

GURAM PTSKIALADZE

Foreign Minister of Georgia Mikheil Janelidze had a talk about visa liberalization for Georgia in Brussels, claiming the European Commission will publish its report on public legislative changes soon.

As he pointed out, the commission decided to present legislative changes to European Council when the Georgian Prime Minister visited Brussels to meet EU officials. After its presentation, the Council will have to discuss it. For visa liberalization, Georgia needs the verdict of the Council and the approval of the European Parliament. Janelidze also said that these procedures should start in the near future, within several weeks.

Additionally, the minister made clear that legislative change will take some time: "The process may last several months. This is a common procedure and, accordingly, we should not have an expectation that after presenting it, the visa liberalization will be in effect the next day. Nevertheless, as there is not any question vis-à-vis implementation of benchmarks by Georgia and the readiness of the country to be a reliable partner of EU in terms of visa liberalization and dual relations, we ponder that this decision will be made by the Council in a short period. We expect that legislative changes will occur in upcoming days, but I cannot say the exact date."

Georgia went through the difficult and long way to get a visa-free regime. The relations of Georgia and EU is based upon Agreement of Partnership and Cooperation launched on July 1, 1999. On Nov. 14, 2006, the Action Plan of European Neighbor-

hood was started, within which mutually agreed on priorities were determined. The part of the plan that concerns the issues of Justice, Freedom and Security shapes the general structure of Georgia-EU cooperation.

On Nov. 30, 2009, "Partnership for mobility" was created between EU and Georgia under the participation of 16 member states of European Union. The aim of the partnership was the improvement of cooperation between the sides in the following aspects: Assistance for legal migration, prevention of illegal migration and fighting against it, and refugee politics and international protection.

Positive steps were made in the process of improving Georgia and EU relations from time to time. The sides agreed on simplification of visa regime and readmissions that were brought into force March 1, 2011. Besides, it is noteworthy that for European citizens functions visa free regime to enter Georgia from June 1, 2006.

At the Warsaw summit in September 2011, the EU rated positively Georgia's steps to implement its agreements with the view of simplification of visa free regime and carrying out readmissions. It was emphasized that realization of all the agreements stands the first steps within the process of visa free regime.

On May 3, 2012, Georgian government presented a new, edited and detailed report concerning the implementation of agreements made between EU and Georgia. The report was passed out to its member states within the Council on May 16, 2012.

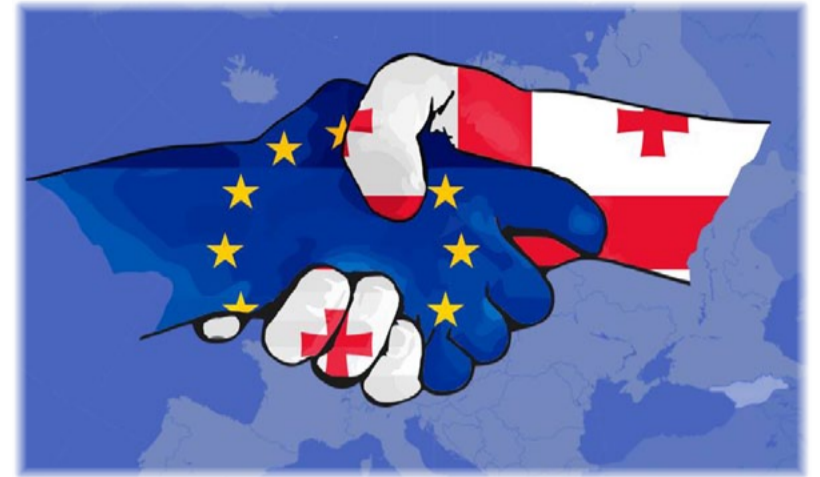
In the report of the Council

published May 31, 2012, the initiative of the Commission on launching a dialogue with Georgia about visa free regime and linking tightly its steps with the Council and its member states was rated as a positive process.

The EU-Georgia Visa Liberalisation Dialogue was launched in June 2012. In February 2013, the European Commission presented the Georgian Government with an action plan on visa liberalization (VLAP). It had four blocks: Safety of Documents, including Biometric passports; Controlling the border, migration and refugee politics; Public order and security; and Foreign relations and fundamental human rights.

The VLAP sets a series of precise benchmarks for these four blocks of technically relevant issues, with a view of adopting a legislative, policy and institutional framework (phase 1) and ensuring its effective and sustainable implementation (phase 2). The benchmarks need to be met before Georgian nationals holding biometric passports can enter the Schengen area for short stays without applying for a visa.

In November 2013, the Commission adopted its first progress report on Georgia's implementation of the VLAP and made several recommendations for completing the first legislative and planning phase. In October 2014, the Commission adopted its second progress report, which concluded that Georgia had fulfilled the first-phase benchmarks of the VLAP and was ready to be assessed on the second-phase benchmarks. In its conclusions of Nov. 17, 2014, the Council concurred with the Commission's assessment. The report



was accompanied by an assessment of the potential migratory and security impacts of future visa liberalisation for Georgian citizens travelling to the EU.

In December 2014, Georgia submitted an updated progress report. Evaluation of all four blocks of the VLAP took place from December 2014 to March 2015 under the lead of the Commission, during mission visits involving experts from EU Member States, assisted by the Commission, the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the EU Delegation to Georgia. The Commission adopted the third progress report on Georgia's implementation of the VLAP on 8 May 2015. The report took note of significant progress made by the Georgian authorities in implementing the second phase of the VLAP and acknowledged the fulfilment of many benchmarks under the four blocks. The fourth progress report was published on Dec. 18, 2015, and it looked at how the Georgian authorities have addressed the recommendations of the third progress report in relation to the remaining VLAP benchmarks.

After visa free regime is

brought into force, Georgian citizens will have a chance of travelling in Schengen Zone without visa. It includes 22 members of EU, 4 non-members (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) and 4 candidate members (Bulgaria, Romania, Cyprus and Croatia). The UK and Ireland are not in Schengen, so Georgians will need a visa for entering these two countries. The short term visit implies any 90 days in 18. Visa free regime does not include long-term visits in Schengen with the aim of getting education, jobs or other reasons.

It might be emphasized that visa free regime makes not only legal aspect for integration of Georgia into EU, but Georgians will have a possibility to merge with EU states civil and cultural life and become aware of it. Visa free regime opens borders and enables Georgian population to take a closer look at European values and comprehend what it is like. Georgian citizens will have a chance of rethinking and reevaluate their views and opinion on EU and Europe that will lead to vanishing quite a few myth and Georgian society will understand what it means to be a part of European Union.

## POSTAGE STAMPS COMPETITION ON EU-GEORGIA RELATIONS

NATO and EU Information Center announcing a competition with a creation of sketch of the stamp on the EU-Georgia cooperation. Given the fact that 2016 has been declared as a year of the European state, this year will be taken very important steps towards European integration, as well as in 2016, we are cel-

ebrating Georgia's independence 25th anniversary, when our society was unanimously took the foreign policy and the development of the country's European path. NATO and EU Information Center and the national Post decided to jointly issue the stamp, which will stress the cooperation between the EU and Georgia.

The purpose of issuing postage stamps is to support the further development and promotion of upgrading EU-Georgia relations.

Competition Works Closing Date is April 4, 2016, 18:00.

The project is supported by the Ministry of Euro-Atlantic Integration and the Economy and Sustainable Development.



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# GEORGIAN POLITICAL ECONOMY STUCK BETWEEN “SOCAR” AND “GAZPROM” INTERESTS

GIORGI CHAPIDZE

Georgia will get additional 500 million cubic meters natural gas from Azerbaijan- stated Georgian Prime Minister after the meeting with the representatives of Azerbaijani state energy company. Kvirikashvili pointed out that Georgia is willing to deepen cooperation with Socar and went on to declare that the new agreement became possible due to the recently opened technical possibility of importing energy resources from Azerbaijan. Also Georgian PM stressed that there was no doubt about the continuation of strategic relations between the partner states. Besides, the president of the energy company Rovnag Abdullayev underlined the company's preparedness to decrease the commercial price by 35-40 USD for each 1000 cubic meters. This event presumably marks the ending milestone for the debates about energy import sources that has already caused discontent in the public opinion as the issue is a matter of national interests for Georgia.

Georgian Energy minister Kakha Kaladze declared that due to the reason of increasing demand on natural gas on Georgian market his team has been working to find new sources. Since Socar's representatives proposed to export enlarged volumes in Georgia there is no need to find alternative energy sources especially when Azerbaijani side considers to reduce the prices. As Kaladze declared, increased volumes will be shipped through Shahdeniz gas pipeline. He also emphasized that new agreement is an explicit demonstration of staunch relations and the

acknowledgement of common geostrategic interests of the two countries that is the steadfast bedrock for cooperation. The main problems were the carrying capacity of the gas pipeline and also a huge disproportion between seasonal demands- Georgia consumes relatively big volume of natural gas in winter than in the summers. Two parties put a great effort tackling these objectives and that is the reason why the procedures was dragged on for several months.

Vice-Prime minister also said that dishonest schemes enacted by the political opponents of the ruling coalition did not impede this agreement. He stated that United National Movement (UNM) have tried to use business relations with the Azerbaijan for their own interests and demagoguery but they have failed to derail the process. Kaladze also thanked Georgian population who did not believe in unhealthy ways in which previous ruling party have conceptualized this matter.

After Georgian government officials secured new energy agreement there is no need of importing gas resources from Iran- Kaladze stated during the joint press conference with the president of Socar – Rovnag Abdullayev. Georgian energy ministry has started preparing groundings for the energy deal with the Iran because Azerbaijani company had technical problems to export increased volumes. Since this problem is solved Georgia ceases the talks with the Tehran. Kaladze added that there was a theoretical possibility to import Iranian resources but consider-

ing the new proposal from the Azerbaijani energy company this talks will not remain in the agenda.

The head of the Socar delegation pointed out that the company has been one of the largest investor in Georgian energy sector in the later 10 years and he is pleased that abovementioned agreement renews this strategic partnership. Abdullayev stated that Socar will deliver a stable provision of gas resources on Georgian energy market and also thanked Georgian PM and energy minister for their efforts. He believes that Azerbaijan will increase its investment in Georgia since this partnership is mutually beneficial.

Recently signed agreement have opened up a possibility for Georgia to hold more levers against Gazprom. The existing agreement with the Russian state energy company will continue to have the same terms after the renewal as Kaladze stated. Therefore, Georgia will get 10% of natural gas resources shipped through Georgian territory to the Armenia. This cost will not be monetized as it was proposed by Russian representatives. These terms has already been negotiated with Gazprom and only needs signing. The head of the Georgian Dream faction Gia Volski also declared that Georgia will be in a better position to defend preferable terms in frames of talks with the Russian company. Georgian government officials have presumed the possibility of Russian “ultimatum” and possible one-sided agreement if the Azerbaijani company would not be able to export increased vol-



umes to Georgia.

The possibility of signing new agreement with Gazprom that was expected to be preferential for the Russian Federation became the source of protest rallies and political statements demonizing country's cabinet and accusing Georgian officials of violating national interests. On March 6 massive demonstration “Defend Liberty” is planned to take place in the streets of Tbilisi from the Freedom Square to the former Russian embassy building.

What does this controversial issue will bring to Georgia? There is no doubt that former governing party (UNM) have used the possibility of new agreement with the Russian company to once again accuse Georgian Dream of being pro-Russian force and gain political points. Besides, in case of changed terms with Gazprom, Georgia would have been the victim of unfair terms for several years. Nowadays Gazprom is more dependent on Georgia as it executed natural gas shipment to Armenia only through Georgian territory. Therefore, Georgia hold more cards to gamble with Russia in terms of natural gas shipment that vice-versa.

Even though the new agreement will not be finalized with the Russia that would not affect Georgia as much as it would damage the Kremlin's influence on Armenia. If Georgia denies to continue the existing agreement it loses only several percents of its total gas supply that could be replaced by increased import from Azerbaijan. As for Russia it will no longer be the energy supplier for Armenia as Yerevan would bring enough supplement from Iran that is not in Russia's strategic interests in the South Caucasus region.

Starting from the first meeting of Georgian energy minister and Gazprom representatives in September 2015 until March 2016 the possibility of the new contract with changed terms was on the table.

This issue have caused a big controversy and casted a doubt about Georgian government's pro-Russian orientation that supposedly damaged the country's international image. Despite these drawbacks, current agreement with Socar gives Georgia a secure position against Russian energy monster that should be used to serve the country's national interests.

## MIKHEIL JANELIDZE PAID OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

Deputy Foreign Minister Mikheil Janelidze paid official visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

During the visit, the Georgian Foreign Minister will meet with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev. Mikheil Janelidze held face to face meeting with his

Azeri counterpart Elmar Mammadyarov that was followed by a meeting in an expanded format.

The Georgian delegation, led by Minister of Foreign Affairs, also will meet with Azerbaijani Prime Minister Artur Rasizade and Milli Majlis Chairman Oktai Asadov.



# NUMBER OF VISITORS INCREASED BY 24% COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEAR

Vice Prime Minister of Georgia, Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development, Dmitry Kumsishvili held a briefing on statistical data regarding the international travelers coming to Georgia.

According to the data, the statistics of February shows that compared to the previous year, the number of travelers is increased by 24%. At the same time, the number of visitor who stay in the country for more than 24 hours has also increased by 19% compared to the February of the previous year.

Positive trend of increasing the number of visitors from the EU countries is still maintained. Number of travelers has significantly increased from Italy (+29%), France (+29%), the UK (+14%), Poland (+12%) and Germany (+7%).

As the Vice Prime Minister, Dmitry Kumsishvili said, this is the result of the active work of Georgian Government on the target markets.

In February 2016, the majority of visitors were from Azerbaijan (+41.9%), Turkey (+12.2%), Armenia (+7.5%), Russia (+29.2%) and Ukraine (+23.5%). Number of travelers from Iran (+80.1%), Belarus (+30.3%) and the United States (+20.5%) is also significantly increased.

Total number of international travelers amounts to 683,561 people while the increase is 13.9%. Number of tourists amounted to 236,584 and the increase is 11.2% compared to the same period of the previous year.

In February 2016, compared to last year, there is a surplus in the number of international travelers amounting to 70 000

which results in up to 42 million GEL additional income into the country's economy.

In January 2016, 141 843 passengers were transported with regular as well as irregular flights. This data is by 14.35% increased compared to the same period of the 2015 and by almost 15% compared to the data of 2014.

Georgian Vice Prime Minister also spoke about the new component of the state program Produce in Georgia – Host in Georgia. Within the frames of the new component, interested entrepreneur will be enabled to build a hotel in any region of Georgia, except Tbilisi and Batumi, with the state co-financing as well as to re-equip and widen existing infrastructure, conclude agreement on franchising with world-know leaders and bring them to Georgian market.



## NEW COMPONENT “HOST IN GEORGIA” IS ADDED TO THE STATE PROGRAM



In order to develop tourism industry in regions a new component “Host in Georgia” has been added to the state program.

Interested entrepreneurs can build a new hotel, expand the existing one and bring foreign brands to the market with the sup-

port of state and its co-financing.

“This program is very important, since it is directly linked to the development of tourism.

We have a growing number of visitors. In the last few months, especially positive dynamics is noticed and infrastructure

should be developed in pace with these dynamics”,- said Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili.

The new program will help entrepreneurs (except them who live in Tbilisi or Batumi.) to get involved and start their own business in the field of hotel industry.

## THE NEW DOMESTIC FLIGHTS TO BE PERFORMED IN GEORGIA

The Union of Georgian Airports at the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development adds new internal avia directions on flights Nataxtari - Kutaisi and Kutaisi – Natakhtari direction from March 10 to be held on every Tuesday and Thursday.

As for the cost of tickets, flight ticket price in one direction will be GEL 50 for adults, children - 35 GEL, and the infant will travel for free. Every Monday and Friday

flights will be performed in direction of Mestia - Kutaisi and Kutaisi - Mestia, one-way ticket price for adults will be 40 GEL, children - 28 GEL, infants free.

Natakhtari Mestia flights are carried out with a frequency of 4 times a week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday), the ticket price for adults 65 GEL, and the children - 45 GEL (for infants to travel free of charge). In 2015 4,458 passengers have travelled with this direction.



# PERMANENT DIALOGUE FORMAT WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF SMALL AND MEDIUM BUSINESSES TO BE ESTABLISHED

Upon the Prime Minister's initiative, permanent dialogue format with the representatives of small and medium businesses will be established.

As Giorgi Kvirikashvili said at today's meeting with the representatives of small and medium enterprises, the initiative group shall be established to submit initiatives and concerns of the private sector to the government and government officials involved in these issues will respond more efficiently.

"This will alleviate your life and work," - the Prime Minister of small and medium businesses.

The Prime Minister believes that the government should make a special emphasis on de-

velopment of small and medium business.

"Undoubtedly, large business is very important and I have nothing against it. Nevertheless, it is preferable to change the tradition of pursuant to which only famous faces attend meetings with the government. Dialogue format shall also include the representatives of the small and medium business. This is the power with the highest growth rates, one of the key sectors of our economy in terms of employment, and we need to pay special attention to their problems. We came here to discuss the problems that may affect the small and medium sector," - Prime Minister emphasized.

Giorgi Kvirikashvili noted that crucially important document was drafted with the participation of the Ministry of Economy, international organizations.

Government encourages drafting of strategy on the small and medium business with the maximum participation with the SME.

The head of the government discussed four-point reform. One of the main priorities envisaged by the said document is encouraging entrepreneurship.

"Support to entrepreneurship, above all, encompasses fostering of acquiring funding for small enterprises and the the start-up. In the near future, start-up support fund will begin to function,

enriched program - "Produce in Georgia", starts its new sub-programs, including the "host in Georgia", which encourages establishment of small hotel network and important steps are taken in terms of provision of funding.

We want to hear your suggestions regarding steps that can be taken to to encourage small and medium business", - Prime Minister noted.

Giorgi Kvirikashvili also addressed the draft amendments to the tax code. Pursuant to the draft provisions, upon abolition of corporate income tax, only distributed profit will be taxable; The government has approved a series of measures to simplify

the whole tax administration.

"It is important to fund start-up businesses, to ensure that funding for the implementation of innovative ideas in the country can be acquired without provision of security to financial institutions. Simplification of the governance and creation of "front office", where all government services will be available for businesses, as well as - infrastructure and regional development projects are essential. We welcome involvement of small businesses in this process", - said the prime minister.

More than 50 representatives of small and medium businesses attend the meeting with Prime Minister.

## LAW

# PETRIASHVILI CASE - PERSONAL CONFLICT, POLITICAL CONFRONTATION OR THE PROVOCATION BEFORE ELECTIONS?

NINI JAPARIDZE

Several days ago, Tbilisi was shocked with the news of shooting the ex minister of Georgia on European & Euro - Atlantic integration Alex (Buka) Petriashvili, who currently serves as one of the leaders of the oppositional party "Free Democrats". Petriashvili was attacked in Saburtalo district, at the cemetery by two people. According to the eye witness, aggressors physically assaulted him and later on, one of them shot Petriashvili for 5 times. His health condition was so poor, that he underwent a serious operation. Petriashvili still remains in the hospital.

Armed attack happened at brothers cemetery immediately become the subject of discussion.

In public eyes the reasons and the motivations of the attack were absolutely different. Some thought it could be the personal conflict. The continuation of the love affair of Petriashvili's ex wife Eka mishveladze and the businessman Soso dolidze. According to the rumors spread in public, businessman become outraged by break up and ordered to punish Mishveladze's new husband. The interview

made by Mishveladze several months ago strengthened the doubts. She said that her family was under a serious surveillance. Second group of people thought that the reason for attack could be the political confrontation as "Free democrats" often criticize the leading party. According to the third group none of the above-mentioned reasons were true.

These group of people thought that attack was the part of the provocation which was planned before elections in order to cause the destabilization and fear in people/

It has been more that week that Petriashvili was shot, though his case has not been investigated yet and the questions remain unanswered: What was the main motivation for shooting him at the cemetery, why was he shot in legs, did the aggressor want to kill him or just warn about an issue we don't know yet. Is it the provocation which was planned before the elections or it's the political confrontation?

It must be said that in recent times the criminal cases become in the spotlight, people started to think that the number of rob-

beries and the attacks has been considerably risen. For those, Petriashvilis attack was the best evidence of what they thought was happening.

It's up to people to decide whether the number of crimes increased in recent period of time or not, thought there are some, that we can't round: the mistrustful death of Rustavi 2 founder Erosi Kitsmarishvili, The shooting of the businessman Besik Khardziani, he was murdered near his house, the explosion of Yuri Vazagashvili on the cemetery of his own son and the recent crime committed by Vakhtang Kuchava and later the suicide, which according to his family seems so unreal.

Georgian politicians were very surprised when they heard about the shooting, despite the thing that the investigation is still working over the case and the motivation of the attack is officially unknown the leader of the Free Democrats Irakli Alasania said that the reason was the political confrontation. According to him the attack was the evidence of the bustle in Georgia. Alasania said that people in Georgia were not protected

enough other member of "Free democrats" said the same. Nino Gogvadze implied that the attack was the indicator of poor safety condition in Georgia. No one was stressing the idea that the case could be related to personal conflict.

Observer reached the member of the leading party Gogi Topadze which is so famous of his openly comments. According to him the attempt to cause the provocation with the help of Petriashvili was impermissible. In his opinion Petriashvili was not as important political figure.

"I can describe Petriashvili as a respectful Georgian and good diplomat. I hope that lawmen will investigate this crime as soon as possible and his medical condition will become better. Because of that aggressor should be behind the bars. Though in my opinion, Petriashvili was not such an important figure to be used as the tool to cause the provocation in the country. I expel this",-said Topadze

Observer contacted the member of Free Democrats in order to find out whether there were new details about the crime or not, though at this time, the members

of the oppositional party decided not to make conclusions and wait for the results of the investigation.

"I can't speak about the motives, I can't even say that was done because of the political reason, personal reason or any other, I prefer to wait for the investigation. after that each of will be able to draw conclusions",-said Viktor Dolidze.

While the politicians try not to speak about the possible reasons of the attack and the investigation is still working on the case, Petriashvili has published a post on his personal Facebook account. He posted the song of war from Georgian movie "Bashia-chuki" saying: Don't think that I catch cold, I will recover soon, I heard your voice of struggle, I know that Georgia will win and I'll be somewhere near".

It is pretty difficult to understand what Petriashvili really meant and who is going to defeat Georgia, though meanwhile we hope that investigation will find the main reason of the attack and find the aggressor as well. We wish Petriashvili to recover soon and to continue his political activities.

# WHAT IS THE REAL SITUATION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN GEORGIA?

IRAKLI PAVLENISHVILI

A European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) report positively evaluates the National Human Rights Strategy which was set up with the active participation of the Ministry of Justice, as well as the action plan, that make the basis of this strategy. According to the report, strategy provides protection for religious freedom, equality and minority rights. The commission estimates positively, as well as the 2009-2014 national concept of Tolerance and Civil Integration, together with other departments, that the Ministry of Justice took part in adopting this concept. The report notes that the concept is oriented on strengthening integration of ethnic minorities. The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance believes that Georgia made correct and effective steps in this direction, and particularly welcomes the efforts carried out for teaching Georgian as a second language. Ministry of Justice and its agencies, the Agency of Service Development and the Justice Training Center, are actively involved in teaching Georgian language for ethnic minorities.

One is the correct vision, action plan and the measures taken, and the other is facts and the reality that exists in society. Homophobic, xenophobic incidents and situation in country speaks against tolerance of Georgian society. There is a tough situation in Georgia regarding protecting rights of ethnic minorities. Gypsies are in an especially bad situation, as they do not have an identity document, such as birth certificates. The absence of doc-

umentation causes many problems, like not being given the right to study at school or being able to become part of the community where they live. The lack of knowledge of the Georgian language causes communication problems. Because of the documentation absence, they can't be implemented legally going out and returning back to Georgia.

Armenian Georgians are in also bad conditions. The phrase, "You Armenian," is used in an abusive way. Arrestment of Georgian citizens Philip Babayan and Arthur Oganezov on April 5, 2015, by the law enforcement officers for the resisting arrest in Tbilisi. Later, a video footage was released filmed by Babayan with a camera located in the watch that shows how policemen are physically and verbally abusing detainees. Babaian said it was not the first case that he became violent for his ethnic origin. It should be noted that compared to previous years and the situation has improved in Georgia has decreased discrimination against minorities; which is reflected in the public defender's report. In particular, in November 2009 the Law "On Higher Education" has been altered, thus simplified the rules of national examinations for Azeri, Armenian, Ossetian and Abkhaz entrants. This initiative has significantly increased access to higher education for ethnic minorities. In 2010, in the Adjara Autonomous Republic several Muslim organizations have gone through registration, what was very difficult to achieve for them in previous years. However, there are ethnic groups who have the legal and

economic integration problems in society, among them Gypsies, around 1,500 people, wandering the Kurdish population, about 700 people, Moldovans, about 1,200 people and doma branch of the Gypsies community, but they have a separate ethnic identity, about 500 people.

Active political participation of minorities is a problem, which was emphasized between EU and the Georgia European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) Action Plan report. The Georgian Dream had nine members of ethnic minorities in the electoral list for the 2014 municipal elections. The first ethnic minority representative was in the 39th place. National Movement, 12 representatives of ethnic minorities were on the list, the first was - 35th. There are eight ethnic minority representatives in Georgian parliament nowadays. In previous parliament was eight representatives, while in 2004-08 (12) and 1998-2004 (16).

In addition to the improvement of legislation, is needed to raise awareness of public servants. Trainings are not enough. For example during Samtawyo conflict, trained policemen ordered Kulo Mufti Jemal Paksadze to leave the village, where he is leader of Muslim group, but on the other hand in Nigvziani policemen were unwilling to take drastic steps for protecting representatives of Muslim religion.

There are cases in regions settled by ethnic minority groups where courts have pending not on Georgian language. There is the number of cases in which was violation of the right of legal interpreter. In ombudsman's report



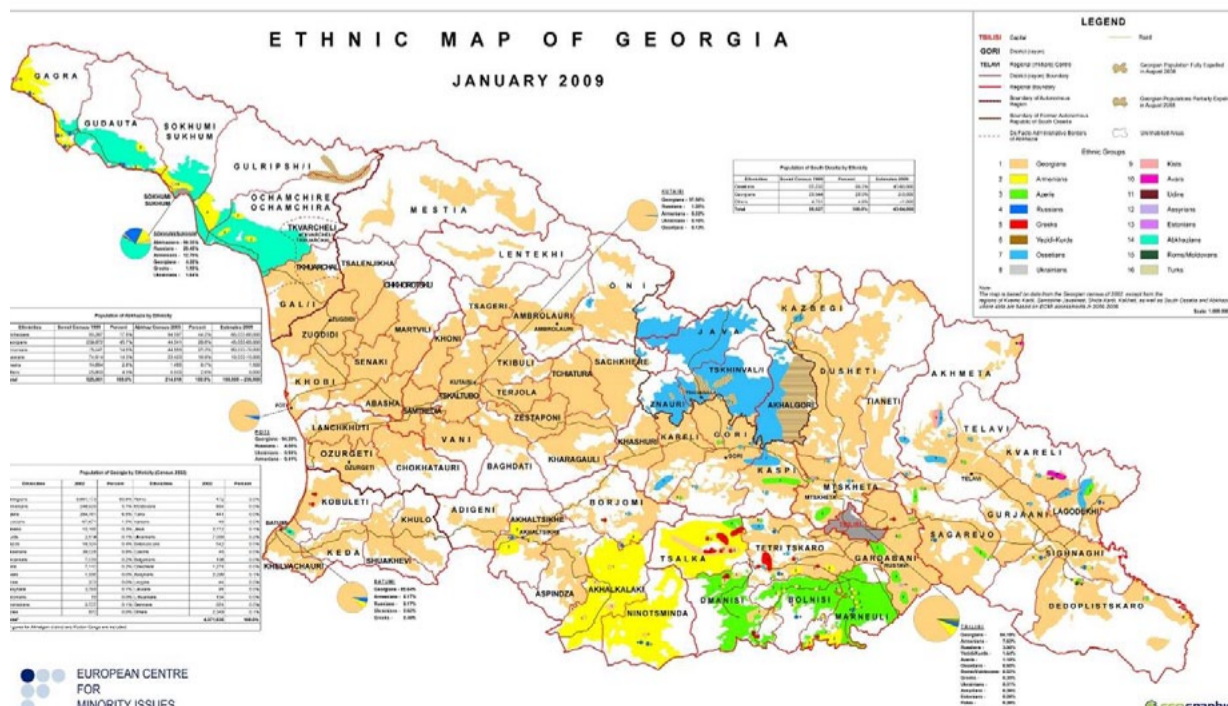
is said that there was cases where the Ombudsman's representative attended the trial and found that the interpreter was translating fragmenly. Inaccurate translation of the judgment is very complicated during legal dispute, if the third party appeals the Court.

General Education and the knowledge of Georgian language is still important issue for ethnic minorities. In Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-10-15% of population has pre-school education. And in 2011, 39 percent of students fail the exams, 2009-2011 there were 13 teachers who received certificates. According to the studies in Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli Azeris 89 percent watched Azer TV stations when Armenians 81 percent watch Armenian TV programmers, Second place has Russian-language television stations, only the third place is of the Georgian Public Broadcaster and other Georgian TV stations. As for the Georgian televisions and newspapers, according to studies, ethnic minorities are only in three cases covered: When they are connected to the crime, mentioned in a negative context or they are having religious holidays.

Several months ago, in state University of Tbilisi happened confrontation between the Iraqi and the Georgian students. On Oct. 9, the Iraqi students in the state university campus marked Iraqi culture day, which was followed by some Georgian student's irritation and conflict between this two groups.

Illegal hinder impunity of offenders who were acting in Nigvziani and threatening Muslim population, led to the same violent nature actions in the other parts of country. The domestic policy cannot cover all the needs of ethnic minorities. Therefore, in practice it is difficult to find an ideal option, which would regulate all areas in same qual-

ity. However, a large part of the states have set ethnic minority problems as national strategy priority. For example, the UK Department of Education in the years 2011-12 carried out ethnic minority achievement grant project 28 (EMAG), Designed to identify and eliminate risks for those students who has low academic performance in bilingual schools. Notably, the 1998 national literacy strategy implementation within the framework of the project "English as a Second Language" (EAL), which envisage those involved in the field of Educational Instruction and an action plan that is tailored to each student's needs. Similar programs, constant control and monitoring of student academic performance in bilingual schools might have positive impact on the quality of education in Georgia. In Georgia, in view of abovementioned problems related to ethnic minorities ministry of education should ensure high-leveled educational opportunities in schools of ethnic minorities where the pupils will be able to get education on both Georgian and native languages. The Ministry of Education should allow experts to carry out the study and revision of training manuals; books in order to avoid hate speech, ant tolerant, aggressive phraseology. The Government must also implement effective measures to facilitate the representation of ethnic minorities in public policy. It can be carried out by the relevant changes in the electoral system. Authorities and political parties have to intensify their work and to provide information to ethnic minorities, in densely populated regions. The government should take steps to protect the rights of ethnic minorities in the legal regulations for the effective implementation and improvement of their rights.



# NEW DEMONSTRATION TO FIGHT FOR GENDER QUOTAS IN PARLIAMENT

TAMAR UMPRIANI

“16 Days” is the name of a photo exhibition held by the initiation of the U.S Embassy. It was presented in Tbilisi Historical Museum and will last for the next two weeks. The exposition includes portraits of 16 Georgian women who work and fight to prevent gender violence and inequality. The exhibition is dedicated to March for Women’s History Month; the photos were taken during November’s gender equality campaign supported by the U.S. Embassy.

“We are honored to host this event,” said the embassy representative. “Unfortunately, gender violence is one of the current problems in Georgia. I would like to thank every woman here; each of you have a special role in the way of fighting against violence. We also thank our partner, Mr. Deniem, for taking portraits for the exhibition.”

Writer, lawyer, diplomat, military person – this is an incomplete list of the women depicted in the photos. Though they have different professions and views, they still unite around one problem – to end violence and fight to prevent it. Qeti Devdariani, the screenwriter of a popular Georgian TV series, has one portrait in the exhibition, too. She uses the TV screen to talk about direct or indirect, psychological or

physical, almost-daily violence against women. Ana Nacvlshvili, chairwoman of the Young Lawyers Association, fights against violence by advocating for a more accessible and gender-sensitive justice system.

Behind each portrait stands a strong and independent woman, though membership of the society doesn’t protect them from being a victim of violence. “As a lesbian woman, I feel pressure in every field of life,” said Natia Ghviniashvili, one of the faces of the exhibition. “I often have to listen to cynical and offensive statements about my sexual orientation and other LGBT people. My prior interests aren’t in the list of problems that government must take care on. I was almost killed on May 17, 2013. Many of my friends were hurt as well, but nobody was punished for that. My experience is my main motivation to fight against gender violence.”

During the presentation, the Istanbul convention was also talked about, which discusses the ways to prevent family and gender violence. The convention has been operating since 2011, and Georgia joined in 2014.

For the ratification of the convention, the Ministry of Justice has developed a package of legislative changes, which includes

around 20 laws. Due to new changes, there will be a new act in the criminal code. It includes illegal spying and any kind of unwanted communication with a victim which contains threats or offense. The punishment for this kind of crime will be a maximum two years in prison. After the effective date of this amendment, hundreds of cases will be investigated instead of rejected, and offenders will be punished instead of let loose to possibly commit another crime.

Due to the changes, women will be protected not only by family violence but any kind of gender violence. It means if the rule of giving free lawyer consultations and shelter was spread only on family violence, now it will include any kind of discrimination. This will significantly contribute to female rape victims’ problems to be examined and helped. Before, they had to sacrifice their finances and reputation for fighting for their rights.

Another change says “victim women must be informed about the offender leaving the prison,” which is an important amendment. There was no similar mechanism in the law until now, which increased the chance for the woman to become a victim again after the offender leaves prison. Due to the change, pris-

on administration is obliged to inform the urban police station three months before the offender is released from prison. The police station has to also inform the victim about it.

By creating these kind mechanisms in the law, it raises the real chance to fight against violence with legal supports. Georgia has an opportunity to use the experience of developed countries. The government of post-soviet-society Poland became interested in gender violence problems just few years ago. Though they already gained a lot experience on this field and created effective laws.

In our country, police officers work independently on the cases connected to family violence. We can’t really call it effective, especially when it effects a victim negatively. It happens because after visiting family once, police end their work.

They don’t try to visit them more and investigate the situation. Different from Georgia, there exists a special organization for family violence cases. They frequently visit those kind of families, examine conditions and make individual plans for how to help them.

The murder in 2014 at Ilia State University, when an ex-husband killed his former wife, maybe

wouldn’t have happened if an electronic bracelet existed in Georgia like in Poland. The offender is obligated to wear the bracelet, which sends a message to police and the victim if the offender reaches her closer than is allowed.

In the end, by bilateral collaboration, raising public awareness and government interest, the problem could be solved and the dangerous statistics of 2013-14 – which says there were 372 family violence cases against woman in just six months – could be changed. Though fighting for woman rights doesn’t include only family violence, it includes every field of human rights. “The mechanisms of protection and defense were improved,” Ghviniashvili said. “Different from before, many women already know what discrimination means and what their rights are. We gain experience and self-confidence by talking about problems in society.”

The administration of Tbilisi Historical Museum said, “We are against any kind of violence and discrimination. Both genders should be protected the same way.” As for the photo exhibition, it will be presented in the hall for one week and after that, guests can see the portraits in the inside balcony of the museum.

## WOMEN’S RIGHTS DAY RALLY “POLITIKASHE” TO BE HELD IN TBILISI



Women’s Movement joins the March 8 celebration and asks for passive voting rights (right to be elected).

“Today in Georgia, women do not participate in managing the country. We are not in politics, because we are not on the electoral registers. To be included in party list to does not depend on any education or the experience. Political parties trying to establish democratic principles are leaving women out of politics,” is written in the statement.

Last year, the women’s movement demanded mandatory quotas - to create the list of the settlement, which provided 25% of women representation in Parliament. This year, the movement is demanding that the parliament vote for the bill on quotas.

“We want to know which candidate supports quotas - we want to know whom to vote in the 2016 parliamentary elections,” say the organizers.

Action is planned on March 8, at 16:00, at the former parliament building. Demonstration will include remarks by women’s rights activists and politicians in

support of quotas.

Rally will have music support from Ketato, Irakli Deisadze and Nina Sublati. The organizers offer hot drinks to the participants. Gifts will be distributed and donations will be collected, which will be transferred to a fund to support the fight against violence against women.





# LOCAL TRAFFIC REFORM IS BACK ON AGENDA

NATA BITSADZE

No long-term policy exists to regulate traffic in Georgia. Tbilisi City Council took various preventive measures and tightened sanctions, but the reality does not change.

The increased number of car accidents, massive violations of traffic rules, lack of access to public transportation, the old auto park, traffic jams in the capital city, air pollution and lack of public awareness are the current challenges that the local government faces.

The Ministry of Interior Affairs (MIA) reported that 602 people were killed in car accidents and 9,187 were injured in 2015. According to official information, last year registered 6,432 traffic accidents, which is 440 times higher than the 2014 data. The number of deaths increased by 91 from the previous year and amounted to 602, 651 increased number of casualties.

According to the data, in 2015 among the dead are 160 infantry, while the injured were 1,998, creating a particularly difficult situation in the capital city. Last year, 90 people were killed by car accidents while 3,834 were injured. MIA reported that among the dead were 43 pedestrians and among the injured were 1,305 walkers.

To regulate traffic, American patrolling model operates in Georgia, which is based on the principle of police visibility. According to the model, if a number of police officers are hired, then less crime occurs, because when people see police it has a preventive effect on citizens. This model is not effective for Georgia, because when citizens don't see the controlling cameras or a police car, they break the rules immediately.

The responsibility for the violation of the traffic rules rests with the Ministry of Internal Affairs. However, we should consider the culture of people in Georgia and mentality. Citizens do not take responsibility for each violation of traffic rules and increase accident risk with each instance of breaking rules. Such risk further increases a simple system of a driver's license.

Except the drivers, a person on foot creates a serious threat too. Society does not use pedestrian underpasses and bridges and the shortening of the road gets fatal results. The violation fine is 10 GEL, but the citizens are only penalized when they cross the

road illegally in front of the police.

People have protested with government officials and law enforcement officers when crime facts happened, but they accept car accidents as an inevitable fact that is impossible to avoid. Deputy of the Interior Minister Shalva Khutsishvili said that society always has negative emotions with every sanction by the ministry to prevent car accidents, considered disproportionate even using a seat belt and do not agree to sanctions.

Traffic is often a manipulation theme for politicians. Gela Kvashilava, a founder of Partnership for Road Safety, said that the only reason is to get more voters. He said the legislation should be improved and we should all agree on this issue regardless of political affiliation.

One of the challenges in traffic is a lack of access to public transportation and increased number of cars in the capital city. Because of lack of public transport, the public is forced to go to work by car. Accordingly, there is an increased number of cars in Tbilisi and in rush-hour traffic is always overloaded in most streets.

Every year, the number of the cars increase by 10 to 12 percent in the country. There is also a low price and increased demand for right-hand drive cars, which are not safe due to the country's infrastructure. Right-hand drive cars negative features are: overtaking, cornering and low quality of night visibility. Gela Kvashilava says that in Georgia last year was entered 85,000 cars, of which 45,000 were from Japan.

The Interior Ministry has banned the right to register a car with a right steering-wheel in Georgia. Kvashilava believes that it is a right choice because in the five years we would have 60 to 70 percent right-hand drive cars and we would have to reconstruct the infrastructure, which equates to hundreds of millions of dollars.

"We have to choose either right or left driving system because the country does not have the funds to redraw everything," Kvashilava said.

Because of so many vehicles, air pollution levels have a negative impact in the country. Ministry of Environment Protection measured air pollution indicator in Tbilisi in 2015 and found that the most contaminated are



central streets of Tbilisi : Vake-Saburtalo, Liberty Square, etc.

There are not enough parking places for cars in Tbilisi, so every free sidewalk is used for parking. Malkhaz Chanturidze, Tbilisi Municipal Transport Service deputy, said that the City Hall banned some places for parking, but the cars are still placed on them. For this reason, it is impossible to move on foot or by car as well. The capital city infrastructure is mountainous and such vehicle as bicycles cannot be used for traffic throughout Tbilisi.

In Tbilisi streets are places where traffic lights allow moving the cars and walkers too. Car drivers do not make way for pedestrians. Malkhaz Chanturidze says that the so-called Zebra is the traffic signals are the same laws and drivers are obliged to comply with a rule, but he added that it is dependent on the nation's culture.

"Pedestrians are asking to add a traffic light for them, but everyone knows what kind of traffic jams are in the city and several traffic lights will exacerbate the dire situation in the streets of Tbilisi," Chanturidze said.

But Gela Kvashilava believes that to add the traffic lights are even obligatory in the country due to low culture. According to him, the more traffic lights in the city will cause more in the streets.

Ministry of Internal Affairs, the City Hall and the Partnership for Road Safety are developing prevention ideas for traffic in Tbilisi.

To raise public awareness, the Ministry of Interior is cooperating with the Ministry of Education, and in the 30 schools in the near future, children will go the special course of "112 agency" about the safety of traffic and other information. Shalva Khutsishvili said that it's expected to start in September. According to

him, government department actively works for social advertising to provide the society with useful information about traffic rules. Khutsishvili noted that this problem can not be solved only using social advertising, it needs complex working to raise awareness of society and use a strict administration.

Chanturidze states that significant changes are planned in Tbilisi City Hall. According to him, City Hall wants to buy new buses. As Chanturidze says, the new buses are less able to pollute the environment, because the gas fuel and they are safe, because the gas cylinders will be mounted on the roof of the bus.

"We are only bringing 175 buses, but this year we have a plan to purchase 700-800 new buses. This will reduce to decrease the number of vehicles on the certain streets because part of people will move in the comfortable buses," says the deputy head of transport.

Chanturidze says that the central streets will set up 10 parking places and parking problems will be solved. According to him, the end of this summer will create so-called Bas-line system, which will allow the bus to go special sections of the road, where cars will not go. This system will decrease in the number of cars on the some streets. Also, the metro station will be completed in one year and three months near the University high campus and it will be an important change in the traffic.

Deputy Minister of Interior Affairs said that the agency's short-term goal is to decrease death by car accident by more effective regulations. And in the long term, it needs need to reduce the risk group that more vehicles would pass technical inspection in 2018.

As Shalva Khutsishvili said, the Ministry created the infantry patrol system that that will pre-

vent as traffic and even criminal issues.

Now only about 50 infantry patrol officers are on Tbilisi streets to prevent moving problems. By the end of the year, the Ministry will increase the number of such patrols, also, we will increase the number of cameras," Khutsishvili said.

The partnership of Safe founder Gela Kvashilava offers to the government to buy sensor equipment for air pollution's level measures. Also, he said, it would be a good point if the police program will be restored in TV because to provide information to society.

Government agencies are working on the traffic issues, but it is necessary to examine it at a higher level – political, business and community levels to prevent main challenges. There must exist a single entity, which will be responsible all the problems of traffic and try to fix them. But now, patrols on the feet will control car accident facts and how society defends traffic laws. They also will help walkers to pass the road according to the law, will increase controlling camera numbers too. Lack of access to public transport will regulate Tbilisi City Hall's initiative, to buy the new buses. The Ministry of Education will increase public awareness to create a special course, but it is not enough for society. It is discretionary when this news will come into effect, even more, when car accident does not happen only in the capital city and death number is very high. An old auto park system needs to be solved and it is important that the government should get recommendations of Fund of Partnership for Road Safety.

However, the complex result will not have, if will not create state's plan on traffic and transportation and if will not set up the department on it.

# NEW INITIATIVES TO HELP MOTHERS WITH MULTIPLE CHILDREN

EKA PKHOVELISHVILI

On March 3, Georgia celebrates Mother's Day, which was first announced by the first president of Georgia, Zviad Gamsakhurdia. The decision of the first president was approved by the Supreme Council in 1991. It was intended that Mother's Day would replace International Women's Day on March 8, but both days are celebrated separately.

On this day, rights and social conditions of mothers are discussed. The Public Defender of Georgia Ucha Nanuashvili made a statement on Mother's Day.

"I congratulate all of Georgia on Mother's Day, which is a day of expressing our love and respect. Mothers' role is invaluable in terms of the development of future generations and it is important for all of us to understand that this is an equal responsibility not only for parents, but also for the state as well," Nanuashvili said.

It is especially worth noting the role of single mothers, who single-handedly take care of the child's upbringing without state aid or support from society. Due to mainstream stereotypical beliefs, they become victims of violence in society.

"Unfortunately, Georgia still has the problem of the protection of women's rights and gender equality. With these challenges, single mothers have special needs, who, due to the harmful practices, often alone, have to care about their children's upbringing. It is important to understand that Georgia has quite a few mothers who need support from the state and right social services," Nanuashvili pointed out.

In addition, there are many large families that are suffering from poor economic and social conditions and have to look after their children's development without any support.

The chairman of the Health and Social Issues Committee, Dimitri Khundadze, who is also heading the country's demographic trend, has the initiative to determine large family status.

"I want to congratulate all mothers living in Georgia and abroad. We need many more large families. Unfortunately, in a country where the demographic problems are so acute, there is no definition of large family. Today, there is no single standard. For example, a variety of ministries consider three children in the family to be the large family and relevant programs are operating for them. But self-governments are taking decisions individually and three, four, five or more children in the family are considered to be a large family. There should be a unified standard in the country on how many children in the family are necessary to be a large family," Khundadze said.

The state is obliged to promote



motherhood as a correctly comprehensive social status, and with the implementation of new initiatives, enhance mother's role in the society. Furthermore, the constant attention on wom-

en's rights protection should be the main issue for the government in order to improve their conditions. Equal rights are the significant achievement of the democratic society.



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# LIVING WITH THE STATUS OF “OCCUPIERS”

GVANTSA SILIKASHVILI

According to the last data from the National Statistics Office of Georgia, 169,000 people receive social packages. Among them are 32 families who now live in the former damaged #68 school.

This building belongs to the Ministry of Economy of Georgia. According to the experts of Ministry of Education and Science, this building is not useable, which is why it has been nonfunctional and empty for the past three years, often serving as shelter for the homeless population.

As you enter this building, you will notice damaged parquet, broken windows and walls damaged by rain. Fireplace smoke billows from former classrooms.

One of the dwellers, former veteran Gia Beridze, said that they need gas, which they don't have, and a meter of current. The Ministry of Economy of Georgia has not validated their claims.

“I have lived here more than three years,” Beridze said. “Some homeless have occupied the rooms of my former maternal home, located in Vazgali. There weren't enough places for everyone, so some of us have occupied this building. We have paid off current debts – approximately 600 Lari – by ourselves. Although we aren't occupants of Telasi, so we have one general meter in the yard. Because of the tax neighborhood, we often have conflicts with each other. We

don't have gas, either; we have to use the fireplace. Despite the existing gas inside the building, the Ministry of Economy won't allow us to use it in our rooms. But they gave permission to other social vulnerable to register as occupants of Telasi.”

The former maternity hospital in Vazgali belongs to the Ministry of Economy, too. When asked about it, the Ministry redirected this newspaper to the Property Management Agency, but received no response.

Water and toilet facilities were set up by the occupants' own resources, but they can't do anything with wrecked walls and rain coming in. Beridze says they asked for help several times, but it was in vain.

“When there was no response after we appealed to the Ministry of Economy, we asked for help from a deputy named Jaba Jishkariani,” Beridze said. “He refused and demanded we leave his office.”

His mother says they live in fear of separating from the school building, but they don't have any other living place. In addition to this, they often have problems when it's time to receive their social package. “When it's time, they come to check up, and sometimes they increase points in order to not give us money,” Beridze explained.

According to the dwellers, they occupied this building because

it isn't private property and belongs to the state. Tbilisi City Hall says that they occupied national domain without legal document of use. On legal grounds, they can't give them permission to use gas. In addition to this, the Ministry of Education and Science demands permission to use this building.

Unlike residents of the former 68th school, people living in the ex-heart station building located at Gudamakari 2 don't receive any social package. The reason for this is changes in the reduction of poverty level and perfection of social security measures for resolution.

According to the changes, a form of request won't be received for registration into the database of socially vulnerable if a person doesn't live legally in a national domain. These people are “occupiers” of the building, which belongs to the Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center. In accordance with this fact, the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia doesn't allow them to improve housing conditions.

Conditions are unbearable and unsanitary, with no sewage system in the building. The sunlight reaches into a room from destroyed windows without glass. Illegally-used electricity was cut last year. Water supply issues were arranged by the occupants



themselves with help from the board. Electricity problems are still unresolved.

Said Esmā Mosiashvili, “I wrote Mayor Narmania a letter. He tasked this to district board, and now we have water, but there is still no electricity. Kids have to study under candlelight. A representative of Telasi said if they settled a meter it would be as a gift for us. So of course they don't settle it.”

There are persecuted, socially vulnerable and homeless people among living here. As they say, they know they acted illegally, but they had no choice. They lived in an extreme poverty and couldn't pay a rent. Now they live in fear of eviction.

The director of the Infectious

Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center, Shota Gogichashvili, says that nobody was going to leave them homeless.

The government paid them 600 lari to hire a flat for three months. Then, they will receive alternative housing.

Dwellers don't refute this fact, but say that those who left the building came back after three months: “They received 600 lari, but not alternative housing.”

Dwellers of the former #68 school and heart station building ask that the government pay attention to them, help them to improve housing conditions or give them alternative housing, in order to not leave them with the status of “occupiers.”

## 10 REMAINS OF SOLDIERS WHO DIED FOR THE UNITY OF HOMELAND HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED

10 soldiers that died during the Babushera airport blast of the Abkhazian war in 1993 were identified.

Minister of Refugees Sozar Subari visited Samkharauli Bureau, where the identified remains were given to family members. The corpses were transferred to the Holy Trinity Cathedral. On March 5, after the Civil funerals the fighters were transferred to the Vera cemetery and have been buried with military honors.

In 2010, under the auspices of the Red Cross set up a mutual coordination group, which examined finding the missing people from 1992-1993 Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. As a result it was

decided to open negotiations on Babushera Brothers' Cemetery and to exhume the bodies.

After the opening of Babushera cemetery burial, the remains were transferred to Forensic Bureau. The genetic profiles were sent to the DNA laboratory in Croatia, Zagreb University. At this point, a total of 31 remains were identified.

“In the near future we plan to identify twelve more remains. As for the current negotiations between the Ministry of Refugees and the Abkhaz de facto authorities, in 2016 and two more tombs will be opened and more than 100 bodies will be transferred,” said the press service of the Ministry.

## LIVING SPACES FOR SOME ECO-MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES WILL BE LEGALISED



More than 200 Eco-migrants' house and land will be legalized, and this process will continue, – the Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili declared at government session today.

The head of government said that the important steps are being taken on migrants issues, which were not solved during years.

“These are the tasks that we have to ensure maximum con-

centrate around”, – said the Prime Minister.

The government also decided to legalize living spaces of 145 refugee and internal displaced families.

# A PLAY BY THE ROMANIAN AUTHOR IS BACK ON MARJANISHVILI THEATRE

NINO SHARASHIDZE

“One small provincial town ... most people here place great emphasis on what their peers think about them ... the moral and social rules that they have imposed on themselves and became slaves of these rules ...”

“The Star Without a Name,” the 1942 Romanian play by Mihail Sebastian, was staged once again at Marjanishvili Theatre. For the first time, he has come to the genius director Anzor Kutateladze in 1963, with the participation of the best artists of the time: Marine Tbileli, Tengiz Archvadze, Helen Kipshidze and Malkhaz Beburishvili. While current staging directed by Levan Tsuladze gives main roles to Nika Kuchava, Anka Vasadze, Konstantine Roinishvili, Demetre (Duta) Skhirtladze and Manana Kozakova. The play is dedicated to the memory of his father-in-law, Mikhail Kozakov, who directed the movie based on the same play in 1978, and his work has enjoyed immense popularity in Russia.

The play was written when the Soviet Union finally took off in

the life of the member states. Issues that it refers to are very natural to our society, therefore, it is easily perceived and delivered by the director and the actors.

Particularly worthy of note is the play set design and video projection, which begins with a duck flying in calm sunny weather, leading to a collision with a train and a noisy staff change. It is difficult to recognize the director’s intent in this motion to refer this to the author, Mikhail Sebastian, who died in a truck crash at the age of 38, and there is speculation that he was killed or did the director intend to show the Georgian reality which was heavily influenced by the Soviet regime, when the country had more opportunities to become an independent state and to have a healthy society.

In a provincial mountain town, the railway station serves as a gathering point for the villagers. So sleepy is the town that he isn’t bothered by the lack of working clocks and instead keeps time by the arrival of trains and regular visitors. High schoolers flock to

the station to catch a glimpse of the wider world, including the trains coming and going from more glamorous locales.

In this play, a lot of things are just as in Georgia, starting with the pits on the way that is underlined in almost every episode of the play by the director and ending with the unclear moral and social rules, which is so established in the society that they cannot escape from it. But these people manage to live somehow, or rather they exist, as Miss Cuckoo (Manana Kozakova), notes.

A home without electricity, running water or lack of new clothes is normal here, but the problem starts when the train stops surprisingly, as it never stopped here before, and forcefully removes a gorgeous girl for lack of a ticket. Much of the play’s humor centers around the “scandal” of the professor hosting a female guest in his home – a scenario contemporary audience have to stretch to imagine – and both the script and the delivery are characterized by naturalistic method acting of the modern stage.

The town setting is alternately repellent and appealing, which may be the point. The mystery woman is able to see both the upsides and downsides to provincial life there.

When her gambler husband appears at the stage and convinces her to return home, because she will not survive in this dull town, the woman named Mona changes her opinion on staying and she leaves, although she started to like this place for the sunshine and beauty of flowers and adventurous life.

An astronomy teacher that also fell in love with Mona does not object to her decision, on the contrary, it follows the acquittal and says, “Stars never abandon their orbit.”

She also accepts that in the case of staying here, her life had become a dreary place, where people are deprived of any kind of comfort. Their daily concerns are shaped from their basic needs and no one has assembled his own life, instead they live with someone else’s life, looking from the windows.

Foreigners go away from the city and everything is back to normal rhythm. Sadly comic, a high level of artistry and exceptionally good scenic direction gives credit to any particular impression on the visitor. However, due to the relevance of the problem and the severity, many may still remain dissatisfied and do not know who to blame, the director, the actor or the play for “non-Hollywood” end of the story.

“If you want to tell people the truth, make them laugh, otherwise they’ll kill you,” Georgian director Levan Tsuladze has a good understanding of this phrase. Therefore, he will not be “killed” for this play, but the audience will at least smile on the high-class choreography and healthy humour and will get great aesthetic pleasure. It is also worth mentioning that the stage-mounted monitor and foreign visitors can see the English subtitles of the performance and they might also recognize themselves in the characters of Duta Skhirtladze and Anka Vasadze.

## BULGARIA LIBERATION DAY AND MOTHERS DAY OF GEORGIA CELEBRATED TOGETHER

GURANDA DZAMELASHVILI

The unions of Bulgarians in Georgia, Vazrazhdane, held a celebration of the Bulgarian Independence Day, Georgian Mothers Day March 3 at the Caucasus House together with the Bulgarian Day of Spring, called Baba Marta.

“On March 3, we celebrate the national day of Bulgaria,” said Counsellor Tihomir Todorov. “Sometimes, this day is considered as an Independence day of Bulgaria, but we celebrate Liberation day due to the Treaty of San-Stefano, which ended the Russia-Turkish War and provided for the creation of an autonomous Principality of Bulgaria following almost 500 years of Ottoman domination.”

At the event, Bulgarian and Georgian songs and dances were performed and had been exhibited “martenitsa,” which is a symbol of health and happiness according to the Bulgarian tradition. There was a presentation about Bulgaria as well. The Am-

bassador and the famous Bulgarian writer and public figure Krasin Himirski delivered a speech to the audience about Bulgarian culture. As the Ambassador of the republic of Bulgaria to Georgia, Plamen Bonchev, said March 3 is a very important date for Bulgarian people.

“I’m very glad that this Union of Bulgarians of Georgia organized this event in Georgia. It’s a very important day for us, because on this day, Bulgaria was liberated and the country recovered its independence. It’s very nice that today it coincides with another beautiful day, Mothers Day in Georgia. Also, on the first of March, we celebrate Baba Marta. At the beginning of spring, all Bulgarians wear this Martenitsa for good health and for happiness.”

The chairman of The Unions of Bulgaria in Georgia, Raina Belva Akhalkacishvili, says that no matter where Bulgarians are, they always celebrate their na-

tional holiday.

“With celebrating the 3rd of March, we remember our homeland,” she said, and added, “I congratulate every mother, no matter what nationality they belong to.” The Liberation Day of Bulgaria is always celebrated on March 3. This holiday is Bulgaria’s national day and honors the Bulgarian volunteers who, during the Russian-Turkish War in 1877-78, with the assistance of Russian and Romanian forces, liberated Bulgaria from almost 500 years of Ottoman rule.

This holiday is a welcome holiday at the beginning of spring and is traditionally marked by ceremonies across Bulgaria, particularly in those towns and cities which saw the fiercest fighting in the war. In Sofia, there are church services, wreath laying and a military march to honor those who gave their lives in the war. March 3 became Bulgaria’s Liberation Day in 1888, though it took until 1978 before it gained

its National Day of Bulgaria status and was formally decreed as an official holiday in 1990.

Baba Marta (Grandma March), who is celebrated March 1, is believed to be a feisty lady who always seems to be grudging at her two brothers, while the sun only comes out when she smiles.

As folklore often goes, there are different versions of the Baba Marta tale. One says that on that day she does her pre-spring cleaning and shakes her mattress for the last time before the next winter – all the feathers that come out of it pour on Earth like snow – the last snow of the year.

On March 1, almost everyone in Bulgaria can be seen with Martenitsa, a small piece of adornment made of white and red yarn, which will be worn until the end of the month (or the first time an individual sees a stork, swallow or budding tree, the first signs that spring has arrived).

People are supposed to take off their Martenitsas when they

see the first signs that spring has already come. When the Martenitsa is taken off, many people tie it to a tree, specifically one that they’d like to be especially fruitful. Others place it under a rock; based on what they find there the next morning predicts what kind of a year it will be.

Martenitsa now comes in all shapes and sizes. However, it always bears the same meaning: a lucky charm against the evil spirits of the world, a token for health and a sign of appreciation.

Celebration of Mothers Day in Georgia was established at the suggestion of the first President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, and in 1991, the decision of celebrating this bright holiday for all was legitimized by the Supreme Council of Georgia. The purpose of a Mothers Day is to maintain the tradition of respect for the woman who consolidates the foundations of the family, to emphasize the value of the most important person in our life – our mother.

# FAMOUS AZERBAIJANI ARTIST HELD EXHIBITION OF HIS ABSTRACT ART IN TBILISI

NINI MACHAVARIANI

Award-winning artist Farhad Khalilov from Azerbaijan runs the exhibition in Tbilisi. Representative works of modern art offers brilliant tour at the National Museum Dimitri Shevardnadze National Gallery from March 1st to March 22 are available.

The exhibition presents 35 works from the last few years most of the current crisis. One of the first album, "Portrait of an old man", who was executed in 1961. Khalilov was able to develop Soviet ideology-free, create your own style and Caucasians rich nature and the inner world of interesting perspectives.

Azerbaijani artist presents a number of solo exhibitions in London - "Saatchi Gallery", Berlin - the city administration in the gallery, Moscow - Artists Central House and the Tretyakov State Gallery, Baku - the museums in the center of Paris - "La Cite Internationale. Overall, 40 countries participated in various group exhibitions.

His works are owned by senior officials from Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Russia, Lithuania, Germany, China, the International Confederation of Artists of Azerbaijan museums and collections. As well as the US, Germany, Poland, France and private collections in Mexico.

Since 1987 Ferhad Khalilov became the chairman Azerbaijan Artists Union. At various times, he has received numerous awards. His works are sold at Sotheby and Philippe de puree auctions.

The artist's work is characterized by a certain clarity plastic language. At the same time it is distinguished artistic speech disambiguation tracts. The artist's perceptions seemingly continuously reveals the paradoxical moments. For example, the pictorial expression, which implies a certain spontaneity, his work takes the form of the virtuous. The artist's self-identification was based on his acute percep-

tion of the national landscape. Expressing deep traditions of her artistic expression harmoniously with nature. Conspicuous individualism, which goes beyond the framework of painting a local school, the world of art XX century XXI century until the beginning of the second half, "Colour field painting" - to neo-expressionism up to the individual events in the comparator.

"Khalilov Farhad paintings will be useful with understanding a musical connotation: his painting attracts visitors with its sound, it is transported to the disaster of the space. His work allows us to trust their own intuition, experience and aesthetic tastes of visitors, apart from this impressive personality created by the Art in harmony with the cosmos", - said the curator of the exhibition.

The artist of the "Observer" stated that Georgia is very fond of the exhibition here and had a constant desire.

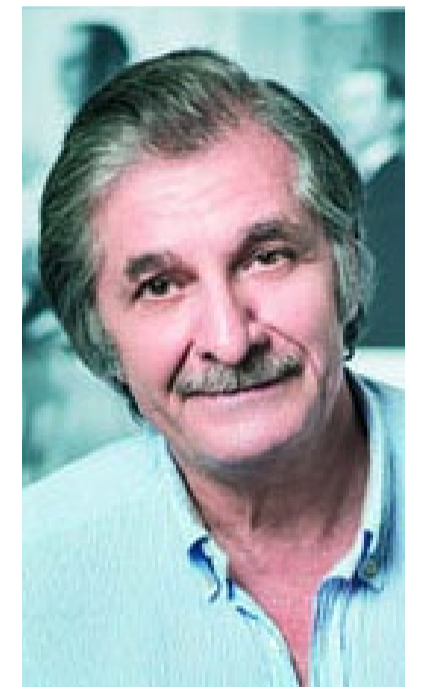
"After the exhibition in London

people called me and told me that the Tbilisi State University and came to the monitor. Although I was very tired, I could not refuse to visit Tbilisi. I am very happy that after my long absence I am still in Georgia.

Painting from an early age and, as he recalls, there were no childish artwork, 6-7-year-old still lives created. The first exhibition at the age of 15, the "old man's portrait" presented. From the fact that the music is very fond of, it is of great importance in his works.

London During the exhibition, a painter, critic traced this genre as "abstract reality" "Farhad different way - It derives not from speculation, but live observation. His creative method is derived from the reality of the phenomenon of sensory perception, emotional feelings from. It is so subdued emotions, as a musical instrument. Atsrtobs them, takes a different semantic colors, while pure plastic point of view,

it develops through the generalization of the motives and the leveling more detailed clarity. The natural world any angle direct vision gradually, step by step, year after year, moving to abstraction, which can achieve the abstract world of plastic structures", - writes miziano.



## ANNUAL EU FILM FESTIVAL WITH THE THEME TURNING POINTS OPENS IN FIVE CITIES

EU launches annual EU Film Festival 2016 across Georgia on Tuesday 9 March 2016, the European Union Delegation to Georgia in cooperation will the EU member States will launch the third 2016 EU Film Festival with the theme: Turning Points. EU Film Festival 2016 returns for ten days March 9 to 18 with fresh films at five cities of Georgia: Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Rustavi, Bolnisi and Mestia. Featuring over 17 original films from EU member states, this year's Film Festival continues to be a must-attend event for young, film buffs and emerging filmmakers as well as cinema-enthusiasts and casual moviegoers. Entrance to the festival is free.

The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years,

they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievement and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders



## CINEMA AMIRANI HOSTS DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL



Tbilisi – March 4 – 6, 2015 UN Women in partnership with Noosfera Foundation will host documentary film festival "Woman in Focus" devoted to the rights of women and girls. The event will start at the cinema Amirani at 19:30.

The festival is organized on the occasion of International Women's Day (March 8th).

"The films are dominated by different ages, professions and interests of women with their universal life stories. Stories, which will be a clear message to

the public, to pay more attention to those barriers against women, which are still painful problem in 21st century", - the organizers say. The event will be opened by Danish documentary Sefid. The event is free to attend for any of those interested.

# MASTER CLASS ON FINANCIAL AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVES CHARITY PURPOSES

MARI TABATADZE

Master class on financial and personal development serves charity purposes

Leading business trainers held a master class March 6. The project is organized by the charity society Thanks. The master class is charitable and aims to finance some suspended students. As Ketis Kvitsaridze, PR manager of the organization, mentions, the number of funded students is limited due to budget. The organizers of the project are planning to fund only two students. It is also planned to encourage 20 active students from the regions and to provide their attendance and involvement in the master class within the project.

Master class is for everyone who is interested in career, financial or personal advancement, so, it is wide-ranging. There is no age limit and attendance is allowed for any listener.

According to the organizers of the project, a similar master class has not ever been conducted in Georgia. According to them, this project is so unique and wide-ranging because the participants of this master class are well-known and are successful businessmen, and the project consolidates them for the first time in Georgia. For example, among the participants is David Kentchadze, today's most sought-after person in corpo-

rate management. Also, George Tvaladze, the author of many important projects and founder of club Inteleqtika, which has an eight-year functioning history and nowadays is successfully operated in the market. Ilia Nikachadze also took part in the master class, as it is known; he is a PR manager of the famous TV program, What, Where, When. Also, Tariel Zivzivadze, populist of Georgian brands, and Irakli Bliadze, author of the idea and one of the leading participants, will attend.

The organizers are focused on people who have the problem of unemployment. Within the masterclass, Ilia Nikachadze spoke on this topic. He will introduce to the listeners the steps which are necessary to start working and will offer an effective means to solve the problem of unemployment. On the other hand, the part of society is already employed, but wants to improve results and increase efficiency. The conversation about that was delivered by David Kentchadze. He comes to the issue of time management, which provides more efficiency and effectiveness during the working process. Business trainers will inform listeners about the tools and the means of identifying a person in the team and pushing one step higher. For this, he identifies 21 specific actions

that will bring efficiency and financial strength.

Within the masterclass, George Tvaladze talks about a market analysis, its selection and its proper conduction. He will also make recommendations on how it is possible to begin the affair from zero and bring a substantial income. The promotion of Georgian brands was discussed by Tariel Zivzivadze. He will emphasize the importance of creation Georgian products and promotion of them. As for Irakli Bliadze, he reviewed no less important issues in order to achieve success, there is meant personal development. He spoke about proper management of own capabilities and will give the specific instruments as a recommendation in order to raise the self-confidence.

As it seems according to the above-mentioned issues, the union presented by the one gender is one of the first attempts for consolidation of master classes and workshops. The merger of business trainers is aimed the listeners of the master class to receive not only the theoretical information, but also the practical one what is used by the business trainers in their everyday activity.

It is noteworthy that the attitude toward these kinds of projects was skeptical over the years in



Georgia. One of the main goals of this charity master class is exactly to change this attitude. The organizers themselves feel obliged to be active and to make projects larger, therefore, as a result of activity to inform the broader public.

In fact, it is really hard to say if the public is aware of similar projects and if they follow them easily. However, the organization Thanks is planning many activities in this direction. It is noteworthy that it was established in January, so, it is a very young organization. Its slogan is, "Thank you for existing." The aim is to raise public awareness and to make changes for the better future. For this purpose, they thank successful personalities in a variety of disciplines and encourage them.

Before the prearranged master class, in February, a free webinar was held by the nonprofit or-

ganization and two trainers were consolidated within it. Besides, last month professional trainers gave the gift to the inhabitants of Rustavi and offered them free business training. In addition, interested people are able to get free video advice from business-trainers. These are the steps that have been taken by the organization in order to change society's skepticism.

What steps will there be implemented in the future is as of yet unknown. Although the organization is not always going to help the students, however, it is planning to organize charity events systematically.

As for the planned master class, organizers expected around 1,000 attendees. They also announced that more public awareness is needed. As a result, they think that more people will be able to demonstrate their abilities in Georgia.

## TURIN PROCESS INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP HELD IN GEORGIA

The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia with the support of the European Training Foundation (ETF) held "the Turin Process (TRP) 2016" - an introductory workshop. The meeting focused on Georgia, "the Turin Process (TRP) 2016" basic principles, the analytical framework and the implementation of the work plan.

The First Deputy Minister of Education and Science Ketevan Natriashvili, the agencies, the European Training Foundation (ETF) and the donor community and other interested parties attended the event.

Turin Process (TRP) began

in 2010, since then vocational education policies and practices are based on the analysis of the system of monitoring and evaluation results to improve vocational education policy.

It is important to note that the European Training Foundation (ETF) gives opportunity to Georgia to be part of these processes, share the local and international community experience on professional education reform progress, and target reforms through this direction, every year to improve the results of the quality of vocational education, and availability of developing partnerships.



# GOING TO COURT: STUDENTS ASK TO GET THEM BACK TO THE UNIVERSITY

NINI MACHAVARIANI **BLOG**

One day I decided to apply at the Conservatory in 2015. To be a musician is all about necessary skills. It is very specific, behind which is hidden a lot of hard work every day.

I have registered at National Assessment and Examination Center (naec.ge) through the Internet and I choose the faculty, marked "key instrument", but due to technical problems I checked again and wrong faculty was recorded. However, I have made immediate changes and received a message that "the changes have been implemented."

After the two months of preparation, I have passed the exams and successfully passed internal examination too although the National Conservatory is in the hall.

National Assessment and Ex-

amination Center published final results in August, who showed that I have failed. I immediately I called the hotline and confirmed that because of technical reasons the program incorrectly registered me in another program and the words "The special services confirmed that I was right I have met with the Center director a few times before that". However, he expressed his personal concern and said that I have had the benefit of a sufficient legal leverage.

I wanted to meet with Education Minister Tamar Sanikidze a couple of times, but in vain. They sent a person to discuss my issue, but I have heard Soldier many absurd suggestions on that. For them my problems were unclear, while they were aware

what kind of problem I had.

"We understand that you are a pianist, but you suddenly decide to sign up and choral conductor, maybe there will decide to surrender," - told in the Ministry. So many absurd rumor and it was not returned home, and I know how to protect my rights. Neither the Ministry of Education and the National Examination Center does not recognize the fact that their program is faulty because of my problem.

Miminozhvili spoke with the lawyers and said: "Yes, it can be a software faults, no one can rule out", I tried to spread this conversation, but other lawyers interrupted and did not allow speaking. At the end they said: "If you do not believe in us, then appeal to the court."

The trial was rescheduled. The

witness first-year student at the Conservatory, which had the same problem and accidentally discovered that he was also registered in another faculty, but she managed to eliminate problem in a timely manner.

Meanwhile, I heard that another musician Rusudan Kvaliashvili was (altisti) in the same situation. Our process was led by the same judge. Judge David Tsereteli made judgement on our behalf. The National Examinations Center immediately put my candidacy for the 2015-2016 year, the students' ranking list. However, this did not happen and has accused the judge of bias.

According to the Court, was listed in Article fifteen, whose according to the National Security Council in violation of our

right. I'm the victim and I had a press conference with Rusudan in various newspapers and radio stations we tell our story. We would like to remind Maya Miminoshvili that a criminal case would raise against him. As a result, we got the students' status. Now the problem arose in the conservatory, because of the teaching of the first semester is over and I cannot pay for missed hours therefore I cannot continue studies.

Student musicians make registration in June, they pass exams and national tests in July. The National Center did not send identification codes to the Conservatory. Here it is in violation of students' rights! The fate of the two musicians is still uncertain. However, we are not going to stop, we will continue to fight.



## NEW SERVICE OF THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND EXAMINATION CENTER WILL BE AVAILABLE IN MARCH

From March 17 enrollees will have unique opportunity to check their knowledge and readiness to pass the national exam. National Assessment and Examination Center provides the service of online test. In frame of the test NAEC will also provide the level of readiness and rate of scaling marks, the customer received during the test. After the test, system will draw out the possibility to receive state fund. As representatives of the NAEC says, the rate of fund possibility will be made according to the last year exam result.

The service will be available on the web site of the National Assessment and Examination Center - [online.naec.ge](http://online.naec.ge).

According to the spread information the costumers should be registered first, then choose faculty and the subject, which will be tested. After that they should make payment operations.

Each subject test will cost 10 GEL.

The service will be available from online March 17 till March 30. According to Maia Miminoshvili, head of NAEC, it will help enrollees to prepare better.



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## IN PREPARATION FOR THE EIGHTEENTH VICTORY - "BORJGHALOSNEBI" VS "BEARS"

VAKO KIPIANI

In the fourth round of the European Rugby Championship, Georgian team will play against Russia on March 12 at the Central Stadium in Sochi. The hosts have already begun preparations for this meeting, a crowd of journalists mobilize.

This will be the most principled

meeting of the European rugby championship. The teams play in optimal squad.

Milton Haig after the meeting with Spain said that talks are underway with the Toulon which will give the Russian team at least 2 players.

In the last match of the rugby

Georgia defeated Spain by 38: 7, while the Russians lost against Romania by 30: 0 defeat. So far, Georgians and Russians played 19 games against each other. Out of them 17 victories on Georgian side, one draw and one defeat. Russia hopes to end 23 years of loses with a victory.



## THE UNEXPECTED FAILURE OF THE DAVIS CUP: GEORGIA - DENMARK 0: 2

Georgia's tennis team member Nikoloz Basilashvili lost at Davis Cup. At the Sports Palace in Davis Cup Euro-African Zone Group 2, Georgia and Denmark ended 0: 2. Nikoloz Basilashvili met with Christian Sigsgaard and all of a sudden, failed. Basilashvili ended four sets with the score 7: 6, 1: 6, 4: 6, 4: 6.

Georgian tennis rival Christian Sigsgaard is not in ATP's ranking at this time, while Basilashvili takes 118th place in the ATP-ranking.

At the second meeting of the day Giorgi Tsivadze (854) met with Frederik Nielsen (374) and lost by 0: 3. The three sets ended by 6: 7. 0: 6, 1: 6.



## WEEKLY SPORT NEWS

### Football

Georgian U-19 team defeated Montenegro in a friendly match in Podgorica by 2: 0. Goals were scored by Rati Ardazishvili and Shermadin Artmeladze.

### Rugby

Juion "Borjghalosnebi" held forth and last match of their South American tour on March 4 in Montevideo. Our U-20 team defeated Uruguay by 22:11 (first half 10: 3).

### Basketball

Duda Sanadze ended playing in American Student League. Sanadze team challenged "Loyola Marymount" challenged and by lost 61:64 in intense fight.



Sanadze scored 20 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 block in a last match of his student career. The players of both teams were great, but this was not enough for the victory of San Diego. Duda scored 6 out of 8 two points, 1 out of nine three points, and 5 out of 5 free throws.

\*\*\*\*\*

Beka Burjanadze led "Leyma Basket" won second ranked division in the Spanish league. Georgian forward's team hosted outsider team Prat Joventut and defeated with 19-point difference - 96:77. Burjanadze was in lineup and played during 26 minutes, 18 points, 6 rebounds and 1 steal. Beka scored 3 out of 6 two

points, two out of 3 three points and 6 out of 8 free throws.

\*\*\*\*\*

Zaza Pachulia made 24th double-double of the season. Dallas defeated "Orlando Magic" and Zaza gained 17 points and 10 rebounds, bringing the largest stake in the victory of his time.

Pachulia was in a lineup and

played the game for 31 minutes. Georgian center made 6 out of 8 two points and 5 of 5 free throws. In addition he made 2 assists, 1 steal and 1 block. Like Pachulia 17-17 points collected the Chandler Parsons and Jose Juan Barea. Top scorer with 21 points became Wesley Mathews, while Dirk Nowitzki gained 19 points.

