

## Politics

**Georgian Foreign Ministry: Russia violated the August 2008 agreement by opening fire today**

**33-year-old man was detained a few days ago**



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## Economics

**EU, MEPA and FAO award over ₾ 2 million in agricultural grants**

**The grants are part of the second cycle of applications under the ENPARD III programme**

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BY NIKA GANTSEMLIDZE

A few days ago, the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia published a special statement dedicated to the death of the young football player, Giorgi Shakarashvili, whose body was found in the river a few weeks ago.

According to the statement, the cause of death was asphyxia by drowning in water. At the same time, the statement reads that there are signs of 'life-threatening injuries' on the body of Shakarashvili around the head, both eyeballs, upper and lower lip, in the area of the right elbow joint, and the right fore-

## Prosecutor's Office: Shakarashvili died from asphyxia, drowning

arm, around the abdomen, groin, pubis, waist, and both buttocks, identifying the traces of a dense-blunt object in the near period before the death was occurred.

The Prosecutor's Office of Georgia made a decision to change the qualification of the criminal case and added intentional murder committed in aggravated circumstances by more than one person. The offence is provided in Article 109 2 subparagraph 'e' of the Criminal Code of Georgia and the investigation into the death of Giorgi Shakarashvili will be conducted with this qualification.

Also, according to the prosecutor, it is very unlikely that the damages on the body of Shakarashvili could not be done by one person only.

Late at night on June 18<sup>th</sup>, a conflict among young people happened in one of the summer cottages in Narekvavi settlement, Mtskheta district, at a birthday party. At the cottage, several young people involved in a physical confrontation called for help from Tbilisi, in particular from the Nadzaladevi district, a group of people from Tbilisi, armed with iron batons, arrived in Mtskheta quickly with two cars.

According to the statement issued by the Prosecutor's Office, these were the people who ran after Giorgi Shakarashvili, who was walking towards Tbilisi with some of his friends. Some of the young people, who were with Giorgi at the time, got physically abused, but many of them managed to escape. During the confrontation, according to the information known to the public as of now, Shakarashvili disappeared.

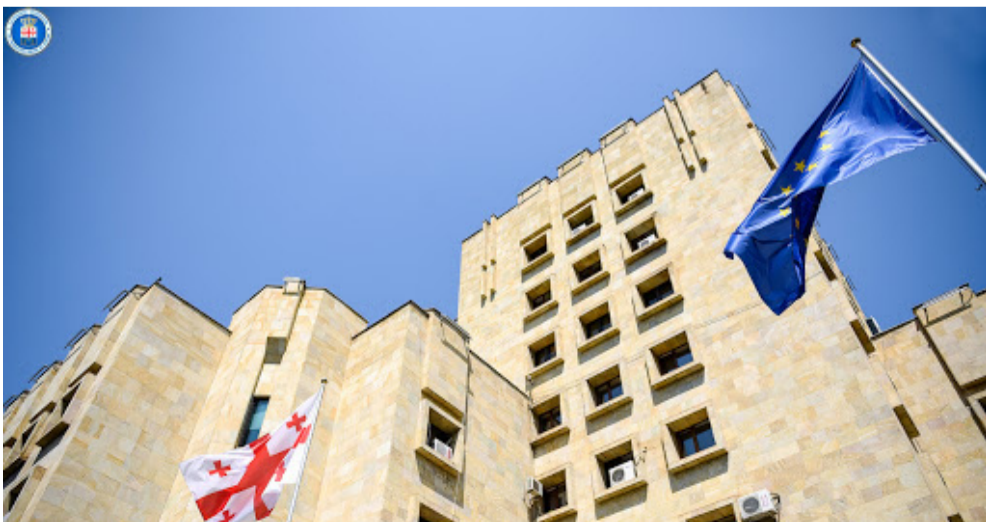
The case of the death of the 19-year-old football player Giorgi Shakarashvili is being investigated under four articles: unlawful deprivation of liberty, violence, organizing group violence and premeditated murder committed in a group under aggravating circumstances. 17 people have been sentenced to imprisonment as a measure of restraint. They do not plead guilty.



Prosecutor's office issued the statement because of high interest from people



Shakarashvili's body was found in the river of Aragvi on June 22



Because of the finding so of the expertise, the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia made a decision change the qualification of the criminal case



# Georgian Foreign Ministry: Russia violated the August 2008 agreement by opening fire today



A 33-year-old man was detained by the occupying forces near the dividing line

wounded in the leg.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia condemns the wounding and illegal detention of a Georgian citizen in the Kaspi municipality by the Russian occupation forces. The agency calls this fact a dangerous act and notes that the aim is to escalate the situation during the pandemic and destabilize it.

“The opening fire by the occupation forces on local civilians is another example of the Russian Federation’s gross violation of the EU-backed ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008,” the statement read.

The Foreign Ministry explains that such a provocation by the Russian occupation forces once again confirms the need to establish international security mechanisms in the occupied regions. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs appeals to the international community to give a strong assessment to the illegal

actions of the occupation forces and to take immediate measures to prevent provocations against the Georgian state.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs categorically demands the immediate extradition of a wounded and illegally detained Georgian citizen to the Georgian side.

Sadly, this is not the first case that a citizen of Georgia was detained by the occupation forces. However, the situation is getting worse every day. Just a few months ago, Georgian doctor was detained by the Russian forces and was kept in custody for several months and was released as a result of pressure from the international partners of Georgia.

The creeping occupation has been ongoing ever since the August War of 2008 and has been severely affecting people living near the occupation line.

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

Representatives of the European Union Monitoring Mission are present in the village of Kvemo Chala, near the dividing line in Kaspi Municipality. The mission monitors were also present near the dividing line, near Skhvilos prison, in the area where Zaza Gakheladze was detained, as well as family members of the detainee.

According to the representative of the Mayor of Kaspi Municipality Stefane Mesropashvili, the arrested Gakheladze, was taken from the Akhgori Hospital to Tskhinvali with a gunshot wound.

The 33-year-old man was detained by the occupying forces near the dividing line two days ago. Later, it became known that during the arrest the so-called guards opened fire, as a result of which Gakheladze was



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs categorically demands the immediate extradition of a wounded and illegally detained Georgian citizen to the Georgian side

## International Energy Agency hosts Clean Energy Transitions Summit

On 9 July, the International Energy Agency is organising this year’s key event on energy and climate issues – the Clean Energy Transitions Summit. The event brings to-

gether countries, representing 80% of the world’s energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, to discuss measures to boost economies, create jobs, reduce global emissions and make energy systems more resilient.

Participants include ministers from the world’s largest energy users, as well as Executive Vice President Timmermans (EU). Speakers include United Nations Secretary-General

Guterres, CEOs from leading energy companies, top investors, heads of regional development banks and other key international organisations and leaders from civil society.

In addition to two plenary sessions, the summit will host high-level panels. These will focus on accelerating clean energy technology innovation, inclusive and equitable recovery, and resilient and sustainable electric-



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ity sector. The panels are co-chaired by European Commis-

sioner for Energy Kadri Simson. (euneighbours.eu)

### Weather

Monday, July 13

Day Mostly Cloudy

High: 29°C

Night T-storm

Low: 20°C

Tuesday, July 14

Day Clear

High: 28°C

Night Partly Cloudy

Low: 21°C

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 3.0624; Euro - 3.4593; GBP - 3.8617; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.3016; Swiss Franc - 3.2530

# EU, MEPA and FAO award over ₾2 million in agricultural grants



These investments are expected to have a catalytic effect as they target bottlenecks in concrete value chains

The European Union (EU), the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have awarded 35 matching grants with a total amount of more than ₾2 million, covering 40 to 75 percent of farmers' initial investments in

agricultural initiatives. The grants are part of the second cycle of applications under the ENPARD III programme, which supports food production in Georgia amid the Covid-19 crisis. Awards included: investments in support to the recovery of the COVID19 pandemic will allow farmers to install drip irriga-

tion for vegetable production; 24 medium investments, with a grant of a maximum of \$50,000 mainly dedicated to mechanization and equipment for cattle farming; four large-scale initiatives with grants up to \$150,000 to equip a dairy factory, a silage production company, a new storage for potatoes, as well as a veterinary production line for phage treatment.

These investments are expected to have a catalytic effect as they target bottlenecks in concrete value chains that will allow small and medium farmers to benefit too.

Earlier this year, under the first cycle, agricultural grants with a total value exceeding ₾2.2 million had already been approved. The next cycles of applications start in the middle of July. In total, over ₾18 million in grants will be provided over the next three years.

FAO Programme Coordinator, Javier Sanz Alvarez encouraged farmers, cooperatives and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to participate in the next matching grant application cycle in July.

"We see this project as a great opportunity for producers to improve their businesses. The FAO/ENPARD matching grant component allows for small, medium and large producers to apply and targeted investments are proving to be very effective to increase the dynamism of the full value chain," Alvarez said.

The EU is supporting agriculture and rural development in Georgia through its ENPARD Programme. Active since 2013 with a total budget of €179.5 million, the main

goal of ENPARD is to reduce rural poverty in Georgia. The first phase of ENPARD in Georgia focused on developing the potential of agriculture. The second and third phases of ENPARD focus on creating economic opportunities for rural populations that go beyond agricultural activities.

The European Union has been supporting the development of agriculture in Georgia for a long time now and throughout the years, the relations between the states was able to spawn a number of very successful projects that have proved to be very important for future development of the relations between Europe and Georgia.

(Source: The European Union)



EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD PROGRAMME FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The EU is supporting agriculture and rural development in Georgia through its ENPARD Programme

## CLASSIFIED

### Newly renovated building for sale or rent in the heart of Tbilisi

It is a fully equipped boutique hotel, which also can be transferred into a representation office

- Location – in the heart of Tbilisi, Next to the Ministry of Defense
- Newly reconstructed and newly renovated with high standards
- Exclusive design of both interior and exterior
- 26 rooms, fully equipped with high standard furniture and equipment
- Common spaces (two terraces, one large area for lunches, one conference room)
- Fully equipped restaurant with the EU standard equipment
- The EU quality of ventilation and air conditioning (each room has a source of fresh air)
- High standard of electricity and fire safety in all rooms
- Autonomous supply of water (reservoir) and electricity (generator)

Total area: 1500 m<sup>2</sup>

Suggested rent: 9000 USD (excl VAT) - Substantially lower to market price, due to the pandemic

Suggested selling price: USD 2.5 million, including all equipment and furniture  
Please contact: +995 599554355 or +995 591110100 (We speak Georgian, English and Russian)

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