

Politics

Police accuse Katsarava of crossing the occupation line and provoking opposing forces

On July 25th, the leader of the anti-occupation movement was accused of crossing the occupation line.

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Economics

State Agency of Oil and Gas urges Frontera to make the International Arbitration's decision public

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Event

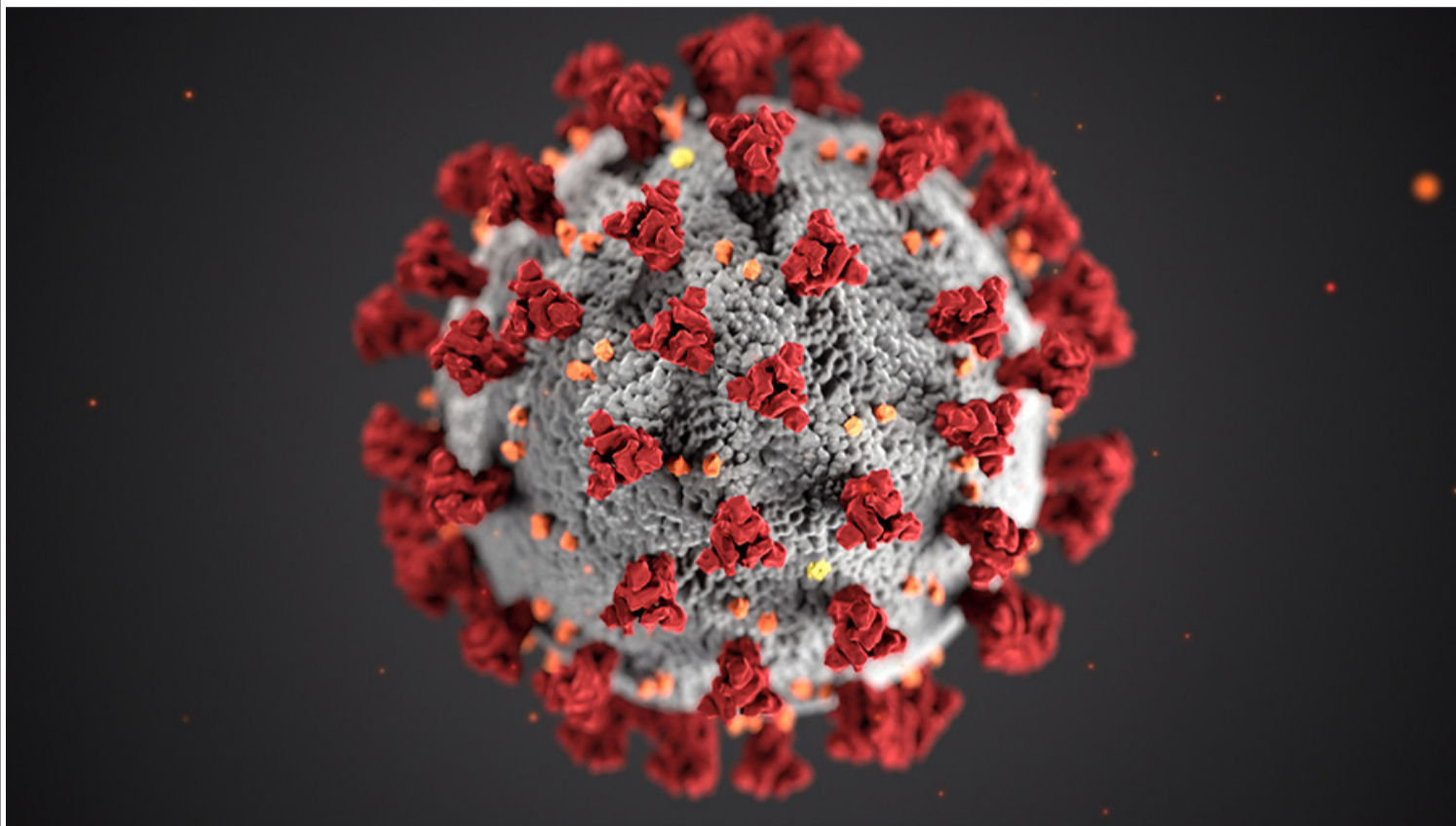
Summer evening at "Black Horse" Club in Solidarity with Anti-Violence Network of Georgia

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BY KHATIA BZHALAVA

After the inter-agency coordination council meeting on July 27th, the head of NCDC, Amiran Gamkrelidze

Hotspots of the virus- the Municipality of Gardabani, Lilo Market



According to Amiran Gamkrelidze, the head of NCDC, within the last week, the dynamics of Coronavirus case growth has been detected.

shared updates on the epidemiological situation. He mentioned testing of markets to have already started as 'the markets are the areas with increased risks of virus spread,' the meeting was also attended by the Chairman of the Government of Adjara, Tornike Rizhvadze. Ac-

ording to him, Georgian citizens will be able to depart to Turkey to work, but only based on the employer's 3-month official job invitation received from the Republic of Turkey.

As Rizhvadze stated, Georgian citizens will be able to go to Turkey for working

purposes only if they present a 3-months official job invitation received from the employer. Rizhvadze also noted that in case they return to Georgia, they will have to undergo a 2-weeks quarantine procedure.

Gamkrelidze named two hotspots of the virus- the municipality of Gardabani and the Lilo market. The total number of coronavirus cases in the municipality of Gardabani makes 4% of the overall cases in the country. As he noted, the Lilo market was an intersection area of Gardabani as well as other clusters, therefore both the municipality of Gardabani and the market of Lilo are now under intense examination. Moreover, according to him, preventive measures such as thermal screening and distancing as well as sanitary requirements have been tightened for all markets.

According to Beka Feradze, the Chief of Labour and Employment Policy department, 12 business entities have been fined on the territory of the Lilo market, one business operator in Dezerteri, two in Navtlughi, three in Didube and one in Varketili markets.

As Feradze noted, the process of opening the economy proceeds. According to him, out of 118 registered pools, 106 have been examined and 66 have received approval. Also, out of 363 examined gyms, 144 were eligible to reopen. Confirmation of re-opening has been given to 1322 hotels.

Six new Coronavirus cases were confirmed on July 27th, the lowest rate since July 17th. The total number of infected people has reached 1137. 922 patients have recovered and 16 have died.



Gamkrelidze: "COVID infection circulates in the country and there is no ground to relax, still, neither is the ground to panic, the numbers of Coronavirus cases are manageable and under control."

Police accuse Katsarava of crossing the occupation line and provoking opposing forces



Davit Katsarava, the leader of the anti-occupation movement

BY ANASTASIA SOKHADZE

Members of the anti-occupation movement in the village of Takhtisdziri, Kareli Municipality visited the green banner, recently erected by the occupation forces to mark the so-called border, to receive banner coordinates with satellite devices.

The footage released by Davit Katsarava, the leader of the movement, shows the occupation banner and members of the movement standing close to it. The footage covers how the

armed military from the occupied territory walks near the banner.

"We were standing by the banner, we did not go there, suddenly we saw the Russians were running and we also retreated. I reckon our kidnapping was planned. By this time, the police had already appeared and the Russians were staying a little above the bushes," stated Katsarava, although the footage he released did not show the members of the occupation forces running.

It is not clear from the mate-

rial published on Facebook if Katsarava moved to the occupied territory. The leader of the anti-occupation movement says that there are other videos that show how the Russians are running in their direction.

According to Katsarava, the occupiers move freely on the territory controlled by Georgia, as soon as they see someone at the border.

The verbal confrontation started between Georgian law enforcers and Katsarava when they arrived on the spot. The police accused the members of the anti-occupation movement of provoking the opposing forces and staying in the occupied territories, which Katsarava categorically denied and assessed

the accusations of the Georgian law enforcers as cooperation with the occupation forces. The incident ended when the anti-occupation movement left the village near the occupation line.

The occupation forces have recently moved the dividing line 75 meters further in Takhtisdziri.

Takhtisdziri is suffering because of occupation issues. In mid-April, representatives of the occupation forces appeared in the village of Takhtisdziri and turned the lands of local citizens into the occupied territory. Occupation forces set up poles and fences on the ground and fenced off the plots. They worked in the village for several days. Garsevan Stepnadze, one of the

residents of Takhtisdziri, had already prepared the land for sowing, but his land was occupied by the occupation forces.

Takhtisdziri is bordered from the west by the Ossetian village of Gvirgvina. The occupation forces appeared from there. The plots of land on the ridge between the villages have been cultivated by the citizens for a long time, but since the August 2008 war, their land has been gradually taken away.

"Several people have been abducted from the middle of the Chorchan forest, which did not intersect with the occupation line. Our population is in great danger. In fact, kidnappings can take place from anywhere in the forest," said Katsarava.



Residents of Takhtisdziri say that the guards periodically appeared in the field and looted the land.

New EU-funded project to help Eastern partner countries deal with organised crime

On 24 July, the European Commission and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) launched a new project to support the Eastern partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) in their fight against organised crime.

"We are proud to contribute to the fight against organised crime in our partner countries as well as in the EU," said

Lawrence Meredith, director for Neighbourhood East at the European Commission.

"Organised crime networks operate across national borders and by intensifying cooperation,

we can make sure crime does not pay. It is our common goal to create a safe and just society for all," he added.

The project 'TOPCOP' aims at improving operational effectiveness across the Eastern partner countries. It will also reinforce the connection between law enforcement training and operations and provide an up-to-date picture of organised crime in the region.

The project will create networks of capacity-building contact points, to close any gaps between law enforcement training and operational law enforcement efforts. It will also identify learning needs to provide regional and targeted training

based on evidence and commonalities.

To support international law enforcement cooperation, the project will make full use of CEPOL's and Europol's long-standing expertise in assessing and delivering on law enforcement training needs, and analysing crime data.

The European Commission has committed €6 million for this project, which will run for 48 months. 'TOPCOP' will be implemented by CEPOL and supported by the authorities of the Eastern partner countries and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation.



TOPCOP
Strengthening cooperation in the Eastern Partnership Countries to fight against organized crime



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The Messenger preserves the style of a source written in English where possible.

Weather

Tuesday, July 28

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 35°C

Night Showers

Low: 22°C

Wednesday, July 29

Day Showers

High: 32°C

Night Partly Cloudy

Low: 21°C

State Agency of Oil and Gas urges Frontera to make the International Arbitration's decision public

BY KHATIA BZHALAVA

State Agency of Oil and Gas shares a statement where they claim that Frontera, an international oil and gas exploration and production company makes 'unfounded and libelous' allegations. SAOG demands from Frontera to make the decision of International Arbitration public or otherwise the Agency reserves a right to share the decision itself.

According to SAOG's statement, on April 17th, 2020, International Arbitration Court made the final decision on the arbitral dispute at Permanent Court of Arbitration on proceedings commenced by Georgian Oil and Gas Corporation and State Agency of Oil and Gas against Frontera Resources Georgia Corporation on January 15th, 2018, regarding Frontera's failure to comply with the responsibilities imposed according to the contract. The court identified a significant violation of the contract by Frontera. Thus the Agency (SAOG) had all rights to abort the contract.

As the statement notes, on April 27th of 2020, the Agency notified Frontera on abortion of the contract, therefore, after July 27th, Frontera would have been deprived of the right to carry out oil and gas operations on the land determined by the contract. However, as the statement reads, on the basis of government's good-

will, the process of abortion of contract has been suspended. The statement highlights that this decision of the government has been welcomed by Kelly Degnan, the Ambassador of the US to Georgia.

"Despite the government's goodwill, the company Frontera made an absolutely unfounded and libelous statement, which intended to facilitate the reality and conceal the facts," reads the statement.

According to the statement, the Agency stays loyal to the decisions of International Arbitration Court and the government of Georgia and once again calls on Frontera to make the decision of arbitrage public.

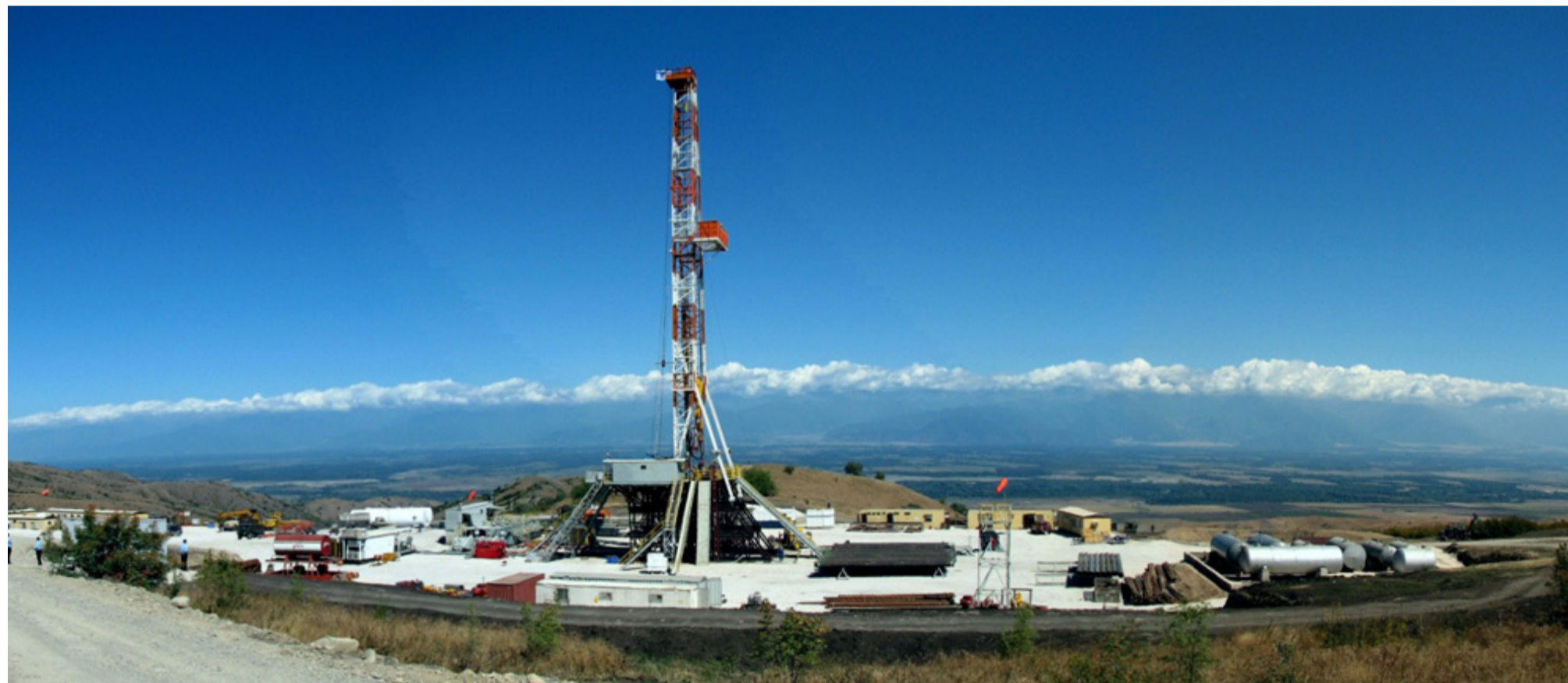
"If despite numerous public statements made by Executive Management, the company does not make the arbitrator's decision public, we will regard the company's above-mentioned statements as a consent, that is why the agency reserves a right to make the decision public."

Lastly, the agency calls on Frontera to proceed mining in the mines discovered yet during Soviet Union, also to respect and execute the arbitrator's decision and defray all the financial duties.

On July 24th, Frontera Resources, an international oil and gas exploration and production company made a statement, where it was noted that the government of Georgia runs disinformation campaigns. The company accused the government of libel as well as deliberate pressure.



State Agency of Oil and Gas.



Frontera Resources, an international oil and gas exploration and production company.

EU4Energy: New policy guidelines on boosting energy efficiency investments

The Energy Community Secretariat and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development have issued joint policy guidelines for Energy Community Contracting Parties on boosting energy efficiency investments. The guidelines will help the countries to design and establish effective centralised financing mechanisms for energy efficiency investments.

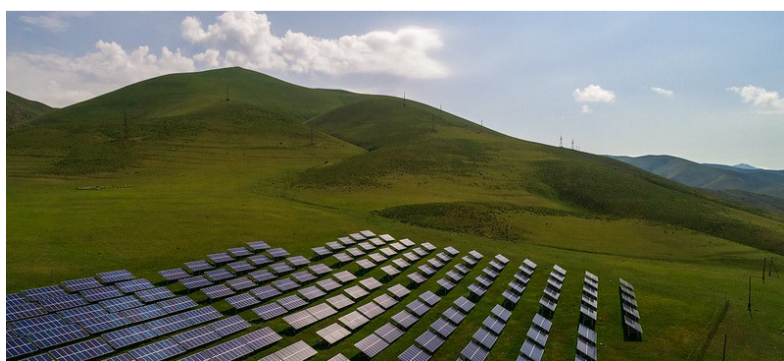


Photo: European Union

Janez Kopac, director of the Energy Community Secretariat, said: "Attracting funding for energy efficiency is relatively easy, the tricky part is getting the design and governance structure of centralised energy efficiency finance schemes right. By sharing best practices, today's policy guidelines can make a real difference for our Energy Community Contracting Parties and

help energy efficiency improvements truly take off the ground."

Under Article 3 of the current Energy Efficiency Directive, Energy Community Contracting Parties must achieve a 20% improvement in energy efficiency by 2020, with new targets for 2030 to be adopted soon. Centralised financing mechanisms can play an important role in achieving these savings.

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The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey, ZARQUA Collection and Horse Riding Club
"Black Horse" held a Charity event to support Victims of Domestic Violence on July 26.

