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Abolish restriction on admission
to surrounding villages
of occupied territories



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ECONOMICS

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Consortium has filed a lawsuit
in the Arbitration Court



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Giorgi Rurua has been found guilty



► After passing the verdict, Giorgi Rurua published a statement on one of the social media - "Be courageous and calm, my fellows, truth always finds its way."

BY ANASTASIA SOKHADZE

On July 30th, a shareholder of Mtvvari Arkhi (Main Channel) Giorgi Rurua was sentenced to four years imprisonment. He was arrested on November 18th, 2019, under the charges of illegal

purchase-storage-carrying of a weapon. Rurua pleads not guilty and considers himself as a political inmate.

According to the Tbilisi City Court, the verdict was passed "based on incontrovertible pieces of evidence," in particular, according to testimonies of the witnesses, a search of the accused and his car, pro-

ocols of hand and saliva samples taken for expert studies and expert conclusions presented in the case.

As the prosecutor lawyer of the case Vasil Samkharadze stated to the journalists, the court made the right decision relying on the evidence presented by the prosecution. "This is the only logical deci-

sion," he said. However, defense lawyer Dimitri Sadzaglishvili said that "there was no evidence proving the guilt of my client." Another defense lawyer of Rurua, Levan Samushia called this case "a classical example of how to detain a person illegally."

Even though Sadzaglishvili believes the Court in Georgia is influenced by the government and has no hopes that the verdict will be changed, the defendant is still going to complain to the Tbilisi Court of Appeals.

Rurua's case has been a subject of controversy for a while now. Members of the opposition parties demand his release as they consider him as a political prisoner and according to the March 8th Agreement, the government should release all the political inmates.

Many of the foreign politicians share opposition's opinion and have called on the government to release Rurua as it happened in the cases of Giga Bokeria and Irakli Okruashvili. One of the recent is a statement of the EU Parliament member, Anna Fotyga, who calls on the president of Georgia to pardon inmate Rurua.

"Many friends of Georgia view the arrest and now sentencing of media owner Giorgi Rurua as political. I encourage the President of Georgia to use her powers as she did with other figures who were part of the March 8th Agreement. That would improve the climate in the run-up to elections," reads Fotyga's statement.



► Defence side is going to complain to Tbilisi Court of Appeals

NGOs to the government: Abolish restriction on admission to surrounding villages of occupied territories

By KHATIA BZHALAVA

Restrictions on the access of media outlets, public society and the representatives of political parties to surrounding villages of occupied Tskhinvali/South Ossetia regions and call on the government to change the regime.

According to the information published by NGOs, the restriction which is controlled by Security Services has been active for almost a year now, since August 30th of February, 2019. The restriction even applies to the territories which are completely under the Georgian government's supervision.

NGOs state that there have been only two occasions since February 30th, 2019, when journalists, who were escorted by the police officers, were allowed to approach the wires to cover the events. In both occurrences, journalists accompanied by police cordons were able to cover the new process of occupation with 20 meters of distance observed from the occupation line.

In other cases, despite numerous attempts of media representatives, social activists and political party members, the Security Service would not allow them to enter the villages; some of these villages are not even close to the occupation line. According to the NGOs, this practice of restriction hinders the mentioned persons from performing social activities, whilst the information about occupied territories and its surrounding villages is already limited and this barrier hinders access to information even more.

"This restriction also deters examination and publication of social and legal conditions in the villages near dividing lines."

It is noted in the organizations' statement that journalists were rejected to approach



► "According to NGOs, there have been only two occasions since February 30th, 2019, when journalists were allowed to approach the wires to cover the events."

the villages controlled by the Georgian government even with the police.

As we read in the statement, the representatives of the government justify the movement restrictions with security reasons to avoid provocations near the occupation line and to protect the safety of media representatives and social activists.

However, NGOs find the government's concerns for safety incomprehensible as there are thousands of people living in those villages.

"In a sense of safety concerns, there may be a legitimate ground for restricting freedom of movement or expression, however, restriction of these rights should be based on stringent examination and may be only implemented according to the law in case of severe social needs," reads the statement and clarifies that in this case, legality, as well as proportionality matters of imposed restrictions, are unclear.

The organizations call on



► Organizations call on the authority to establish approaches based on objective criteria, which will not exceed legitimate frames of restricting freedom of movement and expression.

the authority to lift the restriction on the admission of media, Civil Society and politicians to surrounding villages of occupied territories and to establish approaches based on objective

criteria, which will not exceed legitimate frames of restricting freedom of movement and expression.

The statement is signed by the following organizations: Hu-

man Rights Monitoring and Education Center - EMC; Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA); Human Rights Center (HRC) and Democracy Research Institute (DRI).

FRIDAY		JULY 31	
Day		Partly Cloudy	
		High: 31°C	
Night		Partly Cloudy	
		Low: 20°C	
SATURDAY		AUGUST 1	
Day		Sunshine	
		High: 31°C	
Night		Partly Cloudy	
		Low: 20°C	

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EXCHANGE RATES: US DOLLAR – 3.0771 | EURO – 3.6156 | GBP – 3.9922 | 100 RUSSIAN RUBLE – 4.2455 | SWISS FRANC – 3.3567 |

Anaklia Development Consortium has filed a lawsuit in the Arbitration Court

ANAKLIA DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM HAS APPEALED TO THE ARBITRATION COURT AGAINST GEORGIA, FILING TWO LAWSUITS ON JULY 29TH.



► Anaklia Development Consortium and a major foreign investor are seeking more than \$1 billion in damages in an arbitration lawsuit against Georgia.

BY ANASTASIA SOKHADZE

At a press conference, the consortium's lawyer, Qeti Kvartskhava, stated that one lawsuit has been filed on behalf of the consortium in the International Arbitration Court of the International Chamber of Commerce, and the other one on behalf of one of the main investors, Bob Meyer, at the Investment Dispute Resolution Center.

Anaklia Development Consortium, established for the development of the Anaklia Port project, consists of both Georgian and international investors. The ADC has filed an arbitration claim with the International Court of Arbitration (ICC) of the International Chamber of Commerce. Bob Meyer, a well-known Dutch businessman who has been successfully investing in Georgia and around the world for many years, has filed a lawsuit with the International Investment Dispute Resolution Center (ICSID) under a bilateral international investment protection agreement between Georgia and the Netherlands. After a two-year campaign by the government and the ruling Georgian Dream party to thwart ADC's efforts to make the project a success, in January 2020, the government illegally terminated the contract.

Government officials have repeatedly criticized the project, and its shareholders in both public and private meetings have told potential investors and funders that the government was reluctant to participate in the project, which was clear to US government officials that the project was not supported by the Georgian government. The government's aggressive campaign against the Anaklia project has caused a great deal of damage to ADC and its investors. Between the illegal and unethical actions of the government and the Georgian Dream, it is noteworthy that a groundless investigation has been launched into allegations of money laundering by successful Geor-

gian businessman Mamuka Khazaradze and Badri Japaridze, who are the main investors in the project. The allegations of defamation against Khazaradze and Japaridze were intended to warn investors and financiers that they would refrain from supporting the project. Such support was essential for the success of the project.

According to Kvartskhava, as a result of the violation of the agreement by the Georgian government, they have suffered more than a billion dollars in damage.

"The lack of support from the Georgian government, particularly the Georgian Dream and its leader, Bidzina Ivanishvili, for the consortium and the Anaklia project, and the aggressive campaign against the project and the investor, were motivated by several notices. Also, as it turned out, Bidzina Ivanishvili and the Georgian Dream are very sensitive to the



► Anaklia Development Consortium and the state started working together on the project in 2016.

Ad title: (National Staff of the JICA Georgia office)
Provided by: Resident Representative of JICA Georgia office
Published: 31 July, 2020/ Deadline: 14 August, 2020

JICA Georgia office is pleased to announce an opening for the position of National Staff

Job description:

- ** Analyze and Survey of the Country's current Economy and Politic;
- ** To collect information on the development as well as policies and projects of other donors and analyze the issues with regard to assigned programs;
- ** To coordinate submission of requests from the counterpart Government;
- ** To supervise the implementation process of assigned programs; to prepare implementation and budget plan, make logistic arrangement and make necessary coordination and negotiation with related organizations in Caucasus countries and Japan, to make necessary translation and interpretation when communicating with counterparts, and to monitor the progress of assigned programs;
- ** To coordinate Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteer's (JOCV) activity in Georgia;
- ** Other tasks given by Resident Representative;

Skills and requirements:

- ** University degree;
- ** Highly proficient in spoken and written in English, Japanese and Russian languages. (Regarding English and Japanese proficiency, certificates are necessary);
- ** Computer literacy (word, excel, power point etc);
- ** At least five years of work experience in the similar field;
- ** Analytical, open-minded, honest character;
- ** Excellent communication and interpersonal skills;
- ** Well-organized; strong sense of responsibility; hard working;
- ** Willingness to go to the field trips;

Preferable but not mandatory skills:

- ** Familiarity with terms related to finance is preferred;

Term:

From October, 2020 till October, 2021 with possible extension
(Probation period is 3 months. The employer will be able to terminate the contract depending on the performance during the probation period).

Salary:

US\$1300~1500/month (actual amount will be adjusted based on the past work experience and will be paid in GEL)

Working hours:

Monday – Friday, 9:30 – 18:00 (with lunch break from 13:00 – 14:00)

Next step:

Only shortlisted persons will be notified by email and invited to the interview. Interested candidates are required to send the CV (only in English) with two contact information from previous workplaces/schools and copies of certificates to: gg_oso_rep@jica.go.jp and jicageorgia@gmail.com; no later than 14 August, 2020.

pressure coming from Russia," stated Ted Jonas, a member of the consortium's supervisory board.

Over the past two years, the government has repeatedly delayed fulfilling its consortium commitments. They accused the consortium of failing to meet its obligations while the consortium, on

the contrary, accused the government of interfering.

Mamuka Khazaradze, the then head of TBC Holding, which is part of the consortium and now the leader of the movement Lelo, said that the government was deliberately hindering the construction of the Anaklia port.