

## Politics

The murder of a young man followed by unrest and turmoil in Akhalkalaki

One person is arrested for the murder of a young man.

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Natia Turnava: We will provide € 1200 assistance to the former employees of Frontera

Frontera Resources Corporation is an international oil and gas exploration and production company.

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12<sup>th</sup> International Festival "Night Serenades"

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# Georgia marks 12 years after 2008 Russia-Georgia war



Russia-Georgia war took place 12 years ago

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

12 years have passed after the 2008 Russia-Georgia war, which has resulted in Georgia losing control to over 20 percent of its internationally recognized territories. Many international supporters of Georgia, including representatives of the US executive and legislative

branches, research centers and academia have made statements in support of Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity on the occasion of the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the August 2008 war and Russian military intervention in Georgia.

"We cannot be complacent about this conflict," said Philip Reeker, the acting secretary of state. "Even during the

COVID-19 pandemic, Russia is ready to threaten the security of civilians in the region and around the world. Russia's baseless misinformation, including an aggressive campaign to discredit the vital Lugar Center, exposes Russia's cynicism. We urge Russia to withdraw its troops and finally fulfill the promises it made under the 2008 ceasefire agreement," noted Reeker in a video address.

The Embassy of the United States also issued a special statement, which talks about the negative impact that the conflict that happened 12 years ago has on the daily lives of the civilians living near-the-border regions.

In addition to talking about the humanitarian situation in the regions, the statement also calls on Russia to withdraw its troops and place it to the pre-conflict position and make it possible for humanitarian aid to be delivered to the regions.

The Delegation of the European Union to Georgia also issued a special statement regarding the conflict and once again showed their commitment to a peaceful resolution of the conflict. As the statement reads, the tensions have remained high over the recent month between the states and the violation of international law and commitments undertaken under the 12 August 2008 agreement are still not fulfilled by the Russian side.

"Fundamental human rights of the conflict-affected population continue to be violated, including through restrictions on the freedom of movement by so-called 'borderisation' policies, temporary closures of controlled crossing points and illegal detentions," reads the statement.

As the Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia, Carl Hartzell wrote on



"The EU's commitment to a peaceful resolution of the conflicts in Georgia remains as strong as ever," said Ambassador Hartzell.

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# The murder of a young man followed by unrest and turmoil in Akhalkalaki



Family members of the deceased set fire to hotels and houses in Akhalkalaki.

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, a 27-year-old man living in the village of Gulikam was killed in a physical confrontation in Akhalkalaki. According to locals, the confrontation between the two families has been going on for more than three years.

Later, in Akhalkalaki, the villagers of a young man who died as a result of a physical confrontation set fire to the hotel Artserg and the house of their four relatives of the suspects in the murder.

Investigations are currently underway at three locations - in the city center where the confrontation took place, near the burned hotel and at the hospital entrance where two wrecked cars are parked. According to the head of Akhalkalaki hospital Alex Toroyan, a young man wounded in the heart was admitted to Evex Hospital practically dead.

The Patrol, Police and Special Tasks Department were mobilized in Akhalkalaki. According to the Governor of Samtskhe-Javakheti, Besik Amiranashvili, the relatives of the deceased burned several houses after the

murder in Akhalkalaki. "It is a criminal case. The murder took place in Akhalkalaki. Relatives of the deceased then set fire to several houses. The police are in full control of the situation at the moment," Amiranashvili said.

The Samtskhe-Javakheti Police Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs has launched

an investigation into premeditated murder, unlawful purchase and possession of firearms, and gang violence, accompanied by damage or destruction of property.

According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as a result of operative-investigative actions, one person was arrested on

charges of premeditated murder and unlawful purchase of a firearm. The offense carries a maximum sentence of 7 to 15 years in prison.

According to the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Vladimer Bortsvadze, the situation in Akhalkalaki is stable, maximum police forces are mobilized on the spot, which take appropriate preventive measures to maintain public order and safety. Also, as he said, according to the information available at this stage, as a result of the

confrontation, several people have been injured and investigative actions are underway in this direction.

Irma Nadirashvili, a member of European Georgia, believes the confrontation in Akhalkalaki yesterday is "a sign that the government cannot control the criminal situation in the country." According to her, this is the continuation of all of the processes that has been happening in Georgia in the past several months.



The Patrol, Police and Special Tasks Department were mobilized in Akhalkalaki.

## Georgia marks 12 years after 2008 Russo-Georgian war

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Giorgi Gakharia emphasized the importance of peace.

Twitter, The EU's commitment to a peaceful resolution of the conflicts in Georgia remains as strong as ever.

The Prime Minister of Georgia, Giorgi Gakharia also made comments regarding the 2008 Russo-Georgian war. Giorgi Gakharia addressed the public at the handover ceremony for 251 IDP families and personally handed over the keys to the new apartment to several IDP families.

Giorgi Gakharia emphasized the need to stand together and named de-occupation as the main goal.

On August 7<sup>th</sup>, 12 years have passed since the Russo-Georgian war that happened between Georgia and Russian-backed self-proclaimed regions of Georgia. The war took place in August 2008, following a period of worsening relations between Russia and Georgia.

However, the conflict did not end there, since then, the Russian-backed armies are continuing the so-called Borderisation, creeping occupation.

therefore, the opinions expressed in some articles do not necessarily coincide with those of the newspaper. We take no responsibility for any claims made in advertisements.

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

### Weather

Monday, August 10

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 34°C

Night Partly Cloudy

Low: 22°C

Tuesday, August 11

Day Mostly Cloudy

High: 32°C

Night Partly Cloudy

Low: 21°C

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# Natia Turnava: We will provide ₾ 1200 assistance to the former employees of Frontera



The Georgian government announced the termination of its contract with Frontera in April 2020.



the termination of its contract with Frontera in April 2020 and based its decision on international arbitration. This decision was followed by a huge backlash from the international patterns of the country, especially the ones from the USA.

A few weeks ago, six members of the US House of Representatives sent a letter to US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo expressing concern over the situation in Georgia.

The letter, dated July 27<sup>th</sup>, talks about Georgia's path since 1991, important reforms in the development of the global trade partnership, strengthening relations in the field of defense, and free and fair elections.

Members of Congress are urging Pompeo to address their concerns over a number of issues during future meetings with Georgian officials, especially Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia. One of the things that they are most concerned about is the situation around the American company Frontera.

As the representatives of the USA say, the government of Georgia is not letting American companies work successfully in the country, and this could lead to huge problems for the country.

By NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

According to the Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, Natia Turnava, the government has decided to provide a one-time assistance of ₾ 1,200 to the former employees of the company Frontera.

According to her, the situation of former employees of Frontera still stays to be a huge problem. As the minister noted, the decision to provide these former

employees the help was made because of the financial situation that these people have to go through.

She also noted that at this stage, the communication between the government of the country and the representatives of the company is very positive. The Georgian government has decided not to terminate its contract with Frontera and to allow the company to continue operating in the part of the original contract area where oil production has been underway

since Soviet times.

According to the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, the talks are about only 1 % of the territory, as about 99 of this territory has already been returned to the state by Frontera, according to an arbitral award.

According to the official statement of the Ministry, the decision of the state is conditioned by the strategic tasks facing the country.

The Georgian government announced

## Culture & Lifestyle

By MARIAM CHANISHVILI

On August 7<sup>th</sup>, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia hosted a press conference on the XII Batumi-Tbilisi International Festival, Night Serenades.

The press conference was chaired by Nana Dolidze, Head of the Culture Department of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia, Maka Nasrashvili, Head of the Culture, Education, Sports and Youth Service of Tbilisi City Hall, Nina Tsagareli, Director of the Festival and Vakhtang Matchavariani, Principal Conductor of the Festival.

"I am glad that the Night Serenades will take place regardless of the pandemic. Through close cooperation with the governmental structures and our effort, we managed to organize the traditional festival. We will be offering the diverse program: the greatest classical masterpieces, young performers, 'Georgian Virtuoso', a chamber orchestra founded by Ms. Liana Issakadze, maestro Vakhtang Matchavariani and premiers of the new pieces," said Nina Tsagareli.

Due to the pandemic regulations, the twelfth Batumi-Tbilisi festival Night Serenades will be held in a different format this year. The concert in Batumi will be broadcast live on Adjara Public Broadcaster and Tbilisi concerts via livestream.

Masterpieces of classical music will be performed at the concert evenings, as well as the premiere of works by contemporary Georgian composers.

The opening of the festival will take place in Batumi on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Concert evenings will be held in Tbilisi on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

It should be noted that within the framework of this year's festival, the premiere performance of a classic work cre-

# 12<sup>th</sup> International Festival "Night Serenades"

"I am happy that we are participating in this great event. I am also very grateful to my colleagues: Liana Isakadze, Nina Tsagareli and the whole team that we are actively working despite this un-



Maestro Vakhtang Matchavariani, Nina Tsagareli, Nana Dolidze and Maka Nasrashvili

ated by 3 Georgian composers will take place:

Concert by Sandro Nebieridze – created for the Twelfth Batumi-Tbilisi Festival "Night Serenades," Giorgi Shaverzashvili "Concerto for Piano and Chamber Orchestra N4", Jimsher Chkhaidze's work "Sentiments" for chamber orchestra and harp, which had its international premiere in Germany in 2011, and the Georgian premiere of the

work will be held at this year's festival.

Supporters of the Batumi-Tbilisi XII International Festival "Night Serenades" include: Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia, Batumi City Hall; Tbilisi City Hall; Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara.

The event is organized by the company "Art Alliance". The official insurer of the festival is the company "Ardi."

bearable pandemic. The content of the festival has always been innovative, just like this year," said Vakhtang Matchavariani.

The International Festival "Night Serenades" was founded in 1982 in Abkhazia with the initiative of a famous Georgian violinist and conductor - Liana Isakadze. Unfortunately, the festival was ceased in 1991 and only after 18 years, in 2009, it was renewed in Batumi.