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People have gathered in Tbilisi, Kutaisi, and other parts of Georgia



Protesters have gathered in Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Batumi, and other cities of Georgia



Opposition parties do not recognize the election results, declare them illegitimate

By NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

The government deployed riot police to disperse the opposition's protest rally in front of the CEC building yesterday, on November 8. The riot police fired water cannons and tear gas at the protesters who claim the 2020 elections have been rigged by the government and the Chairperson of the Central Election Commission Tamar Zhvania.

In several different cities of Georgia, activists have gathered to protest the rigging of the 2020 elections. They claim the elections were not fair, gathering to defend their voices.

Protesters have gathered in Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Batumi, and other cities of Georgia. In connection with the rallies, the United States Embassy and the Delegation of the European Union to Georgia have published special statements.

They call on Georgian people who are exercising their right to assembly to do so peacefully and respect the Covid-19 precautions. They call on the authorities of the country to provide a peaceful and safe environment for those who are participating in the protests.

"Georgia needs a parliament able to play its role to address the immediate challenges of economic turmoil, a pandemic, and regional tensions, as well as to enact additional reforms to improve the country's democratic, legal and electoral processes for the future. All political sides need urgently to take responsibility for

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As Covid-19 cases increase, Gov't introduces more restrictions in Georgia



Over the weekend, 5760 cases of Coronavirus were reported in Georgia

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

Over the weekend, a total of 5760 cases of coronavirus were reported in the country. To overcome the challenges created by the Covid-19 pandemic, the leadership of the country has announced to adopt a few more restrictions.

However, Prime Minister Gakharia said, there are no

plans for another lockdown, noting that the restrictions introduced won't be as strict as those in the spring.

According to the decision of the Interagency Coordination Council, beginning November 9, from 22:00 to 05:00, mobility will be restricted in big cities - Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Batumi, Rustavi, Zugdidi, Gori, and Poti. This restriction applies to both pedestrians and persons

traveling in vehicles.

Special measures will be taken in these cities to reduce the number of people in municipal transport. Transportation during the day will not be restricted. According to the decision of the Interagency Coordination Council, kindergartens are temporarily closed in big cities – “both municipal and private kindergartens will be temporarily closed in Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Batumi, Rustavi, Zugdidi, Gori, and Poti.”

Representatives of the

Parliament of Georgia and the Presidential Administration are participating in the work of the Interagency Coordination Council headed by the Prime Minister. After the council meeting, Vice Prime Minister Maia Tskitishvili said that point restrictions have been introduced taking into account the current epidemiological situation in Georgia and the rapid increase in the number of infected people.

The first case of the Covid-

19 was reported in Georgia in February 2020. Even though the first wave of the virus didn't record many cases in the country, the second wave spread significantly fast.

Most cases are reported in Tbilisi. Even though the numbers are increasing very fast, Prime Minister Gakharia says they will not be introducing strict measures as the economy will not be able to survive another lockdown.



Gakharia said the government is not planning on another lockdown in the country

Government deploys riot police to disperse opposition rally

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ensuring such an outcome,” reads the statement.

The leader of political party Lelo, Mamuka Khazaradze stated that even though there are representatives of different parties leading the rallies, their main goal remains the same.

The former president of the country Giorgi Margvelashvili has also attended the rally on Sunday. Margvelashvili addressed the international community and partners of the country, calling on them to stand with the Georgian people.

Opposition parties do not recognize the election results and declare them illegitimate. All the parties that overcame the 1% barrier refused to participate in the second round, rejecting the seats in the parliament.

The government names the threat of spreading Covid-19 as the reason for the opposition to stop the rallies immediately.



Movement will be restricted in Georgia's big cities

Weather

Monday, November 9

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 17°C
Night Clear
Low: 5°C

Tuesday, November 10

Day Clear
High: 18°C
Night Clear
Low: 7°C

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US Trade Representative Office publishes annual report



Robert Lighthizer writes about the challenges ahead in the law enforcement process

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia received a letter from US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, in which the US Trade Representative underscored the progress made in improving the protection of workers' rights in Georgia.

Robert Lighthizer notes that the US Trade Representative's office began hearing the case in 2010 based on a petition filed by the American Labor Federation and Congressional Industrial Organizations alleging that Georgia did not meet the eligibility requirements under the US Generalized System of Preferences.

"The petition raised three major concerns: legal restrictions on the right of association, hostility on the part of the government and interference in trade union affairs, and the abolition of the Labor Inspectorate in 2006. Since then, the United States Government has worked closely with the Government of Georgia to address these issues," reads the statement.

Lighthizer talks about the challenges ahead in the law enforcement process and highlights the importance of increasing labor inspection capacity.

"I understand that the implementation of the new legislation will be full of challenges. We urge you to focus, in the coming months, on increasing the ca-

capacity of the labor inspectorate, including the employment and training of labor inspectors, the professionalization of the inspectorate, and the allocation of sufficient funding from the state budget for its operation and equipment."

Minister of Economy and Sus-

tainable Development Natia Turnava made special comments about it. "It is gratifying that the US Trade Representative noted in its recent report the great progress that Georgia has made in protecting the rights of its employees."

The annual summary report

prepared by the US Trade Representative Office is quite important for Georgia. According to the report, Georgia has maintained a preferential trade regime with the United States as a result of its efforts to improve the protection of employees' rights.

According to the report, Geor-

gia, based on the results achieved in terms of improving the protection of employees' rights, has successfully passed the GSP (Generalized System of Preferences) program review procedure, and the country will retain all the benefits provided by the program.



According to the report, Georgia has maintained a preferential trade regime with the United States