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Clergymen confront suspect of Cartographer's case, Mtavari Arkhi TV crew in David Gareji



► The MIA has launched an investigation into the incident in David Gareji under Article 126, on the fact of violence.

By KHATIA BZHALAVA

On Tuesday, David Gareji monastery clergymen confronted opposition-minded Mtavari Arkhi TV crew and Iveri Melashvili, the main suspect in the so-called Cartographer's Case. According to Mtavari Arkhi, they were filming a video report when the drunk clergy attacked them and physically assaulted their journalist, videographer and Melashvili. According to journalists, their equipment was also damaged.

Melashvili, a former state expert accuses the Georgian Dream government of purposefully misleading people to believe that he is a traitor who handed over and sold Georgian lands to Azerbaijan. Melashvili believes the incident was orchestrated.

The Public Defender's Office condemned any type of attack on media representatives, noting that this is not the first case of physical assault on a critical media crew this year.

"We call on the investigative bodies to investigate the attacks on journalists in a timely and effective manner, as well as to identify and hold all relevant persons responsible for the past criminal incidents against journalists and representatives



► Iveri Melashvili, a former state expert and the main suspect in the so-called Cartographer's Case believe that the incident was.

of TV companies, to prevent the creation of an environment of impunity," Public Defender's office said.

The Coalition for Media Advocacy and the Georgian Charter of Journalistic Ethics both stressed the incident involved illegal interference in journalistic activities.

Yesterday, the Ministry of Internal Affairs launched an investigation into the incident under Article 126, into the fact of violence.

Iveri Melashvili, along with Natalia Ilychova, was detained in October 2020 on charges under Article 308 (1) of the Criminal Code of Georgia, involving "actions directed at the violation of the territorial integrity of the country." They were accused of withholding materials from a border agreement with Azerbaijan that, as the Chief Prosecutor's Office noted, resulted in the forfeit of about 3,500 hectares of lands against Georgia's interests. The cartographers were released on bail in January 2021, claiming their detention was part of the political agenda of the ruling party, Melashvili and Ilichova have appealed to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR).

EXCHANGE RATES: US DOLLAR - 3.4398 | EURO - 4.1319 | GBP - 4.7751 | 100 RUSSIAN RUBLE - 4.5912 | SWISS FRANC - 3.7598 |

Georgian Delegation meets Azerbaijani officials in Baku

BY KHATIA BZHALAVA

On Wednesday, Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili met with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in Baku. According to Garibashvili, the sides discussed the topics of mutual interest, the importance of peaceful conflict resolution, cooperation in the field of economy, energy and trade, and the successful joint projects of regional importance. They reviewed the results achieved so far within the framework of the strategic partnership between the two countries. The sides underscored that they have carried out many fundamental and historical projects jointly.

As Aliyev stressed, "relations between our peoples are based on centuries of history of good neighborhood," and the two countries have a great history of carrying out joint projects, such as energy and transportation projects. The president mentioned the Southern Gas Corridor project, "which has tremendous importance for development, stability, predictability, and cooperation not only in the Caucasus but in the wider region," and underscored the key



► Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Garibashvili and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev.

role of Azerbaijani and Georgia in its implementation.

Aliyev stressed that Azerbaijan is one of the largest investors in Georgia. He noted that there is a good investment climate in Georgia that attracts many Azer-

bajani companies. Georgian PM noted at the meeting that Azerbaijan and Georgia 'are brotherly nations', they are connected and interdependent.

As Garibashvili said, both countries are motivated to imple-

ment more projects together, "which will further strengthen our relations." He has invited Aliyev to Georgia "at any convenient time."

Within the framework of the official visit to Baku, after the meeting with the president, PM Garibashvili paid tribute to the memory of the national leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev and his wife Zarifa Aliyeva. Georgian PM also met his Azerbaijani counterpart Ali Asadov and

Azerbaijani Parliament Speaker Sahiba Gafarova.

Georgian Foreign Minister David Zalkaliani, who is among the Georgian delegation members in Baku, also met his Azerbaijani counterpart Jeyhun Bayramov. Parties focused on all the key directions of Georgian-Azerbaijani bilateral relations. Ministers discussed the issues of economic cooperation, particularly in terms of COVID-19 management and the tourism sector.



► Georgian Foreign Minister David Zalkaliani met his Azerbaijani counterpart Jeyhun Bayramov in Baku.

Vaccination in tourism industry to start in 2 days

BY NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

The main topic of yesterday's meeting of leaders of the Association in the field of tourism with the Minister of Economy and the Head of the Tourism Administration Medea Janiashvili was the vaccination of people employed in the field.

As Shota Burjanadze, the head of the Association of Restaurants said after the meeting, the vaccination of those employed in the industry will start in 3 days, and those who want to be vaccinated via Astrazeneca, Sinopharm or Sinovac, will be able to register on a special portal from May 6. Vaccination will be voluntary.

"There are only a few countries in the world that apply this practice and Georgia is the first in the region to say that our tourism industry will be the safest," said the minister.



► The Association of Restaurants voices initiative of introducing special discounts for vaccinated customers.

According to her, it's very important that the government offers vaccinated hotels and restaurants, and participates in international marketing.

In addition, Burjanadze came up with an initiative to encourage vaccinated users. "Those who are vaccinated will receive certain benefits from both the state and private companies. My initiative was to offer some discounts to the vaccinated customers," she

clarified, adding that the issue of lifting restrictions on the sector is no less important. "If the curfew and weekend restrictions are not lifted, vaccination will not make sense. The state gives us a positive answer to these questions and tells us that they are working on these issues, but the result always says more than any statement," said the head of the restaurant association. The issue of opening the land borders was also discussed



► According to the decision of the Interagency Council, representatives of the tourism sector will be vaccinated in the same way as priority groups.

at the meeting. According to the Minister of Economy, Georgia is working to open the land borders by the same principle as the air borders.

"For example: it will be easier for vaccinated visitors to enter Georgia, as well as for those who have taken the test, etc," Turnava explained.

Acting head of the National Tourism Administration Medea Janiashvili says that the general

goal is to restore the tourism sector as effectively as possible, vaccination and prioritization of the tourism sector is a prerequisite for this.

"Let's encourage the facilities that are undergoing the voluntary vaccination process to advertise their facilities as safe," Janiashvili said. The list of companies that have vaccinated employees will be posted on the tourist web platform.

THURSDAY		MAY 6	
Day		Rain	
		High: 17°C	
Night		Cloudy	
		Low: 10°C	
FRIDAY		MAY 7	
Day		Overcast	
		High: 21°C	
Night		Partly Cloudy	
		Low: 11°C	

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43, Chovelidze st., Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia

Founded by Prof. **Zaza Gachechiladze**

Tamar Gachechiladze
Publisher

Phone: +995 99 56 56 21; +995 77 76 00 00
E-mail: messenger@messenger.com.ge
http://www.messenger.com.ge

Nino Metreveli
Commercial Director

Mariam Mchedlidze
Editor-in-Chief

Natalia Kochiashvili
Executive Editor

Nino Kavelashvili
Design and Layout

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