

A rally of Saakashvili's opponents was held near Rustavi prison

Saakashvili was arrested on October 1

By Nika Gamtsemlidze

Another rally was held in Georgia regarding Saakashvili's release from jail. This time, it was opponents of Saakashvili who organized the protest. Near the Rustavi prison, the activists expressed their opposition against the third president of the country.

As it was reported by online media outlets, those gathered in Rustavi were the employees of the Rustavi City Hall, members of the Rustavi Sakrebulo majority, and the activists of the Georgian Dream youth wing.

One of the employees of the Rustavi City Hall, Giorgi Tsilosani, said that the protest was held by the families affected by the 'Saakashvili's rule in Georgia'. Many of the protesters said that they were not representing any party, and they were protesting to support the families who 'suffered during the previous government'.

The participants of the rally near the Rustavi prison demanded the life imprisonment of the third president of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili,



Activists and protesters demanded banning of the UNM

and the banning of the UNM party.

People who blamed the government of Mikheil Saakashvili for the death of their relatives and friends spoke at the rally. Among the protesters were arrested

during the rule of the National Movement and were released as political prisoners after the Georgian Dream came to power.

Mikheil Saakashvili, who returned to Georgia from Ukraine, was detained by law

enforcers in Tbilisi on October 1 and is currently in Rustavi prison. The ex-president was sentenced in absentia to imprisonment in two cases, while he has been charged in two other cases.

On the other hand, on

Thursday, October 14, supporters of Saakashvili held a rally in Tbilisi. Thousands of people gathered and demanded the release of Saakashvili from the prison. The rally, organized by UNM, was attended by supporters of the party from all over the country.

Since his arrest, Saakashvili has been on a hunger strike. Saakashvili's personal doctor, Nikoloz Kipshidze, said that after his visit with Saakashvili, he believes that it might be necessary to hold a medical council before about Saakashvili's health before Tuesday.

According to Kipshidze, Mikheil Saakashvili feels morally good but has difficulty walking, and general weakness.

"Hospitalization is not necessary at the moment, but let's see. His situation is worse than it was during the previous meeting," said Mikheil Saakashvili's doctor, adding that he would provide this information to the prison doctor as well.

Saakashvili started a hunger strike on October 1.



Since his arrest, Saakashvili has been on a hunger strike

Number of daily Covid-19 cases increase in Georgia

Fewer people are getting vaccinated in the country



Only 31.5% of the population is fully vaccinated in Georgia

situation without vaccination. He said that the country is still far from the desired 60% vaccination, saying that without vaccination, Georgia will have such waves every two months.

The Ministry of Education of Georgia has issued a statement saying that due to the increasing number of Covid-19 cases, tens of schools and hundreds of classes had to move onto online classes.

According to the agency, 108 schools and 687 separate classes have switched to distance learning throughout Georgia over the past week.

“In the event of Covid-19 detection, schools will act on the recommendation of healthcare professionals to prevent internal spread, and a separate class or school will immediately switch to distance learning,” reads the statement of the Ministry of Education.

According to last week’s data, the virus was confirmed in 0.9% of teachers and 0.6% of students. 69% of teachers and school administrative staff have been fully vaccinated.

NCDC of Georgia issued a



Around 4,500 Covid-19 cases were reported on Sunday

statement saying that on Saturday, only 4,681 doses of the Covid-19 vaccines have been administered, which is a very low number. According to the official data, 1,911,877 jabs have been administered in Georgia as of October 17.

In general, since the beginning of the month, the number of vaccines administered has been below 10,000. NCDC has noted that it is vital for the country to administer at least 30,000 doses for swift vaccination. Vac-

cination in Georgia started on March 15 and as of now, a little over 800 thousand people have received both jabs, which is only 31.5% of the population.

On Sunday, Georgia reported 4581 cases, a total of 46,123 tests were taken. The number of confirmed Covid cases was 5,076 on Saturday, with almost 63,000 tests taken. The number of people dead because of Covid-19 is increasing very fast as well. In total, 9,468 people have died because of Covid-19 in the country.

By NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

Over the past few weeks, Covid-19 cases have been increasing in the country. For the past few days, Georgia has reported over 4,000 cases of the coronavirus on a daily basis.

As the numbers of confirmed Covid-19 cases increase in Georgia, epidemiologists talk about the severity of the situation in the country. The head of the National Center of Disease Control, Amiran Gamkrelidze, November will be ‘very harsh’ for Georgia.

“When the reproduction index is at 1.8, it is very alarming. This means that the spread is very fast, so it is expected that the epidemic situation will worsen,” said Gamkrelidze.

He said the only solution is vaccination and adherence to regulations. “Everyone should wear masks wherever they are,” Amiran Gamkrelidze said, adding that it was necessary to “keep our distance and avoid any large gatherings, for whatever reason.”

Gamkrelidze also said that it is impossible to get out of the

Empowering rural women is key to post-pandemic recovery

On International Rural Women’s Day, national partners and donors highlight the role that women play in local economic and social development

TBILISI. 15 October 2021 – Marking International Day of Rural Women, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) joined efforts with the Government of Georgia, the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), the Swedish Agency for Development Cooperation (Sida) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to reiterate support for women living in rural areas and stress their crucial role in the process of rebuilding the economy after the pandemic-driven crisis.

“Women bear a greater share of the hard times during this pandemic – and that’s especially true of women living in rural

areas. But we also know with the right support they can be the agents of change that can help improve the lives of their families and their communities,” UNDP Head Nick Beresford noted.

On 15 October, UNDP announced the winners of a grant contest for women entrepreneurs. The competition was carried out in partnership with Georgia’s Government Administration and the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure with financial support from the governments of Austria, Sweden and Switzerland.

The winners were selected from nearly 600 applications by a competent jury completed by representatives of UNDP, Government Administration, Parliament, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and the Ministry of Regional

Development and Infrastructure.

Winning business ideas cover a wide range of economic and social areas, including the production of solar heaters, ecotourism, publishing fabric books for children and 24 more projects contributing to local development and women’s participation.

Each winner will receive up to GEL 5,000 to implement their projects and will benefit from business consultations that will help them develop and expand their enterprises.

UNDP assistance draws on the resources made available by the two robust programmes focused on advancing gender equality and fostering regional and local development in Georgia. Supporting rural women has been a cornerstone of both initiatives though it gained particular importance during the

pandemic crisis.

As a UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) report found, rural women are disproportionately affected by health and economic crises in a number of ways, including food security, access to health facilities, services and economic opportunities. Georgia is not an exception.

According to the 2021 Rapid Gender Assessment of the COVID-19 Situation in Georgia, the pandemic deepened existing gender inequalities in Georgian society. The pandemic increased women’s already uneven domestic care burdens due to the closure of schools and the additional care needs of elderly and sick household members.

To address these challenges, UNDP has introduced a robust set of initiatives focused on supporting vulnerable women from

rural communities.

Over the past year, UNDP supported 31 rural women-led family business projects with a total of US\$25,000. To help alleviate the pandemic’s impacts on the most vulnerable households, UNDP distributed US\$90,000 worth of agricultural support packages (including electric-powered backpack sprayers, fertilizer, pesticides and other agricultural tools and inputs) to 620 women farmers in seven regions of Georgia.

Together with national partners and donors, UNDP supports women-led economic initiatives and fosters gender equality in politics and public life. Making all levels of decision-making processes more representative will lead to more fair and equitable national and local policies and will help Georgia ‘build back better.’

Weather

Monday, October 18

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 20°C
Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 12°C

Tuesday, October 19

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 17°C
Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 10°C

published by

The Messenger

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