

Alt-Info Inaugurates Russia-Friendly Party Conservative Movement, DRI Urges against Its Registration

By NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

The team of the violent, homophobic, ultra-right organization Alt-Info founded a political party called the "Conservative Movement". The founding congress was held at Expo-Georgia on November 20. Delegates elected the party leader and governing bodies and presented their political visions, program objectives, and strategy. Zurab Makharadze was elected chairman of the party. The members of the political council are Irakli Martinenko, Irakli Morgoshia, Giorgi Kardava, Vasil Gvilia. Kardava was elected General Secretary of the party.

They refer to themselves as national, pro-Georgian forces and say that the changed political reality after their arrival will be the end of the 'Liberal dictatorship, which puts the country in a vassal state.'

"The fate of Georgia's territorial integrity is being decided in the Kremlin. If anyone likes it, if they do not, we should certainly have a direct dialogue with our Abkhaz brothers, but the key to the conflict is in Moscow." Makharadze delivered a speech at the congress.

According to him, if the Russian Federation really wants a state of alliance with Georgia, Conservative Movement is ready not only to start a direct and unconditional dialogue but also to work to establish a partnership and alliance with the Russian Federation.

He also expressed readiness to talk about the integration of Georgia in the security and economic system, which is in their interest, in parallel with the restoration of our territorial integrity, but this should happen at the expense of restoring territorial integrity and improving the economic situation and demographics.

Alt-Info Ltd. was registered in January 2019, director and 50% shareholder is Shota Martinenko. The other half is owned by Tsiala Morgoshia. Another or-



"We are ready to establish partnership and allied relations with Russia."

ganization related to Alt-Info, A (A) IP "Alternative for Georgia" was registered in January 2019 as well.

Opposition parties and NGOs say that this pro-Russian, homophobic group that is famous for its violent statements contradicts the Constitution of Georgia. They call on the public registry to refuse to register this force as a political party. Ana Natsvlshvili, an MP from the Lelo faction, said she would gather the other 29 deputies in case of registration and demand that the Constitutional Court abolished the party. Recall, the Law on the Constitutional Court reads that, President, at least 1/5 of the MPs (30), or the Government have the right to file a constitutional claim on the activities of a political party.

The Institute for Democracy Research says that the NAPR of the Ministry of Justice should pay special attention to the goals stated in the party's founding documents and not register the political party "Conservative Movement."

They cite the Constitution of Georgia and articles from the Organic Law of Georgia on Political Unions, according to which, it is inadmissible to form and operate such a party "which promotes war or violence, inciting national, sectarian, religious or social strife."

"If a party incorporates provisions that incite illegal, violent propaganda, social, national, religious or social strife in its registration documents, the public registry should not register the Conservative Movement," the DRI said.

According to the Constitution of Georgia, it is inadmissible to form and operate a political party aimed at overthrowing or violently changing the constitutional order of Georgia, violating the country's independence, violating its territorial integrity or promoting war or violence, inciting national, ethnic, sectarian, religious or social strife. It is inadmissible to create a political party on a territorial basis.

According to the Law on Political Union of Citizens, various documents, including the party's charter, the signatures of at least 1,000 party members, and others, must be submitted to the Public Registry Agency within a week of the party's founding congress. At this stage, the applicant must meet both the technical requirements - complete documentation, as well as the goals of the party provided by the charter, must comply with the law and constitutional requirements.

According to constitutionalist Vakhtang Khmaladze, if there is nothing in the charter that is against the constitution or the law, the agency is obliged to register the party.

Based on the content of the formal record, the Conservative Movement is expected to meet party registration requirements, including other technical obligations.

Recall that representatives of the Alt-Info group, which is characterized by pro-Russian, anti-Western, and homophobic sentiments, organized the violent events of July 5, 2021, when more than 50 members of the media were injured as a result of physical retaliation.

That's why a part of society thinks that a number of their actions contradict the Constitution. However, constitutionalists say it can not be assessed as a legal position of the party, and old activities can not become the legal basis to raise the issue of banning the party.



Conservative Movement ready to participate in upcoming elections, be it extraordinary or planned.

PM Garibashvili Meets With WB Regional Director



“I am pleased to see many very important reforms in Georgia,” said WB Regional Director Sebastian Molineus

Regional Director of the World Bank for the South Caucasus Sebastian Molineus and Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Garibashvili.

BY KHATIA BZHALAVA

Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Garibashvili met with Sebastian Molineus on Monday to discuss current and upcoming economic projects in Georgia. According to Molineus, he is pleased to see important reforms being implemented in the country.

Molineus stressed that the discussion mainly focused on the economic reform program. A

major transformational reform program which is prepared by the World Bank cooperatively with the Georgian government aims at improving health, educational and social outcomes in the country.

The World Bank’s assistance to Georgia during the pandemic was particularly highlighted at the meeting. WB Regional Director praised the steps taken by the Georgian government to boost engagement in the vaccination

process, such as the introduction of COVID passes and financial incentives for the elderly.

According to Molineus, the sides also focused on the reforms that could increase the productivity of the Georgian economy and ensure a strong, competitive, and digital economy.

Garibashvili pointed out that the World Bank has financed several significant projects over the decades, allocating a total of \$2.7 billion. The current portfo-

lio of the World Bank consists of 12 active investment projects and Development Policy Operations (DPOs) amounting to \$928 million. According to the official statement, the PM thanked Molineus for the effective and productive cooperation with the Government of Georgia, noting that engagement of the World Bank in various sectors of the economy is greatly appreciated.

It was stressed at the meeting that projects oriented towards boosting the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) have stimulated the economic recovery and gradual resumption of business in Georgia. The Prime Minister empha-

sized that the country aims to transform into a transport and logistics hub between Europe and Asia.

“We discussed the logistics agenda, making sure that when it comes to regional connectivity and integration, Georgia can be a strong leader not only in the region but globally as well, given its geopolitical placement in the region” noted Sebastian Molineus.

The PM stressed that implementing regional development projects is a key priority in the agenda of the government and highlighted the significant role of financial support of the World Bank.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY THE MESSENGER STAFF

Melia Says UNM Will Introduce Party’s Plan This Week

According to Nika Melia, the chairman of the United National Movement, he will inform the public about the party’s action plan by the end of the week.

Melia was also present at today’s rally, when UNM members and citizens gathered a live chain to mark the 18th anniversary of the Rose Revolution.

He told reporters that he was actively working with politicians

and “would make a very specific, well-written plan with his partners.”

Melia said the public should understand why the opposition is calling for early parliamentary elections.

“Strategic patience is the most important thing. You, me and many people yesterday wanted the oligarch not to be in charge of state institutions and the country to be able to breathe. It will definitely happen in the near future, but grumbling about why it did not happen yesterday will not work tomorrow,” Melia said.

Doctor Says Saakashvili’s Condition is Stable, Vital Parameters Are Normal

Neurologist Tengiz Tsuladze, who is a member of the council

created by the Public Defender, says that Mikheil Saakashvili’s condition is stable and vital parameters are normal.

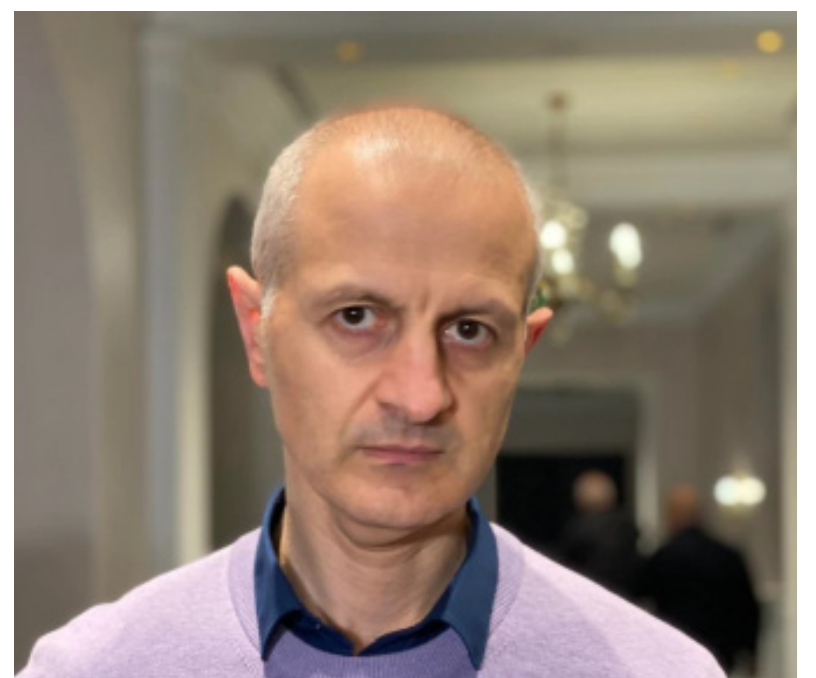
Tsuladze visited the ex-president together with other doctors of the Consilium at the Gori Military Hospital today.

According to him, Mikheil Saakashvili is still weak, has eye problems and it may take several weeks to improve. However, as the neurologist says, the ex-president can both walk and speak.

Journalists asked him if Saakashvili would be able to attend the trial, which is scheduled for November 29.

“It is difficult to say in advance whether he will be able to improve by November 29 so that he can attend the trial. He may improve and attend, but 100% is not expected. We do not know how it will be in 6 days.”

Mikheil Saakashvili was



taken from Gldani 18th Prison Hospital to Gori Military Hospi-

tal on November 19 after a 49-day hunger strike.

Weather

Wednesday, November 24

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 15°C

Night Mostly Cloudy
Low: 6°C

Thursday, November 25

Day Mostly Cloudy
High: 10°C

Night Light Rain
Low: 3°C

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