

'Georgian Dream is trying to disrupt public control over government activities', NGOs release joint statement

By Liza Mchedlidze

The joint statement released by 20 non-governmental organizations reads that "the aggressive campaign carried out by the Georgian Dream against local NGOs has reached an alarming level". According to them, "Georgian Dream's attack on civil organizations has the goal of disconnecting public control over the activities of the government, which is another clear manifestation of authoritarianism and indicates the irreversible course of its formation."

"After the Georgian Dream blocked the participation of the International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED) in the working group created by it on the fulfillment of the 12 points determined for Georgia to receive the status of a candidate for EU membership, which was followed by the suspension of work in the groups by other non-governmental organizations, the ruling party attacked the civil sector.

The attack by the chairman of the Georgian Dream, Irakli Kobakhidze, on the competence and integrity of non-gov-



ernmental organizations, their classification and the creation of a black list of non-

governmental organizations unacceptable to the government due to the posi-

tion taken on the issue of European integration, which is the most important for the national interests of the country, is nothing but an attempt by the Georgian Dream to neutralize public control over the activities of the government and in a way, to facilitate activities with their own agenda.

It is noteworthy that the ruling party attacks those individuals and organizations that actively monitor the activities of the government, criticize the existing dangerous policies, call on the government to review its agenda and to start taking real steps towards the development of the country.

We believe that the Georgian Dream is thinking about the outcome, however, with similar rhetoric and steps, it is deliberately trying to break all the levers that Georgia needs for its democratic development. Such decisions and statements are the cause of what makes the future of democratic development of Georgia unclear every day, both in the eyes of the national and international community, which is fully the responsibility of the Georgian Dream" the statement reads.

Fine for illegal use of administrative resources to be increased

By Liza Mchedlidze

The fine for illegal use of administrative resources may increase from 2000 GEL to 4000 GEL.

The issue was discussed in the working group created for revision of the Election Code in the

parliament.

According to Givi Mikanadze, the head of the group and member of the parliamentary majority, the positions of the participants of the working group on the issue of increasing the fine for the illegal use of administrative resources are reconciled.

According to him, they agreed on another issue on the agenda, that a person who was a representative of any political party or entity during the last two general elections should not be appointed as a member of the District Election Commission.

"Positions on several issues

were agreed upon. Among them, there is talk of increasing the fine for illegal use of administrative resources from 2000 GEL to 4000 GEL.

It is also said that a person who was a representative of any political party or entity during the last two general elections

should not be appointed as a member of the District Election Commission.

Also, in order to equalize the positions under the current legislation, the members represented by the parties have a certification requirement, while this requirement does not apply to people who are selected on professional grounds. We have decided to extend it to them as well. Accordingly, the CEC will ensure this.

There were issues on which the positions were divided - the limitation period of administrative responsibility for the illegal use of administrative resources, which is two months according to the current legislation, is recommended by GRECO to be increased to 3 years. In connection with this, a part of the opposition parties said that it is unacceptable to extend this term, a part of the opposition parties and we also stated the position that this recommendation is based on the appropriate basis and we think that this term should be extended.

We have made a decision that for the next working group, which will probably be held on September 15, a draft norm will be drawn up, which will explain



The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Vice Speaker of the Parliament talks Election Code changes



According to the Vice Speaker of the Parliament, Levan Ioseliani, two issues are prioritized for him and his teammates in the direction of changes in the Election Code. One is increasing the area of holding elections electronically and the second is increasing the quorum for the appointment of members of the District Election Commission to 2/3 to ensure the involvement of the opposition.

As Ioseliani told the journalists, the implementation of the electronic system in at least a third of the country will ensure manipulations, and raising the

quorum for the appointment of members of the District Election Commission will ensure consensus and the involvement of the opposition.

“We raised two issues at this meeting, which are fundamen-

tally important. The first one is related to increasing the area of conducting the next elections electronically. We want electronic vote counting machines to be used even more in the next elections. I mean that such a change should be implemented in at least a third or half of Georgia, so that we can know the results after 20 minutes or half an hour. There is a good experience based on the elections held in Batumi. This ensures any type of provocation, or manipulation. Therefore, as electronic vote counting machines are used in more precincts, it will greatly

improve the standard of conducting elections in Georgia. The second issue concerns the appointment of members of district election commissions - according to the current regulation, it is possible Without the involvement of the opposition, the Central Election Commission should make a decision with a simple majority and appoint its own members to the District Election Commission. We believe that the participation of the opposition is very important. We demand that the quorum be increased to 2/3, so that it is impossible to appoint a member in the District Election Commission without opposition. On the one hand, this will be an opportunity to appoint a member through consensus, and on the other hand, the involvement of the opposition will be ensured,” the Vice Speaker said.

Imprisoned Soso Gogashvili promises to publish more evidence of Ministers’ ‘group criminal acts’



The former Deputy head of the State Security Service of Georgia, Soso Gogashvili released another letter from prison, which refers to government leaders as ‘puppet cabinet of ministers’ and calls Minister of Internal Affairs Vakhtang Gomelauro and The Minister of Justice Rati Bregadze ‘criminals’.

“There are at least two criminals in today’s puppet Cabinet of Ministers - Vakhtang Gomelauro and Rati Bregadze “

As Gogashvili explained, the said evidence will finally confirm the information “about the criminal offense committed by the group” by the government representatives.

“There are at least two criminals in today’s puppet cabinet - Vakhtang Gomelauro and Rati Bregadze (based on my case). However, according to Gomelauro, Gharibashvili, Liluashvili and Shotadze also knew about the secret communication between me and him. Everyone already knows from whom you receive the assign-

ment, but it has been proven once again that you are recidivists. First, you took Merabishvili out of his cell and deleted the footage, then you kidnapped Mukhtarli and deleted the entire city’s cameras up to Lagodekhi, threatened to destroy my family, talked to me four times in prison and burned all the servers. You are recidivists, who are you? I suggest you write your resignation letter before it gets worse.

Tomorrow I will make public another key piece of evidence besides the prints, which is not subject to either erasure or damage on your part. This will finally confirm the information I leaked about your group criminal act. The burning of servers is proof of this and no one doubts it.

Is it difficult to fight against one of the former members of the system? The European Court of Human Rights will judge you in Europe, and the Georgian people will do it in Georgia.” Gogashvili’s letter reads.

Fine for illegal use of administrative resources to be increased

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that the term will be increased to 3 years, but the issue will remain open and additional arguments will be discussed”, said Givi Mikanadze .

As for the issue of increasing the number of polling stations where elections will be held using electronic technologies, Mikanadze says that this issue has not been discussed yet, although the management team is

ready for consultations.

“This issue is open for discussion. We have seen that the CEC conducted several mid-term elections using the electronic system. We see the positive sides of this process. This issue needs a

political solution as well as financial support. So far we have not come to discuss this issue, although it is on the agenda. Several members of the group expressed their interest, as well as ours. We will continue to discuss this issue both in this group format and at the next meeting. Our position is open. We are ready for consultations. Also, we are consulting with the government in terms of financial security,” said Givi Mikanadze

Weather

Friday, August 26

Day ☀ Clear High: 32°C

Night 🌙 Clear Low: 19°C

Saturday, August 27

Day ☀ Clear High: 34°C

Night 🌙 Clear Low: 20°C

published by The Messenger

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