

## Conference 'Glory to Ukraine!' starts in Tbilisi

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The participants of the Tbilisi international conference "Glory to Ukraine!" visited the village of Odzisi near the occupation line.

Participants included David Kramer, a former high-ranking official of the United States State Department and director of global policy at the George W. Bush Presidential Center; MEP Anna Fotyga; Former US Ambassador to Georgia, Ian Kelly, and others.

The participants of the conference got acquainted with the situation at the occupation line in Odzisi.

The conference aims to maintain Georgia's priority place in the world and transatlantic agenda, to promote democratic progress and Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

This year's theme of the conference is "Glory to Ukraine!" The conference will discuss the new political and security reality created as a result of the war, the threats facing modern democracy, the future of European security, etc.

"On behalf of the Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC), the McCain Institute, and the George W. Bush Institute, we believe that this visit is very important as a reminder of what Georgia has experienced since 2008 and that it gives us lessons to learn from," David Kramer said.

We think it's important for our delegation to start our visit here as a reminder of what you live with every day. So, this is

an expression of our support for Georgia, its sovereignty, and territorial integrity. We will continue to support Georgia so that one day Georgia will be reunited within its internationally recognized borders," added Kramer.

Kramer also spoke regarding the Russian propaganda narrative that the US and West are trying to drag Georgia into a war with Ukraine.

"Russian propaganda tries to blame the United States and Europe. Of course, it is absurd to say that the United States wants to involve Georgia in the war. Georgia has already had a war, it doesn't need another war," he said

"I think we have seen the solidarity expressed by the Georgian people towards Ukraine. We saw thousands of Georgians taking to the streets in support of Ukraine. I think there was some concern at the government level, but it is absolutely ridiculous for anyone to claim that the United States wants to drag Georgia into a war. Anyone who says this is repeating the Kremlin's propaganda," Kramer added.

According to Kramer, de-oligarchization is as important in the EU recommendations as any other. He also added that he has expressed his views on the problems in this regard in the past and that his views have not changed. He thinks that de-oligarchization is an issue that should be taken seriously. He also expressed his hope that "among other things, we will see Georgia move closer to candidate status and then, hopefully, to



EU membership."

"I think that Georgia is facing serious challenges, but one of the challenges is not the support of the Georgian people for joining the European Union and NATO. So, I think the country

is in the right place. I think there are steps that the government should take. I hope they will take steps so that Georgia continues this path towards Atlantic institutions. I hope the EU's position is a wake-up call

about what needs to be done here. I think every step of the EU plan is important. This is not a menu to choose from. All recommendations of the European Union should be taken into account," David Kramer said.

## MEP Anna Fotyga visits Tbilisi

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

MEP Anna Fotyga is visiting Tbilisi with the purpose of discussing ways to defeat Russian aggression with Georgian leaders.

The Polish politician visited the memorial of the deceased President of Poland Lech Kaczynski in Tbilisi and paid tribute to Kaczynski's memory.

"I am glad to be in Tbilisi to discuss ways to defeat Russian aggression. The victory of Ukraine is vital not only for Ukraine but also for Georgia, Poland, and the entire free world. I start every visit to Georgia by paying respect to the late Polish president, a great friend of Georgia, who understood very well the Russian threats," said Fotyga.



Fotyga met with the United National Movement to discuss issues Georgia is facing politically.

According to her, important and valuable issues for the country were discussed at the meeting.

"I met with representatives of the Georgian opposition, including members of the United National Movement." We talked about everything that is important and valuable for Georgia. Also about the war in Ukraine, because my field of specialization is defense and security", said Anna Fotyga.

According to Bacho Dolidze, a member of the "National Movement", the conversation was about the implementation of the 12-point plan.

"We talked about what the "Georgian Dream" is doing because it is actually sabotaging the entire process and doing everything to prevent the country from getting candidate status, which it will later blame on the opposition, civil society, or European partners. We have everything to do to force the "dream" to change the political vector. Their base is Russia, not the European Union, therefore this is the main issue", Bacho Dolidze noted.

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The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Russian ship loaded with sanctioned oil enters Batumi port, the anti-corruption movement claims

The anti-corruption movement claims that a Russian-flagged ship loaded with sanctioned oil entered Batumi. According to traffic reports, the tanker

says that the certificate of the sanctioned oil imported to Batumi will probably be falsified, after which the Russian oil will be exported as an unsanctioned product. The movement calls on international organizations to take an interest in this issue. "Our government has made the entry of Russian-sanctioned cargo into Batumi port a daily routine. This time, a ship sailing under the Russian flag has entered the Batumi port, on which Russian-

be fattened," Khozrevanidze said.

Kremlin critic photojournalist refused entry to Georgia

Russian photojournalist Vasily Krestianinov, a critic of the Kremlin, was

lating to me.

During my 11-month stay in Georgia, I organized and participated in actions against Russia, although I never got involved in Georgian politics. When we organized demonstrations, law enforcement



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Marios Pappas

PLANEO entered Batumi a few hours ago, it was moving from Cyprus, Vasiliko port to Batumi.

Lasha Khozrevanidze, the representative of the anti-corruption movement,

sanctioned oil is placed. In all likelihood, the certificate for the sanctioned oil will be falsified and the said cargo will be exported as an unauthorized cargo, and it is expected that the pockets of Bidzina Ivanishvili and Ucha Mamatsashvili will



not allowed to enter Georgia.

The photojournalist relates the incident to his work and says that he was refused entry to Georgia for the second time.

"It is difficult to guess why I was not allowed to enter, but I think it is related to the political situation in Georgia, and I was refused to enter Georgia for the second time. I relate all this to my work and consider it as political surveillance in re-

officers came and asked us for documents, took photos, it seems that during this time they were slowly gathering information about us, and at some point, they stopped letting us in," he said.

Recently, many opponents of Russian policy, including journalists, opposition politicians, and bloggers, have been denied entry into Georgia.

MEP Anna Fotyga visits Tbilisi

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Regarding this meeting, the chairman of the "National Movement" Nika Melia said that such an opportunity, when Georgia's strategic partners are physically in Tbilisi, will be used as much as possible by him and his friends.

According to Nika Melia, various types of meetings were held with other European partners, which will continue in the

following days.

"There were different types of meetings with our partners. We had meetings yesterday and we

will have them during the day, all this will continue tomorrow and the day after. Of course, such an opportunity, when

Georgia's strategic partners are physically in Tbilisi, will be used as much as possible by me and my friends," said Nika Melia.

Weather

Monday, September 5

Day Partly Cloudy High: 31°C

Night Rain Low: 18°C

Tuesday, September 6

Day Partly Cloudy High: 26°C

Night Light Rain Low: 16°C

Advertisement for 'Night Serenades' festival. Includes dates for Batumi (August 25-26) and Tbilisi (September 17-18), organizers Liana Isakadze and Giorgi Isakadze, and the 'Georgian Virtuosi' orchestra. Features photos of performers and logos of sponsors.

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