

Irakli Kobakhidze criticizes US Embassy assessments on the wiretapping law

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Chairman of Georgian Dream Irakli Kobakhidze called the assessment of the US Embassy on the law on wiretapping "misinformative" and "polarizing". He said that he hopes that the US Embassy will pay more attention to its positions in the future.

"Such statements, disinformation records, of course, encourage polarization in Georgia. If the goal of our partners is depolarization in Georgia, of course, they should avoid making such polarizing statements. Moreover, we see that the radical opposition immediately uses it to polarize the situation. This is very sad and regrettable," said Irakli Kobakhidze.

According to the Georgian Dream chairman, the statement of the American Embassy contains "two wrong references".

"The first is that it is said that the law does not comply with European standards, which is a lie... No one has been able to provide a legal notice, especially no one who has said which standard is violated. Ask any of them which one standard is violated, including the embassy and no one can tell you anything. They have not been named yet. It's been six months since the changes were made and not a single legal note has been made, which is one unfortunate lie that slipped into the embassy's statement.



Another sad, heavy thing is written. I don't know if you want to call it a lie, but it should be taken seriously as if this law was deliberately passed to control the citizens. This is also incomprehensible because in English it is written monitoring, in Georgian - control. There is a difference even in the translation, these terms are similar in English. Citizen control is what this law is not really about. It is about the

control of criminals and it is disturbing when the statement of the American Embassy equates criminals and citizens of Georgia.

This law is written very strictly. Everything is precisely defined, including deadlines, the procedure for extending deadlines, and categories of crimes. The law applies only to the category of rather serious crimes, and when these serious criminals and potential criminals are

equated with Georgian citizens, it is, to put it mildly, misleading. I don't know why such mistakes are regularly made in the embassy's statement. This is very hard for us," said Kobakhidze.

The US Embassy in Georgia wrote that the law on wiretapping adopted by Georgian Dream contradicts the recommendations of Western partners and the conclusion of the Venice Com-

mission. According to the embassy's assessment, the purposeful adoption of such a law, instead of bringing Georgia closer to Europe, distances it from it.

According to the opinion, the surveillance mechanism of covert surveillance measures in Georgia is inadequate and a comprehensive review of the existing covert surveillance systems is needed.

Davit Usupashvili comments on the procedure of electing the Public Defender

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE



Lelo MP Davit Usupashvili discussed the changes in the regulations regarding the procedure for electing the public defender in an interview with reporters.

"The government's plan is to create an image of support for the opposition candidate, it will be the same as when Salome Zourabichvili was an independent candidate during the presidential elections. We will not participate in this hypocrisy," he said.

According to MP Usupashvili, the majority introduced worse points in the draft in the second reading than in the first reading.

"Lelo supported the bill in the first reading yesterday and proposed to the government to take a one-week pause, to fix a lot of things, clear the fog that accompanies these records, and take steps together. Instead, the government insisted that we accept it now as if it were

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.8543; Euro - 2.8572; GBP - 3.2882; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.6907; Swiss Franc - 2.9326

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one and two weeks that destroy a country.

In the second reading, compared to the first reading, worse points were found written in the regulations, namely, that according to the current legislation, a faction and a political group can present a candidate separately, together, in consultation with others, etc. Now the government advises us that the chairman of the

parliament will select a 9-member commission, which will assign points to those who want to be candidates, that is, those who want to be candidates will be numbered by points.

It is necessary that 7 candidates are nominated by already selected factions and political groups, this means that political groups are deprived of the right to support each other's candidates so that the "Dream" has the opportunity to choose at least one of the 7. In other

words, the candidate they want will be nominated by some opposition group close to them, there will be 6-7 others, and choosing any one of them and supporting them will create a bulwark of democracy. We tell them that we will not follow you in these games because we do not know how those 9 men will be selected and how they will evaluate, how these points will be written," Usupashvili said.

The draft amendments to the regula-

tions regarding the procedure and procedures for electing a new public defender were unanimously adopted by the Parliament in the second reading - with 80 votes.

In contrast to the voting in the first reading, the deputies of "National Movement", "Strategy Agmashenebeli" and "Lelo" did not support the draft legislative amendments prepared by "Georgian Dream" in the second reading.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Working group on femicide to be created in the Parliament



on identifying and analyzing the factors that influence the number of femicide cases. In particular, the work of state institutions and existing gaps in this direction, the standards of coverage

of cases of femicide by the media, as well as the level of public awareness and its impact on the crime of femicide will be analyzed.

The Gender Equality Council and Committee invite all parties interested in the protection of women's rights to participate in the work of the working group.

"We call for special involvement of women members of parliament. The idea of protecting women's rights has always united us to a large extent, and we believe that joint efforts will bring tangible results in this process as well," the Permanent Council for Gender Equality and the Committee for Human Rights Protection and Civil Integration said in a joint statement.

USAID talks about corruption and impeachment of high officials in Georgia

Under the title "Taking away windows of opportunity to eliminate kleptocracy", the US Agency for International Development (USAID) publishes a document that includes instructions on how to eliminate kleptocracy in different countries.

The document is a guide for US aid programs, for the embassy in Georgia, for donors working in "countries trapped by severe corruption".

The document published by the anti-corruption working group talks about corruption in the country after "Georgian Dream" came to power, and it is

noted that "after 2012, the window of opportunity against corruption and kleptocracy was closed."

We read in the document that the issue should become "the basis for the implementation of specific political levers by the United States, which implies, for example, the freezing of assets of corrupt government members and the impeachment of high-ranking officials involved in corrupt schemes."

Based on the evaluation of Transparency International - Georgia, the document mentions that "in Georgia, there is a state capture by an oligarch, secret business deals in Russia and impunity of corrupt officials, which is a syndrome of the Georgian government".

On the initiative of the Standing Council for Gender Equality of the Parliament of Georgia and the Human Rights Protection and Civil Integration Committee, a systematic investigation into femicide is being launched.

According to the report of the Parliament, a working group will be created for this purpose, which will study the issues of detection, prevention, and prevention of femicide cases, including the existing challenges and opportunities for improving the system of prevention of femicide cases.

According to their reports, within the work of the working group, attention will be focused

ღამის სერენადები / NIGHT SERENADES

ბათუმი BATUMI
 AUGUST 25 პეკინი 20:30
 AUGUST 26 პეკინი 20:00

თბილისი TBILISI
 SEPTEMBER 17, 18
 სპეციალური 20:00

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 Festival Base Orchestra
 "GEORGIAN VIRTUOSI"

სპონსორები: ART, PIA, GEMINI, NINA, BELKON, GEMINI, TKT.GE

Weather

Friday, September 9

Day ☀ Clear
High: 27°C
Night 🌙 Clear
Low: 13°C

Saturday, September 10

Day ☁ Partly Cloudy
High: 27°C
Night ☁ Partly Cloudy
Low: 17°C

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On September 7, Georgian Institute of Politics in coordination with the Embassy of Japan in Georgia held a seminar “Thirty Years of Diplomatic Relations Between Georgia and Japan” on the occasion of 30 years anniversary of diplomatic relations. We are very honored to welcome Dr. HIGASHINO Atsuko, Dr. Mariam Bibilashvili, Dr. MAEDA Hirotake and Former Georgian Ambassador to Japan, Vano Machavariani in the seminar presenting and discussing the milestones/achievements in Japan - Georgia relations for the last three decades and the future prospect of our bilateral relations. It was very significant that two Japanese prominent scholars attended the seminar. The relationship between Japan and Georgia will be expected to be further deepened through this kind of person-to-person exchange in academic spheres. The embassy of Japan in Georgia plans to hold Business Form in Tbilisi in the beginning of November to encourage Japan-Georgia business ties as well.



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