

There is no evidence for including Ivanishvili in the sanctioned list, Mamuka Mdinardze says

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Mamuka Mdinardze, the chairman of the parliamentary faction "Georgian Dream" discussed the inclusion of Bidzina Ivanishvili in the list of sanctions by the National Anti-Corruption Agency of Ukraine with journalists and said that talking about any serious sanctions and lists will ultimately require evidence and there is no such evidence to base a certain decision on.

As Mdinardze mentioned, not a single fact has been established that anyone deserves any sanction.

"Even Bidzina Ivanishvili's lawyer talks about certain informal sanctions himself. Imagine how much interest there is on the other side that even the Swiss banking system, which was one of the most solid systems for decades, has become secondary to the other interest we are talking about today.

Therefore, I think that without evidence, ultimately, there is nothing in nature to base a certain decision on. It will be difficult to talk about this topic, although the actual sanctions, which, for example, were imposed by the Swiss bank and Bidzina Ivanishvili's lawyer is talking about, are in our face. But talk of any serious sanctions

and lists will ultimately require evidence. You cannot give me any evidence that can be used as a basis for any sanction.

"When our opponents, inside the country, hate this country even more and talk without evidence and arguments that Georgia is a "black hole" and every day they bake new "fakes" in order to pretend that the government is somehow damaged, at this time, in the eyes of the world, Georgia is damaged.

They don't shy away from this, and even in the background of all this, not a single proof has been voiced, not a single fact has been established that anyone deserves any sanctions or the country deserves such enmity, which they are carrying out," said Mdinardze.

Mamuka Mdinardze also discussed "Lelo's" request for the introduction of a visa regime with Russia.

"Lelo" - such a party does not exist, there is one party "National Movement", which is divided into "National Movement", "Lelo" and "Strategy Agmashenebeli", although it is Vashadze's two-member party. Actually, this is one nucleus that does everything to damage Georgia"

As Mamuka Mdinardze pointed out, "a party of war and betrayal composed of stateless



Mamuka Mdinardze

people will never succeed."

"I can't imagine, on the basis of so many "fakes", putting up so many fake, populist motions just to damage "Georgian dream", but at the expense of the state. What these people and their owners are

doing causes damage to the image of our country and the citizens of Georgia in the eyes of so many people around the world. This hysteria of theirs, which is inside the country and then they take it outside the country,

causes damage to Georgia, they do not hesitate to damage the "Georgian Dream" and the Georgian state follows this. This is the enmity of Georgia and that is why we call them stateless people." he said.

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

BMG has published the information regarding the transparency of decrees adopted by the government and said that the last decree was published on the website of the Government of Georgia on September 26, 2020, since then none of the decrees adopted by the government in 2021 or 2022 have been made public.

The publication claims that at least 3 decrees are approved at each government session, and among them are decreed on the privatization of state-owned real estate in the form of direct sale and transfer of property to individuals or companies at a nominal price.

The regulation of the Government of Georgia obliges the authorities to upload all decrees on the website no later than 3 days after receiving them, except for issues related to state secrets.

According to IDFI, a court session has not been held on the matter so far. Consequently, the non-governmental sector does not have access to the decrees, which should be public, even if they are requested.

The senior analyst of the or-

The government has not made the decrees public for 2 years, thereby violating the law, BMG says



ganization Transparency International, Sandro Kevkhishvili, in an interview with Formula, stated that the non-publication of the decrees is probably a political decision made at the level of the Prime Minister. According to him, this means that the government does not consider itself accountable to inform the population of its decisions.

"In the case of decrees, none of the channels for receiving information work: this information is neither posted on the website, nor is it posted on the legislative bulletin, nor do we receive these documents in case of public information requests. This can only mean that there is a political decision made here at the highest level, probably at the level of the Prime Minister, not to release this information. This means that the government has lost its sense of accountability towards the population, that it does not consider itself obliged to report to the population regarding its decisions, and these decisions, very often, contain serious corruption issues," Sandro Kevkhishvili said.

The administration of the Government of Georgia has yet to comment on this issue.

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.8449; Euro - 2.8699; GBP - 3.3035; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.7067; Swiss Franc - 2.9699

BY MALKHAZ MATSABERIDZE

Putin uses the Russian population in Georgia as his new threat

The “humanitarian policy concept” approved by Putin can be perceived as a double threat for Georgia. First, the Russian concept envisages the “development of cooperation” with occupied Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region, and on the other hand, the “protection of the Russian-speaking population”, which is a familiar trick of Moscow to justify its aggression in neighboring countries.

Whatever also provides for the protection of the Russian-speaking population, is perceived as a direct threat to Georgia, although “Georgian Dream” does not see a reason for concern.

If we carefully consider this list, we should exclude the three Baltic countries, which are members of NATO and the European Union, we should also exclude Moldova, which Russia does not directly border and Ukraine separates from Moldova, with which Moscow is not doing well in the war. There remains Georgia, one-fifth of whose territory is already occupied by Russia.

Previously, Putin has threatened Georgia with many things, - he has stopped the supply of natural gas, he will ban the import of Georgian products into Russia, he has expelled Georgian

citizens from Russia, he has also started a war against Georgia, but he did not talk about the protection of the Russian-speaking population for the simple reason that after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Russian-speaking population. In fact, the population was no longer in Georgia.

But recently, especially after the Russian attack on Ukraine and the introduction of Western sanctions against Russia, many people from Russia and Belarus have flocked to Georgia. There were favorable conditions for this: Georgia had a visa-free regime with Russia, introduced by Saakashvili (while Russia has a visa regime with Georgia), and those who came from Russia can stay in Georgia for the whole year.

The opposition has long been expressing concern over the uncontrolled entry of a large number of Russians into Georgia. On the land road entering Georgia from Russia, at the customs office of Lars, several kilometers long queue of light vehicles to enter Georgia has turned into a common story.

“Georgian Dream” did not see any problem in this and still does

not see it today. According to them, it is tourism that contributes to the country’s economy. Of course, some of these people are really tourists and will leave Georgia at the end of summer. But it is clear that we are not only dealing with tourism. Russian citizens who have entered Georgia actively buy real estate and become individual entrepreneurs, thereby obtaining the right to reside in Georgia.

No one controls what the Russian citizens, who have been doing business with, are doing in Georgia for months. “According to Transparency International - Georgia, during only four months of 2022 (March - June), about 6,400 Russian companies were registered in Georgia, which is 7 times more than the annual rate of 2021. A total of 13,500 Russian companies were registered in Georgia, and half of them were registered after the start of the war in Ukraine.

According to their own information, 93% of registered companies from March 2022 are individual enterprises. This means that a part of Russian citizens came to Georgia to live and do

business. There is an assumption that one of the main directions of their activity is to circumvent the sanctions imposed on Russia by the West. No one from the Georgian government is talking about this either.

The opposition is afraid that among the people who have arrived from Russia in an uncontrolled and massive manner, there are employees of the Russian special services, who have been sent on a special assignment.

Here they use the example of Ukraine, where some of the people who came from Russia and settled in Ukraine long before the start of the war turned out to be saboteurs and actively helped the Russian military. The opposition often repeats that “Georgian Dream” has not detained any Russian agents during its 10-year rule.

Are there Kremlin agencies among tens of thousands of people arriving from Russia? Of course, there is, and the positive answer to this is a woman arrested in Albania on charges of Russian espionage. This is Svetlana Timofeeva, aka Lana Sator, who before her arrest in Albania of-

ten entered Georgia as a tourist and, as noted, walked freely and took strategic and military objects without hindrance.

The opposition demands the introduction of a visa regime with Russia. The “Droa” movement also presented a special plan, which involves the introduction of three-week tourist visas for Russian citizens, restriction of business registration for them, restriction of registration of private property, and restriction of the right of residence. “Georgian Dream” completely ignores such requests.

Some citizens of Russia and Belarus settle in Georgia and no one restricts them. On the contrary, under the conditions of the “Georgian Dream”, they have created a very comfortable environment. There is already an attempt to open Russian private schools in Tbilisi and Batumi. They are going to work according to “Moscow programs”, which is a gross violation of Georgian legislation, and such schools should be closed. However, this can already be considered a “violation of the rights of the Russian-speaking population” in the Kremlin.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

‘Our services try to filter unwanted guests - so, be calm’ State Security Service head Liluashvili says



The head of the State Security Service says that the relevant services are doing everything to “filter out unwanted guests” at the border.

“Russian tourists came in 2018 and 2019. In 2019, there were exactly twice as many entries in the reporting period, and

lic space citizens of other countries detained at the border or expelled from it, who were noticed in harmful actions or there were reasonable suspicions. So keep calm.

There are zero statistics of crime, from incoming tourists, so keep calm, don’t panic. If someone wants to send agents, it doesn’t need to bring in 900 thousand visitors, it needs to bring in 500-200-100 people. There is no way that 1,000 or 2,000 agents will be allowed into the country,” he said.

PM Garibashvili meets with CEO of Gebrueder Weiss

Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Garibashvili met Wolfram Zenger-Weiss, Chief Executive Officer of the large Austrian transport and logistics company Gebrueder Weiss, the information was released by the Government Administration.

The discussion at the meeting touched on the favorable investment environment in Georgia and the ongoing and planned

investment projects of the company.

The potential of Georgia in the direction of logistics and transport and the growing interest of foreign investors in this field were emphasized.

It was noted that one of the main decision-making factors for business is the predictability of the environment, and in this regard, Georgia is a reliable and stable business partner.

Gebrueder Weiss is a large Austrian transport and logistics company with investments in 35 countries around the world.



President meets with representatives of the local government in Mestia

The President of Georgia met

with representatives of the local government in Mestia. At the meeting, they talked about the importance of sustainable development and infrastructure projects in Svaneti for the growth and development of tourism. Among the infrastructural projects, the road connecting Ushguli and Lentekhi was highlighted.

“During the meeting, the parties discussed the uniqueness of the Svan language and its historical status among the Georgian languages. As it is known, a few months ago the President of Georgia came out with the initiative of teaching Svani language in schools. At the meeting, Svaneti received an invitation to participate in the regional week in the Orbelian Palace.

Holding the regional week in the Orbelian palace is the initiative of the president, the purpose of which is to introduce and show the advantages of local culture and economy to the capital city and the general public,” said the information released by the presidential administration.

Weather

Monday, September 12

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 27°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 18°C

Tuesday, September 13

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 29°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 18°C

neither sabotage nor terrorist act occurred. Our services, together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and other structures, try to filter out unwanted visitors as much as possible, you will not be allowed to see in pub-

published by **The Messenger**

43, Chovelidze st., Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia
Founded by Prof. **Zaza Gachechiladze**
Tamar Gachechiladze
Publisher

Mob.: +995 599 565621; +995 577 760000
E-mail: messenger@messenger.com.ge
http://www.messenger.com.ge/

Nino Metreveli
Commercial Director

Mariam Mchedlidze
Editor-in-Chief

Khatuna Gogichaishvili
Layout Designer, Photographer

The Messenger welcomes your contributions. If you are interested in submitting an article or news item please contact. All contributions should be submitted by e-mail.

The Messenger Georgia’s English language daily is an independent newspaper, and,

therefore, the opinions expressed in some articles do not necessarily coincide with those of the newspaper. We take no responsibility for any claims made in advertisements.

The Messenger preserves the style of a source written in English where possible.