

Minister of Internal Affairs Vakhtang Gomelauri denies illegal wiretapping allegations

By Liza Mchedlidze

Minister of Internal Affairs Vakhtang Gomelauri responded to Soso Gogashvili's statement claiming that the State Security Service of Georgia is carrying out illegal wiretapping.

The Minister of Internal Affairs denied all the accusations of Gogashvili and said that Soso Gogashvili does not know Bidzina Ivanishvili personally and could not order him to wiretap citizens; Minister added that law enforcement agencies wiretap citizens only within the framework of investigative actions, on the basis of a judicial decree.

"[Gogashvili's statement] is a lie, a complete lie.

Mr. Bidzina could not instruct him in any way, he did not know him. How can you imagine, I was the supervisor there, why would he instruct someone he didn't know? Or how would he instruct, or what should he instruct? He did not know this person personally. He didn't instruct me, how could he instruct me? What he says, I sent it to Mr. Bidzina and he asked - I don't know, was I on vacation? - We sent the Prime Minister and Kobakhidze to Mr. Bidzina, he said. Illegal wiretapping is excluded, it is not being carried out.

What is the law, a lot of operational material that an agent brings, one man cannot read it. If I were to sit in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and ask what materials are coming in, there should be at least three Gomelauris to read so many materials.

The topic is worked on, if it is important, then it is brought up to the supervisor. If something is important, I go up and report it to the Prime Minister, I don't send papers. That's how it happens in the State Security Service too," said Gomelauri.



Vakhtang Gomelauri says that Beka Mamardashvili, who, according to Gogashvili, sent him letters, was an employee of the agency, although he has nothing to do with the hearings.

"He worked with us [at SSS], he was the deputy head of the department. When I left, he soon left. He was one of the most skilled programmer. He was helping the service agency, updating cameras, facial recognition... he had nothing to do with wiretapping," explained the Minister of Internal Affairs.

According to Gomelauri, he does not know why Ioseb Gogashvili tells so many lies about him and refuses to talk about reasons for Gogashvili leaving the State Security Service and "Georgian Dream".

The former deputy head of the State Security Service, Soso Gogashvili, published another statement on the social network describing the system of illegal wiretapping by the State Security Service of Georgia.

A former high-ranking official writes that the scope of wiretapping increased

during the "Georgian Dream" period, and approximately 2,000 operational workers are involved in illegal wiretapping.

GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications Networks) is being wiretapped, as well as through viruses, applications, and computers. Gogashvili also wrote that it is possible to equip the offices.

"The office of the president, the offices of opposition parties, NGOs, international missions, religious denominations, etc. are controlled," Gogashvili wrote.

Azerbaijan is grateful for sincere mediation role of Georgia in peacemaking, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Georgia says

By Liza Mchedlidze

Azerbaijan's ambassador to Georgia Faig Guliyev gave an interview to Interpressnews, discussing Georgia's role in the conflict-solving process between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

"The logic of global and regional trends requires a gradual overcoming of the legacy of conflicts. Therefore, the active efforts and initiatives started by the leadership of Georgia after November 2020 are fully appreciated by the state and people of Azerbaijan"

According to Ambassador Guliyev, Azerbaijan and Georgia were able to create a new face of the region, to open it to the world, and to become an important communication bridge between the East and the West.

"Azerbaijan is committed to achieving peace in the region. All our development during the last quarter of a century is related to the implementation of large energy and infrastructure projects, where



we cooperate with Georgia in the closest and mutually beneficial way. I think it is unnecessary to explain the results of this course to anyone here. In other words, our countries were able to create a new face of the region, open it to the world, and become an important communication bridge between East and West. The logic of global and regional trends requires a gradual overcoming of the legacy of conflicts. Therefore, the active efforts and initiatives that the leadership of Georgia started after November 2020 fully enjoy the approval of the state and people of Azerbaijan. We greatly appreciate one of the first humanitarian steps, when in June 2021, through the mediation of the Georgian government, maps of mined areas were exchanged.

In July of this year, Tbilisi became the platform for the meeting of the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia. We constantly see the sincere interest of the

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.8301; Euro - 2.8230; GBP - 3.2532; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.7243; Swiss Franc - 2.9554

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Georgian side in facilitating the peacemaking process. We are grateful to our

Georgian friends for this approach. I think that's how true friends should behave. "Friends who are connected by the

unity of interests and friends who see progress on the way to achieving mutually compatible strategic development

goals - which is the construction of a peaceful and stable South Caucasus", said the Ambassador of Azerbaijan.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Kobakhidze: Our task is de-occupation in the conditions where we have brotherly coexistence with Abkhazians and Ossetians

the party and political force that tries to lead the country to war is stateless.

Historically, there was brotherhood between Georgians and Abkhazians, Georgians and Ossetians, where in the early 90s, as a result of Russian provocations, an artificial barrier was crossed, and we must ensure that the fratricidal war does not

re-occupy, but taking into account certain values. De-occupation and invasion of another country's territory are completely different contexts, but shooting at people with whom you want to live as brothers in the future is unacceptable in terms of value," said Irakli Kobakhidze.

Fundamental issues have been agreed upon, which provide the opportunity to switch to a new electoral system, says Givi Mikanadze

Givi Mikanadze, the first deputy chairman of the "Georgian Dream" faction and the head of the electoral code revision working group, said after the meeting of the working group that all the main issues have been agreed upon at this stage, which provides for fundamental reforms and provides opportunities to switch to the new electoral system.

According to him, an electronic election system will be introduced in Georgia from 2024 and Chapter 81 will appear in

the Election Code to regulate this issue.

"This is a qualitatively new

will not be placed, vote counting will be carried out in the usual manner, although each ballot,



election system, which involves electronic registration of voters, an electronic voting procedure using the appropriate equipment, counting of the appropriate ballots by this equipment, and presentation of the summary protocol. The electronic election system will affect at least 70% of voters.

In addition, in those polling stations where electronic counting and registering equipment

whether it is a correctly cast vote or an invalid ballot, will be subject to digitization. Accordingly, these digital versions, depending on the districts, will be uploaded on the relevant CEC web portal and will be available to any interested person. The mentioned changes make it possible to say that, in fact, from 2024, the election system will be completely transferred to the electronic format", Givi Mikanadze said.



The chairman of "Georgian Dream" spoke about the policy of de-occupation at a media briefing in the parliament and said that the task of the "Georgian Dream" government is de-occupation, but "under the conditions when we have brotherly coexistence with Abkhazians and Ossetians".

According to him, shooting at people with whom you want to live as brothers in the future is unacceptable in terms of value.

"To imagine such a theoretical development when Georgian shoots an Abkhazian, or Georgian shoots an Ossetian, of course, this can be equated in a valuable way with the Russians shooting Ukrainians.

Our task is to de-occupation the conditions when we have brotherly coexistence with Abkhazians and Ossetians. For us, this is a matter of values, and

repeat itself over 30 years later. The main task for us is de-oc-

ღამის სერენადები / NIGHT SERENADES

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

თბილისი TBILISI
 SEPTEMBER 17, 18
 სეპტემბერი 20:00

ფესტივალის დაფუძნებელი ლიანა ისახაძე
 Founder of the Festival LIANA ISAKADZE

ხანაგები ხელმძღვანელი გიორგი ისახაძე
 Artistic Director GIORGI ISAKADZE

ფესტივალის საბაზო ორკესტრი "საპროფესიონალიზმი 30 წელიწადი"
 Festival Base Orchestra "GEORGIAN VIRTUOSI"

ILIA CHAVCHAVADZE STATE DRAMA THEATRE
 V. SARAJISHVILI STATE CONSERVATOIRE GRAND HALL

სპონსორები: ART, PIA, GOGICHASHVILI, TKT.GE

Weather

Friday, September 16

Day ☀ Clear
High: 30°C

Night 🌙 Clear
Low: 16°C

Saturday, September 17

Day ☀ Clear
High: 32°C

Night 🌙 Clear
Low: 18°C

published by
The Messenger

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