

## The inspector's office did not have proper levers to control the conduct of secret hearings, Londa Toloraia says



BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Former inspector of personal data protection, Londa Toloraia stated that there is no lever for checking illegal wiretapping.

In an interview with TV Pirveli, Toloraia talked about the gaps in the legislation regarding the monitoring of secret investigative activities.

Londa Toloraia said that the state inspector was obliged to inform the State Security Service in advance that they were going to enter the inspection.

According to her, she was not a personal data protection inspector during the period when Gogashvili was the deputy head of the Security Service, although the legislation and practice in this direction have not been

changed to date.

According to her, in the report submitted to the parliament, there was a discussion about the mentioned legislative and practical shortcomings, which were contained in the legislation in terms of monitoring of secret investigative actions, but, like the previous reports, it was also "put on the shelf."

"In the hands of the State Inspector Service, there were no appropriate legislative and practical levers to control the conducting of secret hearings by the operative-technical agency. You are forced in every case, when you decide on an operational-technical check, to contact him and tell him that I am coming.

One of the reasons why the State Inspectorate and Londa Toloraia are no longer there is

precisely because we did not present these critical opinions on the existing legislation and practice. The parliament was not a tribune where we had to talk about it. Their effective lever would be a legal and practical lever for inadvertent entry when the state inspector wanted to open the door to this facility and check what was going on." Londa Toloraia said.

On September 15, the former deputy head of the State Security Service, Soso Gogashvili, released another statement on the social network.

In the post, Gogashvili described the system of illegal wiretapping by the State Security Service of Georgia.

A former high-ranking official wrote 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 allegedly being wiretapped, as well as through viruses, applications, computers. Gogashvili wrote that it is possible to equip offices.

Minister of Internal Affairs Vakhtang Gomelauri responded to Soso Gogashvili's statement regarding illegal wiretapping.

The Minister of Internal Affairs has denied all the accusations of Gogashvili and declared that Soso Gogashvili does not know Bidzina Ivanishvili personally and Ivanishvili could not order him to wiretap citizens.

### The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

**Opposition to not register the de-oligarchization bill in the parliament**

After the meeting of the opposition and the non-governmental sector, it became known that the part of the opposition will probably not register the bill on de-oligarchization in the parliament.

"White smoke rose from the top of this building. We agreed. On Tuesday, we will publish a document reconciled with the civil sector, which is of crucial

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importance. We are all in a common position, we want to get the EU candidate status as soon as possible.

As for the law on deligarchization, we had a difficult discussion, but we shared the position of the civil sector, and most likely, the draft law will not be registered on our side

in the parliament. However, we

will make it public and start general discussions on the principles that should be the basis of the possibilities of deligarchization legally", said Giorgi Vashadze, the leader of "Strategy Aghmashenebeli".

As Guro Imnadze, a lawyer of the "Social Justice Center", explained, there are two possible

ways to solve the problem of deligarchization:

Fulfillment of 11 points from the 12-point plan, which will lead to an increase in the independence of state institutions, will strengthen judicial and parliamentary supervision, which, according to his assessment, will be a prerequisite for the elimination of informal influences. According to Imnadze, the second way is to create special fair guarantees.

According to the political secretary of "Lelo", Salome Samadashvili, the procedure for electing the public defender was also discussed at the meeting.

"It is quite possible to agree with political forces and support the candidate nominated by non-governmental organizations by deputies even without any written procedure. We have to fight until it is possible for independent candidates to be among the candidates for voting," he said.

The leaders of the opposition parties met with the representatives of the non-governmental sector for several hours.

The subject of discussion was

the implementation of 12 recommendations of the European Commission.

President Zourabichvili expresses condolences for the death of the queen on behalf of the Georgian people

According to the administration of the President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili made a note in the condolence book in

Lancaster Palace in London and expressed her condolences to the royal family and the United Kingdom on behalf of the Georgian people.

"It is my honor to be able to present my condolences and that of the people of Georgia for the passing of Her Majesty the Queen. It's a page of history, a great page, that is closing down

The British and Commonwealth people can be very proud of having had a Queen like Her Majesty" Zourabichvili wrote on Twitter.



BMG editor applies to the ombudsman to investigate alleged discriminatory treatment

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

BMG journalist Telara Gelantia applied to the public defender to investigate the possible fact of discriminatory treatment of her by the government, BMG reports on this and notes that the "Information Freedom Development Institute" (IDFI) provides them with legal assistance.

Telara Gelantia was not allowed to cover the government session on September 12. BMG writes that the government administration did not refuse the entry of the operator, and as they explained, the ban applies only to Telara Gelantia personally and not to television in general.

The journalist believes that the said decision of the Georgian government administration is



illegal and discriminatory, and it contradicts the basic right to equality protected by Article 11 of the Georgian Constitution and the Law of Georgia "On Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination".

"The said decision of the Georgian government, on the one hand, discriminates against the applicant as an individual journalist and, on the other hand, contains a threat to the development of an informed and democratic society. In particular, the discrimination of a journalist due to the preparation of substantiated and critical stories may have a dampening effect on the activities of other journalists. Considering that discriminatory treatment is used by the highest body of the executive power, the fact in itself creates a danger of imitation by other public institutions, which contributes to the creation of a hostile environment towards the media and worsens the quality of media freedom in Georgia," IDFI said.

Weather

Monday, September 19

Day Clear High: 33°C

Night Clear Low: 20°C

Tuesday, September 20

Day Partly Cloudy High: 32°C

Night Clear Low: 18°C

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