

## Former Georgian Dream deputies release another joint letter addressing US Embassy



BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Former members of the "Georgian Dream" party Sozar Subari, Dimitri Khundadze, Irakli Macharashvili and Mikheil Kavelashvili, have released where the deputies express opinions regarding the American financial assistance that it provided to Georgia.

The statement reads that the American Embassy often reminds Georgia that it helped Georgia with 6 billion dollars over the course of the past 30 years.

"When something is given to you, you should not enter into the discussion of the real value of this gift at all.

However, we all understand very well that the United States of America is not a charity orga-

nization, therefore, it does not give anything to just anyone, and when allocating money to other countries, it acts according to its own interests.

Therefore, the main thing that the public should be interested in is the purpose for which the American government allocated funds to Georgia and the counterweight of what interest we are reminded so often today

of the so-called 6 billion aid.

For example, if we are reminded of this financing as a counterbalance to the interest of opening a second front in Georgia, it is clear that no amount of 6 billion can replace the damage that our country may receive from the war with Russia. We all remember that with the war of 2008, Georgia, together with the lost territories and human victims, received losses of several billion dollars," the statement said.

Former "Georgian Dream" deputies also wrote that if they say that the country was financed with several billions to strengthen democracy, the deputies "will not even make a serious comment on it."

In the letter, the MPs state that Georgia is considered for a certain role, which it should play at the behest of the embassy, and the most interesting thing is to analyze this role.

"The fact is that our only function for them is to contain Russia. They have been preparing Ukraine and Georgia for this function for years, however, the Georgian government did not go to destroy the country, for which the Americans cannot forgive us.

At the end of the statement, the MPs say that they want to

ask the embassy one more question, what is its main strategic task when it allocates funds to Georgia and determines the purpose of this funding.

"It will be interesting if the embassy, in the context of its strategic task, presents to the Georgian society detailed information about the purpose of the allocated funds.

We are sure that if the public receives such detailed information, it will become clear to them that when allocating funding, the Americans are not driven by the motive of charity and promoting the well-being of the population of Georgia, but by the interest of expanding the influence of their own agents, who should make Georgia, together with Ukraine, a blind co-executor of the global American scenario," the statement reads.

They call on the US Embassy to be more transparent and to disclose detailed information related to the funding.

The deputies who authored the statement left the ruling party and their parliamentary positions on June 28. They claim that their goal is to tell the public the "whole truth", adding they couldn't do so without leaving the ruling party.



### The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

**Questions arise in Washington with deputies formally leaving 'Georgian Dream', Kelly Degan says**

According to Kelly Degan, the US ambassador to Georgia, there are questions from the American high-ranking officials regarding why the ruling team does not distance itself from the anti-American statements and

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attacks on the US by the deputies who have formally left the Georgian dream.

Degnan spoke about this in the Post-Factum program of the Mtavari Arkhi and noted that there are real questions about the deputies who have left the "Georgian Dream" and are trying to sow confusion and further divide the society.

"A number of senior officials in Washington are asking me questions about the motives of those who continue to repeat lies and conspiracy theories that are consistent with pro-Russian disinformation. There are also questions about why the ruling party and government do not

distance themselves more sharply from this disinformation.

Questions are raised about the motives of those who seek to sow confusion and further divide society. "I think the real question is the following - what purpose does this serve, are they trying to damage the strong partnership that has existed between the United States and Georgia for 30 years," said Degnan.

**Opposition's demands rarely taken into account, Levan Ioseliani says**

Deputy Speaker of the Citizens Levan Ioseliani said that the processes are the most diffi-

cult in the working group created for the issues related to the court as according to him, the demands of the opposition are rarely taken into account.

According to Ioseliani, the opposition participating in the working group demands a change in the composition of the Council of Justice, which the majority does not have the political will to do.

"The working group continues to work on the matter related to the court, but this group is the one where the processes go most difficult and the demands of the opposition are taken into account the least. The main demand is a change in the composition of the Supreme Council of Justice, which the ruling party says requires constitutional amend-



ments, for which we proposed the creation of a group working on constitutional amendments, if they believe that such type of changes are needed, however, I think they do not intend to create such a group. If they have

the political will, it's easy to make the decisions that the recommendations of the US Embassy support, however, I don't see the readiness to do so," Ioseliani said.

**Funding of Ministry of Defense to increase by 80 million GEL**

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The first deputy minister of finance, Giorgi Kakauridze, spoke about the amendments to the state budget at the meeting of the defense and security committee.

According to Kakauridze, the financing of the Ministry of Defense in 2022 will be increased by 80 million GEL. According to him, instead of the planned 6%, the rate of economic growth increased to 8.5%.

"Also, the indicator of the nominal gross domestic product was updated, and its volume was initially planned at 64.8 billion. 72.2 billion instead of GEL. It was determined in the amount of GEL", said the deputy minister.

The total income of the state budget for 2022 increases by 489.7 million GEL and amounts to 19,852.3 million GEL, according to him.

Giorgi Kakauridze also said that after the increased budget revenues, the government defined two main priorities, which envisages reducing the budget deficit and taking less external debt.



Accordingly, as he said, this year, the state will take 710 mln GEL less debt.

According to the deputy minister, the amount in the budget was distributed according to the ministries:

Financing of the Ministry of IDPs from the occupied territories of Georgia, Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Protection is 210 million will increase by GEL;

150 million GEL is added to the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture;

80 million from the Ministry of Regional Development and

Infrastructure. Financing will increase by GEL;

70 million The financing of the Ministry of Internal Affairs increases by GEL;

And the financing of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth is 43 million. It will increase by GEL.

According to Giorgi Kakauridze, for the development of defense capabilities and the smooth financing of logistics costs, in 2022, the Ministry of Defense will receive an additional 80 million GEL. A part of the increased funding will also be used for armaments.

**Evaluation of EU support to Georgia 2014-2020**

The European Union published a detailed evaluation on the effectiveness and impact of the EU's cooperation with Georgia over the past funding period. The conclusions and recommendations were discussed with partners and stakeholders to further improve EU assistance to Georgia.

Over the past two years, an independent team of evaluators worked on a comprehensive evaluation of the European Union's development assistance to Georgia during 2014-2020. The evaluation included the review of over 2,000 documents and interviews with close to 100 stakeholders.

On Friday, 16 September, the evaluation's result were presented to a group including representatives of EU Member States, the Government of Georgia, international organisations and civil society. The meeting included a thorough discussion of the conclusions and brainstorming on how to implement recommendations.

The evaluation has concluded that the EU's cooperation with Georgia has been strategically sound and has benefitted from a strong institutional setup in its design and implementation. The conclusions also state that a wide range of instruments, modalities and funding channels have been employed in the cooperation with Georgia. There has been progress contributing to increased accountability and transparency and the visa liberalisation has worked well. The evaluation highlights that the population's trust in the European Union has remained high.

According to the document, however, the visibility of EU programmes has been an issue in the early stages of the evaluated period, but the Delegation has improved its approach. Also, among the shortcomings, limited progress in the reform of the judiciary as well as in human rights, have been noted.

The following general recommendations were given by the evaluation team: The EU should continue to use the wide range of instruments, modalities, and channels, including policy and political dialogue, but with closer attention to effectiveness.

The European Union should adopt a critical approach to assessing the need for capacity building and technical assistance to ensure sustainability. Results of interventions should be closely monitored.

The EU should continue to improve the quality of mainstreaming cross-cutting issues, particularly gender equality and women's empowerment.

The European Union's cooperation portfolio should be positioned strategically to reflect the evolving geopolitical context.

The evaluation also gives detailed recommendations on six priority sectors of EU-Georgia cooperation in 2014-2020:

- Agriculture, rural and regional development,
- Public administration reform and public finance management,
- Justice, Rule of Law and democratic governance,
- Economic development, market opportunities and skills,
- Connectivity,
- Mobility and people-to-people contacts.

The full text of the recommendations can be found in the documents below.

The Delegation of the European Union, in close coordination with colleagues from the European Commission's headquarters, has already begun to implement some of these recommendations in the design of new programmes. Further ideas on how to adapt the recommendations were discussed during the meeting last Friday. They will be taken into account when developing new programmes and priorities for assistance in the coming years.

Weather

Tuesday, September 20

Day ☀️ Clear  
High: 32°C

Night 🌙 Clear  
Low: 18°C

Wednesday, September 21

Day ☁️ Partly Cloudy  
High: 32°C

Night ☁️ Partly Cloudy  
Low: 19°C

published by  
**The Messenger**

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From September 19 to October 31, the capital of Georgia will host the exhibition "Italiae. From the Alinari brothers to the masters of contemporary photography", which was created by the initiative of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Alinari Photography Fund, and is implemented in Tbilisi by the Italian Embassy in cooperation with the festival "Umbrella Tbilisi Photo". The exhibition held at the Zurab Tsereteli Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) will feature 75 photographers who captured the diversity and attractiveness of Italy, its nature,

# Italy Seen Through the Eyes of Great Masters of Photography

creativity and people in photographs created using different expressive languages and techniques.

The exhibition, curated by Rita Scarton and Luca Krishenti, is divided into three sections ("Landscapes", "Works" and "Portraits"). Each section is a complete artistic, historical and documentary excursion of different styles and genres, bringing

together in one exhibition space the 160-year history of Italian photography, from photo atelier images to contemporary experimental works, and through them creates a gallery of landscapes, events and portraits of people seen from unusual angles, perfectly conveying the constant The diversity of the evolving country and the amazing complexity of Italian pho-

tography.

Among the photographers presented at the exhibition are: Vittorio Sella, Gianni Berengo Gardini, Piergiorgio Branzi, Franco Fontana, Alex Maioli, Nino Migliori, Paolo Pellegrini, Ferdinando Shana, Mario Giacomelli, Gian Paolo Barbieri and others.





