

## President Zourabichvili talks pardoning Mikheil Saakashvili in BBC interview

By Liza Mchedlidze

In the BBC program HARDtalk, a journalist asked the President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili about pardoning the former imprisoned president of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili and asked for the reason the President is not pardoning Saakashvili. In response, she said that she has 'no right' to do so as the ex-president is still on trial.

Zourabichvili also noted that she does not want to become an instrument of deepening polarization, although she does not want the former president to die in prison, so she closely monitors his health condition.

When asked whether she will pardon the ex-president when everything is over, Salome Zourabichvili said: "This is another matter, I explained why I will not do it."

"I don't have the authority to do that for one simple reason, the sentencing is not over, he's still on trial, and according to Georgian law, pardons happen when everything's over," the president said in an interview with the BBC when asked why she's not using the power of herself as a president to pardon Mikheil Saakashvili.

"This is a different matter, I explained in detail why I would not do this [I would not pardon] in Georgia. As this is the main factor of polarization, there is



practically no family in Georgia that has not experienced its autocratic regime. That's why I don't think I should become an instrument of further polarization. But at the same time, I am a head of state who does not want the former president to die in prison or to

suffer from irreversible health-related processes, so I am very closely monitoring all medical examinations, as well as waiting for the report of the international medical team, which has not yet been published.

In Georgia, I publicly repeated that

he should be extradited (I don't know exactly what this term is called) so that he can get additional [medical assistance], he has been in the clinic for 6 months, and the court should make this decision," President Zourabichvili said.

## MP Levan Bezhashvili discusses UNM's document on de-oligarchization draft law

By Liza Mchedlidze

UNM MP Levan Bezhashvili talked about the UNM's de-oligarchization

draft law document and said that it is not directed at any specific names.

"Our draft law is not directed against any one name and surname and it pro-

vides for the prevention of oligarchic rule in the future - who we are protecting now, whether it is Kezerashvili or someone else, is not important"

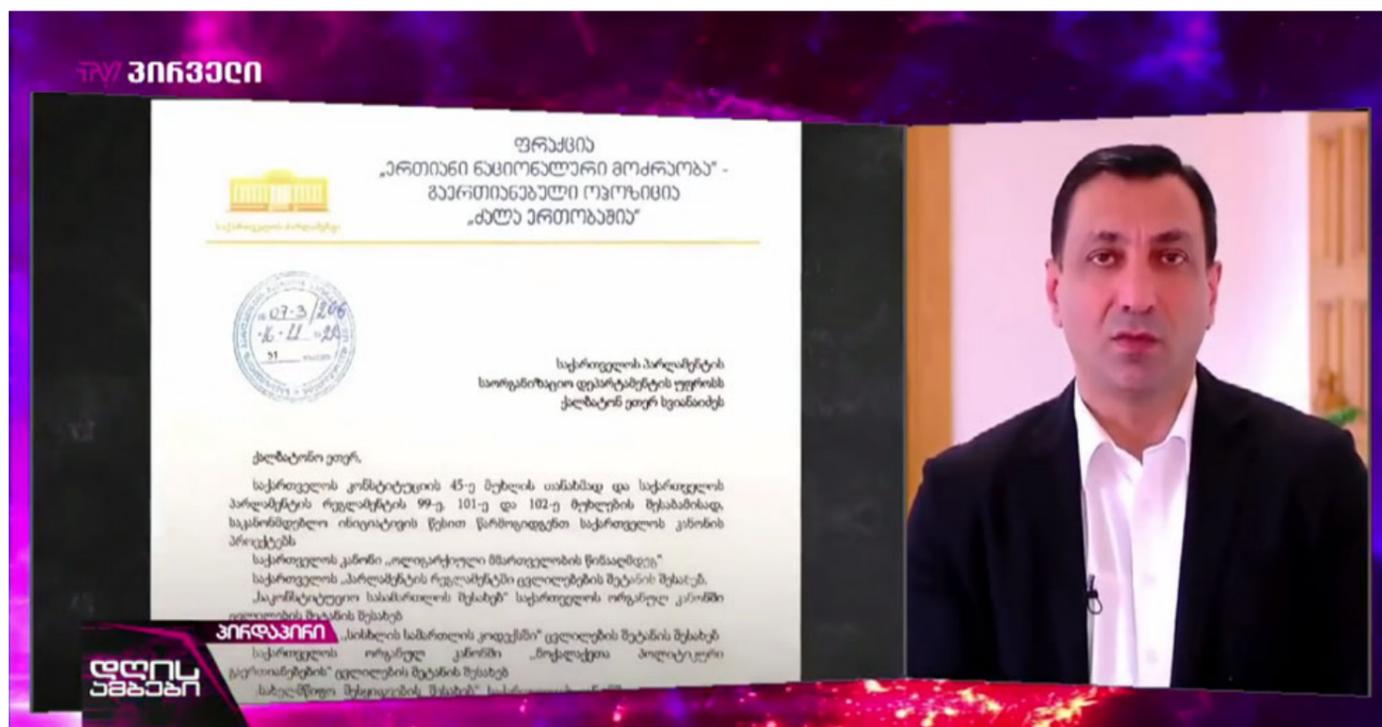
According to him, the bill will have a perspective if they look at it from the perspective that it is not written against specific names and surnames and based on the danger, they discuss how to not allow oligarchy rule in the country in the future.

As Bezhashvili explained, according to their project, the status of oligarch should be granted to individuals by the Constitutional Court. According to the MP, the project needs constitutional changes.

"The draft law takes into account the Georgian context regarding the problems of oligarchic governance, it contains signs and criteria of oligarchic governance. This draft law is not directed against any one specific name and surname, the draft assumes that in the future no oligarchic rule will be introduced, it is different (from the "Georgian Dream" project) in that the name and surnames should not be read here.

A different feature of the project is that the granting of the oligarch status is not related to any political and governmental body, but to the Constitutional Court. The process should be free from political content, and the granting of oligarch status and establishment of oligarchic signs should be the basis of legal proceedings, therefore we proposed a model of consideration of cases by the Constitutional Court.

This project needs to implement constitutional changes. Since the granting of oligarch status is related to legal



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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7178; Euro - 2.7814; GBP - 3.2111; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.4756; Swiss Franc - 2.8337

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restrictions, in our opinion, only the Constitutional Court can discuss these legal restrictions and make relevant decisions. The introduction of the constitutional court model will free this process from political conjuncture, political content, controversy and will be a purely legal process," Bezhashvili said.

As for the statements of the ruling party that the draft law was developed by the "United National Movement" to

protect Kezerashvili, Bezhashvili said that it does not determine who is being protected.

"Who are we protecting now, be it Kezerashvili, Japaridze-Khazaradze sur-

names were mentioned before, and others can also be mentioned, there should be no determinant here, the main thing is the concept. The main thing is, who do we consider an oligarch? There may be a

rich person, but the government institutions should not follow their wishes and the country should not be managed," said Bezhashvili.

# MP Levan Bezhashvili discusses UNM's document on de-oligarchization draft law

## The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

### Jens Stoltenberg says NATO must strengthen cooperation with Moldova, Georgia and Bosnia-Herzegovina



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg in his speech at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Alliance said that "We must strengthen cooperation with our partners, those who have suffered the most from Russian aggression, such as: Moldova, Georgia and Bosnia-

Herzegovina,"

According to him, NATO and partner countries should jointly deal with the challenges.

"We need to strengthen cooperation with partners, those who have suffered the most from Russian aggression, such

as: Moldova, Georgia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as with all like-minded countries in the world from Latin America to the Middle East, from North Africa to the Indo-Pacific region. We share security interests and face the same challenges. We can and must face them together to defend freedom against oppres-

sion, defend democracy against tyranny and defend international rules-based institutions that benefit us all," Stoltenberg said.

### Archil Talakvadze says Saakashvili's only goal is to 'somehow get away from justice'



Archil Talakvadze, the vice-speaker of the Parliament, told journalists that Saakashvili's only goal is to "somehow get

away from justice, which is carried out in full compliance with the law."

As he noted, speculations once again prove that health should be looked after by doctors and health professionals.

"Unfortunately, the opposite is happening, mostly politicians and lawyers from Saakashvili's side are busy discussing his health issue and do not tell the public full information. It is not in our interest to

interfere in his health issues, the relevant services will take care of his health," said Talakvadze.

# World Children's Day 2022: EU and its partners say every child in Ukraine is suffering because of Russia's invasion

On World Children's Day 2022, celebrated on 20 November, a group of embassies and the EU Delegation in Ukraine expressed their deep concern at the long-lasting impact of Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine's children.

According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Russia's invasion has



killed more than 400 children, and injured 750 as of mid-November. The true toll, says the statement released by embassies, "is likely to be significantly higher, not to mention the devastating and long-term impact on the mental health of the younger generation".

In addition, hundreds of thousands of children have been forced to leave Ukraine, either as refugees to safe countries or through forced deportation to Russia and adoption there, sometimes without their parents' knowledge.

"There is no doubt that every child in Ukraine is suffering be-

cause of Russia's invasion. Indiscriminate Russian attacks have destroyed countless schools and disrupted education through attacks on Ukraine's critical national infrastructure. Frequent power cuts prevent online learning," says the statement. "In Russian-controlled areas, the Russia-imposed school curriculum propagates disinformation and teachers are punished for teaching in Ukrainian. Children suffer disproportionately from lack of power, heating, and water caused by Russian missile attacks."

(euneighbourseast.eu)

## Weather

Tuesday, November 22

Day Overcast  
High: 20°C

Night Mostly Cloudy  
Low: 10°C

Wednesday, November 23

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 19°C

Night Clear  
Low: 6°C

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Two wonderful Polish women Agnieszka Kusnierz i Beata Lysoń-Dobrocińska founded a company AF-FECT producing prestigious cosmetics. AFFECT is the manufacturer of make-up cosmetics, popular not only in Poland, but also in other European countries or in the Middle East. The adventure of AFFECT began in 2015 in Bielsko-Biala and today their products are available in over 20 countries on 3 continents. We

# Power of Polish Women

support women's aspirations to have make-up cosmetics of the best quality. AFFECT was created to fill the gap between high-end cosmetics and products for everyday make-up.

The brand has a wide range of products that allow you to create full make-up. AFFECT offers high-quality cosmet-

ics, at the same time taking care of the affordable price and the offer variety. The products are characterized by durability and a wide range of various solutions, formulas and shades. What's more, the cosmetics are rich in carefully selected care ingredients such as argan oil, cupuaçu butter, algae or aloe extracts.

The AFFECT cosmetics are also distinguished by a thought out design referring to current trends. The cosmetics work well both in the work of make-up artists (wedding make-up or photo sessions) and when creating make-up by drugstore customers.

On November 17, in cooperation with International Women Association of Georgia, make-up show for women took place at the premises of Polish Embassy.



