

Public Defender and Consilium visit Mikheil Saakashvili in clinic

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Council of Doctors of the Public Defender along with Ombudsman Nino Lomjaria visited Mikheil Saakashvili in the Viva Med Clinic.

After the meeting, the doctors talked about the deteriorating health of the third president:

"He came in weighing 116 kilograms, he weighs 73.6 at the moment. The decline is very serious. His condition can be assessed as unequivocally severe. Of course, Cachexia and significant weight loss are very dangerous for life.

It is one of the good clinics and the colleagues do their best. The facts show that, despite this, the patient's condition is deteriorating dynamically," Tengiz Tsuladze, a member of the Consilium, told journalists.

Nino Lomjaria after the meeting was finished told reporters that the Public Defender's office is considering taking part in the process of petitioning for the



postponement or release of Mikheil Saakashvili's sentence.

"A petition has been submitted to the court for release or postponement of his sentence, and the public defender is considering an intervention in this process and in order for us to be able to present our position or have a position on this issue, I considered it necessary to [visit].

If I'm not mistaken, the procedure was scheduled for next week, so probably we will have to prepare before that, so it was necessary for the doctors themselves to come to see and evaluate the situation with their own eyes.

If we can do something to protect his rights and save his life, which my doctors are still talking about today, that the situation is really difficult, difficult and will be critical in a few months with this dynamic, of course, the Office of the Public Defender will do its best in this direction," said Lomjaria.

US Senator Risch says Georgia needs to focus on democracy

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

US Senator Jim Risch was asked about Georgia's desire to join the European Union by Voice of America.

"It's not rocket science - if Georgia wants to become a member of the group of European countries, it needs free people with access to such freedoms as freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, freedom of speech.

As the senator noted, the country badly needs an independent and strong judicial system and the rule of law.

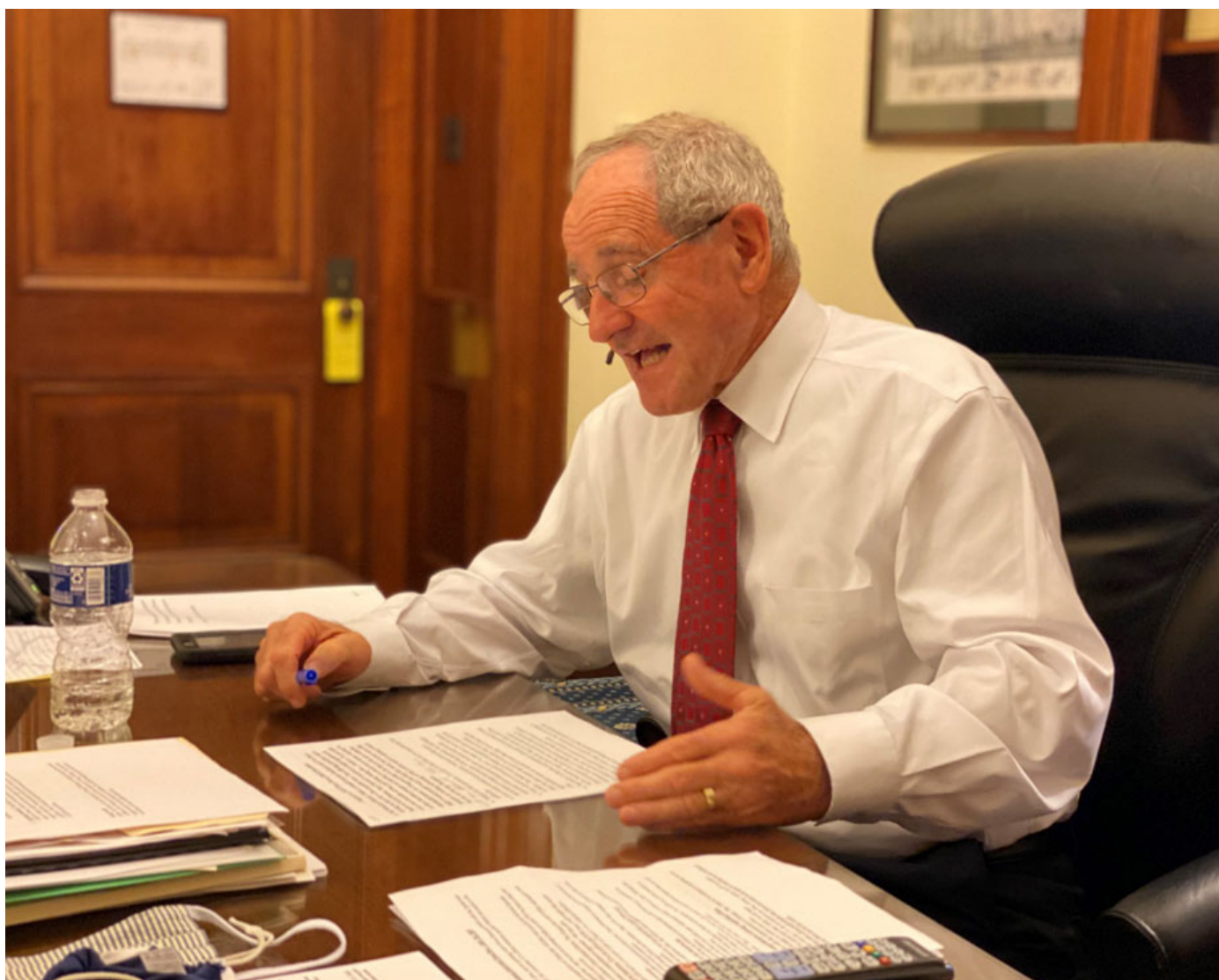
"Jim and I were observers sent by the State Department to the October 2012 elections. Then the current president Saakashvili was defeated and Ivanishvili won. Interestingly, we met both of them the next morning. I have to tell you that I watched those elections and I was incredibly impressed with the way they conducted those elections.

I left there with a strong feeling that Georgia had turned the page and that this was the first real, open election since the fall of the Iron Curtain. When we left, I was very optimistic about where the country was going, not because of who lost or who was elected, but because it was a free election.

I've been disappointed ever since. You asked me what to do? See... it's not rocket science. If they want to become a member of a group of European countries, they need a free people with access to freedoms such as freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, freedom of speech..." said Jim Risch.

According to Senator Risch, Georgia needs to focus on democracy:

"We don't want to focus only on the negative, because obviously they're doing a lot of positive things, but they need to focus on their own democracy, and if they do that, they're going to achieve the goal... and they have to achieve this, because they have all the resources to be a real productive member of the world," said Senator Risch.



Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7056; Euro - 2.8466; GBP - 3.3163; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.3642; Swiss Franc - 2.8962

BY MALKHAZ MATSABERIDZE

19 years pass since Rose Revolution

The 19th anniversary of the Rose Revolution passed in the usual mode of celebrating this date for the last years when the UNNM talks about the great importance of this event and the successes achieved since then, while the Georgian Dream sees only the negative. This time, the main issue was the request to transfer Mikheil Saakashvili, the main architect of the Rose Revolution, abroad for treatment.

The Rose Revolution, that is, the events that took place in November 2003, no matter how we evaluate it, are a turning point in the post-Soviet history of Georgia. At the time, the opposition did not accept the results of the last rigged parliamentary elections held by Shevardnadze and invaded the parliament on November 23 under the leadership of Mikheil Saakashvili.

President Shevardnadze resigned. The new government implemented important reforms for the country and took a course of rapid integration with the West. Reforms aimed at the modernization of the country, unfortunately, were not accompanied by the appropriate democratization of the country, which was followed by mistakes and a decline in the government's rating.

As a result, in 2012, the Na-

tional Movement lost the elections and gave up power. In the West, this was met with approval and they welcomed the arrival of billionaire Bidzina Ivanishvili's block Georgian Dream in power.

If the National Movement was in power for 9 years, the Georgian Dream has been at the head of the country for 10. If Shevardnadze was able to win two parliamentary elections for the adoption of the 1995 Constitution, and Saakashvili also won two, Georgian Dream was able to maintain power even after the 3rd parliamentary elections, although it was clearly difficult in 2020 - the opposition did not enter the parliament for a long time as a sign of protest, because they considered the elections to be rigged. In the end, the Georgian Dream managed to get out of the parliamentary crisis, in which the West gave it no small help.

According to Georgia's Western partners, the government and the opposition in the parliament would cooperate for the benefit of the country and build democracy. However, many in Georgia clearly saw that it would not be possible to end 'polarization' in this way.

On the 19th anniversary of the Rose Revolution, both the gov-

ernment and the opposition are in a difficult situation. Public opinion polls show that the ratings of the opposition parties are very low, more than half of the respondents do not see the party they want and are waiting for the appearance of a 'new force', the 'National Movement' remains the main opposition party, but not only its rating has decreased, but it is also experiencing a deep crisis.

At the end of December, the elections of the governing bodies of the party and the chairman of the party are scheduled. On the 19th anniversary of the Rose Revolution, its main creator, Mikheil Saakashvili, is in prison. His health condition has been causing serious concern for a long time.

The opposition demands that Saakashvili be transferred abroad for treatment, which the government categorically excludes so far. Mikheil Saakashvili announced that he is no longer interested in Georgian politics and does not interfere in it, although the Georgian Dream does not seem to believe this.

According to the National Movement, Saakashvili is Putin's prisoner, and in this case, the government is following his instructions.

Information about Saakashvili's poisoning also spread. Parliamentarian Iago Khvichia came up with a strange proposal - the opposition recognizes the fulfillment of 12 demands of the European Union by the Georgian Dream, in return the government should release Mikheil Saakashvili. However, the fulfillment of 12 demands should be recognized by the European Union and not by the opposition in Georgia.

The main puzzle of the Georgian Dream is these 12 demands. The status of a candidate for EU membership depends on their performance. That is, taking an important step in the direction of integration with the West, which is the officially declared course of Georgia and which is supported by approximately 80 percent of the population of Georgia. This opportunity was created by Russia's attack on Ukraine.

The Georgian Dream claims that it is actively working to fulfill these requirements of the European Union, but the radical opposition prevents it from fulfilling the requirements, and according to the opposition, Georgian Dream only imitates working to fulfill the requirements and, in reality, does not intend to fulfill these require-

ments. Today, the main subject of controversy is the law of 'deoligarchization'. Georgian Dream has already developed its draft law and passed it in two readings in the parliament. As they say, the bill is a copy of the relevant Ukrainian law. They also emphasize that this law will not apply to Bidzina Ivanishvili, who has 'left politics', instead they talk about the oligarchs behind the opposition.

The National Movement also presented its version of the deoligarchization law, which Bidzina Ivanishvili cannot stay behind. Obviously, the Georgian Dream can adopt its version of the law, but the European Union requires that this draft law be sent to the Venice Commission before adoption. The Georgian Dream does not want to do this, but without it, the European Union will not consider this request fulfilled.

The current situation - the dispute regarding the fulfillment of the 12 requirements of the European Union will continue for about another year before the European Union makes its decision. However, before that, many things can change both outside and inside the country.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

5 Georgian fighters killed in Ukraine war, President Zourabichvili responds



President Salome Zourabichvili responded to the death of 5 Georgian fighters in Ukraine and offered condolences to their families.

"Today, five Georgians died in the battle near Bakhmut. In these difficult moments, I offer

my condolences to the families, friends, and relatives of all the Georgian fighters who died in Ukraine," wrote Zourabichvili.

According to Romeo Parulava, a Georgian fighter in Ukraine, a group of Georgian fighters, together with Ukrainians, are

under siege in the city of Bakhmut, Donetsk region. Parulava said in a conversation with Formula TV that there is also a Georgian commander in the siege who is wounded.

According to him, they are doing everything to evacuate the wounded, including the operation to evacuate the bodies of the dead.

Since the beginning of the war, 33 Georgian fighters have

been killed in Ukraine.

President Salome Zourabichvili to meet the President of Poland Andrzej Duda

According to the presidential administration, on December 5, President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili will meet Polish President Andrzej Duda.

The President's administration wrote that the meeting would be held in Warsaw, in the palace of the President of Poland, after which they will make statements to the media.

During the working visit, the President of Georgia will also meet representatives of the College of Europe and will give a public lecture to students about the challenges facing Georgia.



Weather

Monday, December 5

Day Light Snow
High: 1°C

Night Light Snow
Low: -1°C

Tuesday, December 6

Day Light Snow
High: 1°C

Night Light Snow
Low: -1°C

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.

IWAG Winter Fair 2022



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
GEORGIA

IWAG Winter Fair 2022

December 3, 10 AM - 6 PM,
Sheraton Grand Tbilisi
Metechi Palace

Come and support women,
children
and the elderly in need!

Entrance fee: 1 GEL









