

## President Andrzej Duda says Poland unwaveringly supports Georgia in Euro-Atlantic aspirations

By Liza Mchedlidze

The President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili within the framework of an official visit to Poland met with the President of Poland, Andrzej Duda. The Polish president thanked Zourabichvili for her expressed support for Ukraine at the joint briefing.

Duda expressed hope that Russia will soon be defeated and give up the occupied territories, not only in Ukraine but also in Georgia.

"I would like to thank the President of Georgia, who is also involved in the issue of helping Ukraine, such as humanitarian aid from Georgia, as well as from us. We provide all kinds of assistance to Ukraine, including military assistance, because now it is necessary for Ukraine to defend itself from Russian aggression.

In the last few hours, there are still large attacks on Ukraine. There are facts of bombing the territory of Ukraine. As you can see, Ukraine is resisting. Russia must leave the territory of Ukraine, and Russia must stop this war.

We know that free, independent countries support Ukraine. We hope that Russia will soon be defeated and will return to the territories it conquered, not only in Ukraine but also in other countries. This also applies to the occupied territories of Georgia.



We hope that Russia will be defeated and give up these territory," Duda said.

According to Duda, Polish people have great respect for Georgia, which defended its territories in 2008.

"We remember how Georgia defended its territories in 2008. Our president, Lech Kaczyński, took an open position when he came to Georgia and took part in

the rally in support of Georgia.

His statement at this rally was prophetic. He said that today Georgia, tomorrow - Ukraine, then the Baltic countries, and then Poland's turn will be in this aggressive history. President Lech Kaczyński already said then that if we do not stop Russia's aggression against Georgia, this aggression will take on a larger scale, and if the in-

ternational community does not resist this aggression, it will cover a wider scale", Andrzej Duda said.

The President of Poland also spoke about Georgia's Euro-Atlantic integration and stated that his country unwaveringly supports Georgia on the path of Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

"We hope that in the not-so-distant period, Georgia will re-

ceive the status of a full member of the European Union, as well as join NATO. Poland has always supported these aspirations of Georgia and will continue to support them. This is a matter of our common security.

Joining the European Union and NATO will give Georgia good conditions to gain economic development and political security," Andrzej Duda said.

## Georgian diplomats appeal to international community to save ex-president Saakashvili's life

By Liza Mchedlidze



Georgian diplomats appealed to the European Union, NATO, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, and their parliamentary bodies to save Mikheil Saakashvili's life.

The letter reads that against the background of the rapid deterioration of ex-president Saakashvili's health, an independent group of American medical experts published the results of the conducted tests and research, which reveal serious violations of human rights against President Saakashvili, including torture and heavy metal poisoning.

"His condition is alarming. It is obvious that President Saakashvili was treated inappropriately and was tortured," said Doctor of Medicine, 1997 Nobel Prize laureate in medicine, Dr. James E Cobb.

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# Georgian diplomats appeal to international community to save ex-president Saakashvili's life

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"His life is in imminent danger if he is not transferred to a Western medical facility where he will receive life-sustaining treatment," added Dr. Cobb.

After he was arrested in October 2021, President Saakashvili's physical and mental condition significantly deteriorated. Recent studies have confirmed that he now has prison-related psychological, neurological, orthopedic, and gastrointestinal ailments that are steadily worsening his condition.

In addition, a group of doctors found traces of arsenic and heavy metals, including mercury, in President Saakashvili's body. Therefore, experts strongly recommend that he be transferred immediately to a medical facility in the United States or Western Europe.

"President Saakashvili was given at least 14 different medical drugs, some of which are not authorized by the US Food and Drug Administration," said David E. Smith, US leading toxicologist.

"The deadly combination of these drugs caused brain dys-

function, among them, atrophy of white matter in the prefrontal cortex, which is responsible for the brain's controlling function, and increased risk of morbidity and mortality. Therefore, immediate detoxification from these drugs is necessary," added Dr. Smith.

On December 2, after the publication of the results of the analysis and research conducted by an independent group of American medical experts, the team of lawyers of President Saakashvili, including Massimo F. D'Angelo, the lawyer of the American law firm

'Akerman' appealed to the Georgian court with the request to postpone the imprisonment of the former president and to transfer him from Georgia to a foreign country immediately.

Obtaining the approval for President Saakashvili to undergo treatment abroad will be the first step, which will allow the former president to conduct research and treatment of Western standards, free from the fear of political interference. As established by the last resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Mikheil Saakashvili is a political prisoner of the current

regime. He must be released. When Georgia is trying to gain candidate status in the European Union, especially at a time when the entire security of Europe is under threat, the current development of events is absolutely unacceptable.

We, the former Georgian diplomats, would like to draw the attention of the international community and call on the relevant governments, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations to react as strictly as possible to the current situation," the statement reads.

## German Government allocates 55 million EUR to support the rehabilitation of a drinking water treatment plant in Batumi



On 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 KfW Development Bank, on behalf of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, signs financing agreements of a total of 55 million EUR with the Government of Georgia, represented by the Ministry of Finance of Georgia for the fifth phase of the Municipal Infrastructure Batumi project.

For more than 16 years the project with a financing volume of around 138 million EUR was implemented for the creation of a modern water infrastructure in Batumi.

As a result, more than 200,000 people who previously had access to drinking water only for a couple of hours a day, are now continuously supplied with hygienically safe drinking water. Additionally, with the construction of a modern sewer sys-

tem and wastewater treatment plant, wastewater is now professionally drained and cleaned. A new stormwater system and new stormwater pumping station have furthermore significantly reduced the risk of flooding the city center. Even dolphins have been seen from the beach again, which speaks for the improvement of sea water quality.

The newly signed financing agreements will ensure that the improved supply of drinking water can be extended for the growing population of Batumi. An old drinking water treatment plant will be rehabilitated and adapted to the modern standards and the wastewater treatment plant will be expanded and equipped with sludge treatment and nutrient elimination systems.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany supports the project through KfW with a 53 million EUR loan and 2 million EUR grant for accompanying measures to support the municipal water supply company "Batumis Tskali".

## Weather

Wednesday, December 7

Day Mostly Cloudy  
High: 4°C

Night Partly Cloudy  
Low: -1°C

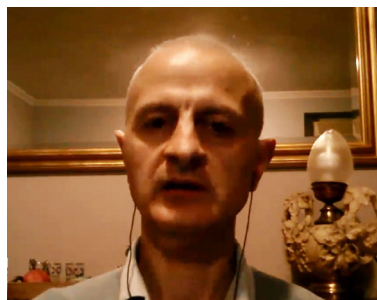
Thursday, December 8

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 6°C

Night Mostly Cloudy  
Low: 0°C

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### Public Defender's Consilium demands Saakashvili's transfer abroad for medical treatment



The Consilium of the Public Defender prepared a report on the health condition of Mikheil Saakashvili. Four doctors examined the ex-president on December 5.

According to neurologist Tengiz Tsuladze, Mikheil Saakashvili's health condition has deteriorated 'significantly' compared to April.

"The deterioration was manifested in weight loss, deterioration of the patient's cognitive functions, polyneuropathy, muscle wasting, general weakness, he cannot stand, he stands with help, it is difficult to make contact, his cognitive sphere was assessed and it is also impaired. He has a fever, all this gave us the right to talk about such a serious complication such as cachexia.

It was more anorexia than starvation. The patient claims that he is not starving himself, and therefore, he has nausea and cannot take food, against this background this serious compli-

cation - cachexia has developed," said the neurologist.

According to Tengiz Tsuladze fundamental decisions should be made and Saakashvili should be transferred abroad in clinic with relevant experiences:

"I think it should be removed from this environment and transferred to another place... The patient should be taken out of the country and treated elsewhere, in another multi-specialty clinic with relevant experience," he said

According to Tengiz Tsuladze, despite local doctors working very hard, "the country does not have much experience in managing such patients".

"The fourth level of cachexia means that the life expectancy may be several months. If the weight loss continues, of course. If it does not continue and stops or improves, no, but if it continues, it can be very life-threatening," said neurologist Tengiz Tsuladze.

### 'No response from Georgian gov't to Ukraine's request for aid', Ukraine Embassy representative says

"Unfortunately, since the beginning of Russia's large-scale



aggression, despite numerous requests, we have not received a response from the Georgian government regarding the delivery of arms, ammunition, and other military and dual-purpose equipment to Ukraine," said Andrey Kasyanov, the Temporarily Representative of the Embassy of Ukraine in Georgia, said at the briefing.

According to him the request for military assistance to Georgia is fully justified, because Ukraine provided great humanitarian, military-technical and political assistance to Georgia in the wars of 1993 and 2008.

"We have always been honest and open with our intentions. We still believe that Ukraine's appeal for military aid to its brother Georgia at a time when the conversation was about life or death, was completely justified, fair and necessary, because the Ukrainian government helped with the evacuation of Georgian refugees in the Svaneti mountains, provided the strongest humanitarian aid to Georgia in 1993, as well as military-technical and political aid in 2008.

It was also justified and necessary to organize an attempt to send dedicated Georgian brave men to Ukraine, who decided to protect our countries from the common enemy - the Russian Federation.

Also, we reject any accusations against Ukraine of trying to drag Georgia into a war with the Russian Federation.

"We are very concerned about the constant accusations and speculations on this topic in the internal politics of Georgia," Kasyanov said.

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# Piano Recital by Luka Okros

Piano Recital of the London-based Georgian pianist Luka Okros took place at the Grand Hall of the Tbilisi State Conservatoire on December 4. Luka performed Beethoven – Moonlight Sonata op.27 no.2; Pathetique Sonata op.13 no.8, Chopin – Four Nocturnes and Rachmaninov – Sonata op.36 no.2 (1931 ed.) along with other compositions.

*The Messenger* offers a photo report of the performance.



