

## Saakashvili's health condition qualifies for 'at least a suspended sentence' Public Defender says

By Liza Mchedlidze

The Public Defender of Georgia, Nino Lomjaria assessed the health condition of the imprisoned third president, Mikheil Saakashvili; She was asked by reporters whether it is necessary to temporarily transfer the ex-president for treatment abroad, to which she responded that Saakashvili's health condition is qualified to be a subject to 'at least a suspended sentence'.

"The conclusions we rely on confirm that Mikheil Saakashvili's condition is in accordance with the article of the Criminal Procedure Code, which states that a prisoner in this condition may be subject to at least a suspended sentence.

According to Lomjaria, this recommendation is based on the opinions of experts.

"As a public defender, yesterday, I signed a Friend of the Court opinion, in which we have reviewed the practice of the court in the last 5 years regarding release and postponement of punishment. Also, we have cited experts' opinions on Mikheil Saakashvili's health condition.

The main proposition and recommendation we give to the court are that according to experts, Mikheil Saakashvili's health condition is serious, and from the position of the Public Defender, the conclusions we rely on confirm that his condition is in accordance with the article of the Criminal Procedure Code, which states that this A prisoner in the condition may be subject to at least a suspended sentence.

Therefore, in the Friend of the Court brief, we develop the position that his current situation legally and factually meets



the Criminal Procedure Code's standard for at least a suspended sentence.

According to Lomjaria, their opinion is quite well-argued, and they are hoping the court will take them into account. She also added that the judge can assess

Saakashvili's situation on the spot and therefore she is hopeful:

"In the Friend of the Court's opinion, we also expressed our readiness for the relevant representatives of the apparatus to appear before the court and provide

information on the spot. Also, the judge can visit the prisoner and learn about the situation on the spot, make sure and assess the current situation. Therefore, I am hopeful, although it is very difficult to make a prediction," said Lomjaria.

## Anna Fotyga makes amendment to honor the Georgian heroes defending Ukraine and Georgia

By Liza Mchedlidze

European Parliament member Anna Fotyga, in the annual report on the implementation of the EU Association Agreement with Georgia, raised the issue of amendment, whereby the European Parliament will honor the Georgian heroes fighting in Ukraine.

At the initiative of Fotyga, in the fourth paragraph of the "Annual report on the implementation of the EU Association Agreement with Georgia", where the aggressive war of Russia in Ukraine, joining the sanctions and the support of Ukraine and Georgia from the international community is discussed, an amendment will be added that the European Parliament will honor the fighters of the Georgian Legion who have been fighting in Ukraine since 2014.

Today these words are being exercised in Ukraine. That's why I tabled this amendment to pay tribute to those Georgian heroes who defend Ukraine & Georgia as well." Fotyga wrote on Twitter.

Anna Fotyga also published the document on Twitter, in which the sentence added at the initiative of Fotyga can be seen in the fourth paragraph.

"Underlines that Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine calls for unity and solidarity on the part of the international community, as this will also be deci-

sive for the restoration of Georgia's territorial integrity, which the international community did not defend with sufficient strength in 2008; welcomes the strong response of Georgian society in support of Ukraine; calls on the Georgian authorities to align with relevant statements from the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative for the Union on Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on behalf of the EU and with Council decisions, in line with the country's European ambitions; calls on the authorities to align with EU sanctions and to ensure that international sanctions related to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine are not circumvented via Georgia," the paragraph reads.

7.12.2022

A9-0274/22

### Amendment 22

Anna Fotyga on behalf of the ECR Group

### Report

Sven Mikser Implementation of the EU Association Agreement with Georgia (2021/2236(INI))

A9-0274/2022

### Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 4

Motion for a resolution

4. Underlines that Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine calls for unity and solidarity on the part of the international community, as this will also be decisive for the restoration of Georgia's territorial integrity, which the international community did not defend with sufficient strength in 2008; welcomes the strong response of Georgian society in support of Ukraine; calls on the Georgian authorities to align with relevant statements from the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative for the Union on Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on behalf of the EU and with Council decisions, in line with the country's European ambitions; calls on the authorities to align with EU sanctions and to ensure that international sanctions related to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine are not circumvented via Georgia;

Amendment

4. Underlines that Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine calls for unity and solidarity on the part of the international community, as this will also be decisive for the restoration of Georgia's territorial integrity, which the international community did not defend with sufficient strength in 2008; welcomes the strong response of Georgian society in support of Ukraine; *pays tribute to the soldiers of the Georgian Legion in Ukraine who have been fighting against the Russian aggressors since 2014*; calls on the Georgian authorities to align with relevant statements from the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative for the Union on Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on behalf of the EU and with Council decisions, in line with the country's European ambitions; calls on the authorities to align with EU sanctions and to ensure that international sanctions related to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine are not circumvented via Georgia;

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The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Ruling party 'instructed' by Russia to decrease number of Georgian volunteers going to Ukraine war, Mamuka Mamulashvili says



The commander of the Georgian Legion in Ukraine, Mamuka Mamulashvili, in an interview with Formula, stated that the Georgian Dream is trying to discredit the Georgian Legion by making statements about depriving Georgian fighters of citizenship, interest in compensation, and party affiliation.

According to Mamulashvili, the reason for Georgian Dream's attempt to discredit Georgian fighters is that the Ukrainian army is successfully carrying out a counter-offensive operation against Russia, and the Georgian Legion is the largest foreign unit in the Ukrainian army

and is strongly resisting the occupiers. According to Mamulashvili, therefore, the Georgian dream received instructions from Russia to reduce the wave of Georgian volunteers who go to fight in Ukraine. "We are part of military intelligence. We caused quite a lot of damage to Rus-

sia, the Russian army. Therefore, the Russians are irritated and, in my opinion, this conversation took place and they asked to somehow stop this wave because they are causing a lot of inconveniences, I mean the Georgian Legion in particular. They have received the instruction and are following this instruction. We have an ordinary pro-Russian government that usually performs its tasks. "We are also fulfilling the tasks assigned to us by Georgia and the Georgian society, we are here representing the Georgian society and Georgia," Mamulashvili said.

On the accusation from members of the ruling party that he represents the United National Movement, Mamulashvili said that he was never associated with any party and that it is "nonsense" that he or the Georgian Legion belong to any party or are involved in political activities.

'Georgian gov't is responsible for Saakashvili's health' Peter Stano says

Peter Stano, the chief press speaker of the European Commission's External Action Service, writes about Mikheil Saakashvili's health condition.

According to Stano, the European Union is closely monitoring this issue and the Georgian authorities are responsible for Saakashvili's health.

"The European Union is closely following the recent worrying reports about the deterioration of Mikheil Saakashvili's health. The government of Georgia is responsible for his health and well-being, and it is his duty to take all the necessary measures so that Saakashvili receives appropriate medical care," wrote Stano.

Mikheil Saakashvili's family and those supporting him demand a postponement of his sentence as Saakashvili's health condition worsens.



European Commission proposes ninth package of sanctions against Russia

Weather

Friday, December 9

Day Cloudy High: 5°C

Night Mostly Cloudy Low: -1°C

Saturday, December 10

Day Mostly Cloudy High: 6°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: -1°C

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced its proposal for a ninth package of sanctions against Russia on Wednesday evening.

The Commission proposes to add almost 200 additional individuals and entities to the EU's

sanctions list. This includes the Russian armed forces, as well as individual officers and defence industrial companies, members of the State Duma and Federation Council, ministers, governors and political parties. "This list covers key figures in Russia's brutal and deliberate missile



strikes against civilians, in the kidnapping of Ukrainian children into Russia, and in the theft of Ukrainian agricultural products," says the press release by the Commission.

Secondly, the Commission proposes to introduce sanctions against three additional Russian banks, including a full transaction ban on the Russian Regional Development Bank "to further paralyse Putin's cash machines".

Third, the Commission suggests imposing new export controls and restrictions, particularly for dual-use goods. This includes key chemicals, nerve agents, electronics and IT components that could be used by the Russian war machine.

Fourth, the sanctions will cut Russia's access to all sorts of drones and unmanned aerial vehicles. The Commission proposes to ban the direct exports

of drone engines to Russia and the export to any third countries, such as Iran, which could supply drones to Russia.

Proposed economic measures against the Russian energy and mining sector include a ban on new mining investments in Russia.

Ursula von der Leyen also said that the Commission aims to target the Russian propaganda machine by taking four additional channels off the air and all other distribution platforms.

She added that this package comes on top of the full EU import ban on Russian seaborn oil that came into force this week, as well as the global oil price cap agreed between the G7.

"Russia continues to bring death and devastation to Ukraine," said von der Leyen. "We stand by Ukraine and we are making Russia pay for its cruelty."

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