

Mikheil Saakashvili to file lawsuit against Minister of Justice and Penitentiary Service for disclosure of footage

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

According to the lawyer of Mikheil Saakashvili, Shalva Khachapuridze, he will file a lawsuit against the Minister of Justice and the Penitentiary Service due to the disclosure of Mikheil Saakashvili's footage by the Special Penitentiary Service.

Shalva Khachapuridze said that Mikheil Saakashvili's human rights were violated and the public opinion was put under pressure by the distribution of these footage.

"They have the right to make the footage public only with the permission of the person. They had to come to the "Vivamed" clinic, together with the administration of the "Vivamed" clinic, they had to go to Mikheil Saakashvili and take permission from him directly. Such a thing did not happen. Accordingly, it was a gross violation of the law, which is considered to some extent as an administrative act and to some extent as a criminal act.

In this particular case, it is a criminal act. That's why we appealed to both the personal data inspector and the investigative service to start an investigation, if I'm not mistaken, it was already the third case of Saakashvili's footage being made public without his permission.

A complaint will be filed against the Minister of Justice, the Penitentiary Service, to start an investigation, to find out what happened, why Saakashvili was not transferred at the first trial, and secondly, how these shots came into the hands of the Minister of Justice.

In all cases, it had to go through the hands of the Penitentiary Service, then the Penitentiary Service had to deliver it



to the head of any department of the Minister of Justice, the head of the department had to deliver it to the deputy, the deputy had to deliver it to the Minister of Justice. The whole chain is involved in all this.

The prisoner's and human rights were violated by this action. In addition, pub-

lic opinion was put under pressure and distorted opinion was created," Khachapuridze said.

According to the lawyer, investigation must be launched regarding this matter: "Investigation should be launched and it should be found out who was involved in this tragedy that we saw yesterday.

This neo-Communism and neo-Bolshevism must end in this country once and for all. The case is in the court and the court should be given the opportunity to consider it without any political pressure and Bolshevik methods," the lawyer noted.

Public Defender's Office on Saakashvili footage: 'It does not contain any clear evidence of patient simulation'

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Office of the Public Defender released a statement regarding Mikheil Saakashvili's video footage in the clinic. The statement reads that the existence of a legitimate purpose, including meeting the public's high interest, as well as the proportionality and adequacy of this decision, cannot be confirmed for the distribution of footage depicting the presence of the third president of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili.

According to the statement issued by the Office of the Ombudsman, the state is obliged to help the prisoner patient, to find appropriate help and not to use the prisoner's medical testimony against him.

The Public Defender's Office said that the published footage does not contain any clear evidence of simulation on the part of the patient.



საქართველოს
სახალხო დამცველი
PUBLIC DEFENDER
(OMBUDSMAN) OF GEORGIA

"As is known to the public, on December 14, 2022, the special penitentiary service released the video recordings of the prisoner Mikheil Saakashvili's ward in the medical facility. According to the service, the footage was made public due to high public interest and these footage reflect the condition of prisoner Mikheil Saakashvili in different periods.

The agency also points out that the mentioned video material shows Mikheil Saakashvili's simulated actions, the purpose of which is to hinder the implementation of justice, to mislead the public and international partners.

Despite the high public interest in the health and legal status of Mikheil Saakashvili, taking into account the official explanation available at this stage of the Special Penitentiary Service, the Office of the Public Defender considers that a legitimate purpose for the distribution of footage,

including the satisfaction of the public's high interest, as well as the proportionality and adequacy of this decision cannot be confirmed. Even if there is a legitimate purpose, it is important to maintain a balance between the public interest and a person's privacy and personal data protection rights when disclosing health information.

In this case, taking into account the public explanation available at this stage of the service, the disclosure of the personnel cannot be considered proportionate and adequate due to the following circumstances: as is known to the public, the Office of the Public Defender of Georgia is involved in the process of monitoring Mikheil Saakashvili's treatment.

According to the assessment of the expert group, compared to

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6691; Euro - 2.8346; GBP - 3.2923; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.1510; Swiss Franc - 2.8709

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the previous period, encephalopathy, sensorimotor neuropathy, anemia have worsened, as well as newly discovered autonomic neuropathy with a significant drop in blood pressure upon standing up.

The transition of anorexia to life-threatening cachexia has been predicted by the expert

group more than once, and at the time of assessment, the patient was in the phase of active catabolism (the so-called self-digestion of the body), which is confirmed by the very rapid weight loss especially since October.

The expert opinion of December 6, 2022 contains an additional diagnosis, which was not made public due to its sensitive nature (information about the

above was provided to the Tbilisi City Court). On December 6, 2022, a group of experts assessed the general condition of the patient as serious.

On December 14, 2022, the validity of the medical diagnoses of the patient Mikheil Saakashvili was called into question by the footage published by the Ministry of Justice. The mentioned reasoning categori-

cally contradicts the medical assessment presented by the expert group. It should be noted that the patient's aggressive behavior is considered one of the possible characteristic behaviors of the identified diagnoses.

Based on the above, it is not allowed to use the medical condition against the prisoner. The state is obliged to help the prisoner patient, to find appropriate

help and not to use the prisoner's medical testimony against him," the statement reads.

As mentioned in the information released by the Ombudsman, the majority of the recordings are dated in the beginning of October 2022 or earlier, and according to the Public Defender's expert group, Saakashvili's health 'deteriorated sharply' in October-November.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

'Saakashvili's entourage is speculating about his health' Talakvadze says

Georgian Dream deputy Archil Talakvadze said that the distribution of Mikheil Saakashvili's footage by the penitentiary service has proven that the third president does not cooperate with doctors and does not eat well.

As Talakvadze noted, Saakashvili's entourage is speculating about his health and trying to "stress society".

"There is a high public interest and the spread of information has once again confirmed what so many people suspected and questioned until now, that the patient is not cooperating with the doctors. He is also not feeding well, therefore the treat-



ment results are being criticized, the doctors are being criticized, the penitentiary healthcare system is being discredited, in this case it is baseless.

In fact, behind all this is the interest of Saakashvili's political team to use his imprisonment and health issues to destabilize our society and bring dissonance to the process of the so-called European integration of Georgia." Archil Talakvadze said.

According to Talakvadze, the reality is that 'the state has expressed its full readiness to provide Saakashvili with full-fledged medical services', they suggested inviting any profile doctor whom his family and defense consider necessary, but they 'still have not received an answer'.

He said that these people have 'political motivation' and 'escape from justice, bypassing the law'.

US Ambassador to Georgia: Saakashvili's trial should be conducted with protection of the right to private life.

US Ambassador to Georgia Kelly Degnan responded to the release of Mikheil Saakashvili's footage by the Penitentiary Service.

According to Degnan, the on-



going trial should be conducted with respect for human rights, including the right to privacy and a fair trial.

"It is the government's obligation and responsibility to protect his rights, including the provision of medical care, the provision of psychological care and the right to attend a fair

trial. This is the responsibility of the government. When there is a trial, there are court hearings, it must be conducted in accordance with basic human rights. With protection, including the protection of privacy and the right to a fair trial," said the ambassador.

Georgian Karatekas win 3 medals in European Karate Championship held in Romania

The XIII European Karate Championship organized by the World Union of Karate-Do Federations (WUKF) was held on December 10-11, 2022, in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, in which the Georgian Shotokan Karate Confederation team participated among 1,500 athletes from 30

countries.

Georgian Karatekas successfully competed at the European Championship in Romania, winning a total of 3 medals: Chabuka Makharadze won 1 gold and 1 silver medal among adults in the individual Kata and Kumite absolute categories and with this victory won the title of European champion for the fifth time in his sports career.

10-year-old Andria Saatashvili, the winner of many international tournaments, competed successfully, this time, he won the third place and a bronze

medal in the individual kumite at the European Karate Championship in Romania.

The year 2022 turned out to be particularly productive in Chabuka Makharadze's sports career, in August he won 2 gold medals at the World Championship held in Tokyo and became the world champion for the fourth time.

Chabuka Makharadze is a four-time world and multiple European champion, as well as a winner of many international tournaments and a successful instructor, he is the owner of the V blade of the black belt, the senior instructor of the Shotokan Karate Confederation of Georgia. He has been successfully competing in international tournaments since the year 2000, has won gold, silver and bronze medals of all types, and more than 100 medals in total.



Weather

Friday, December 16

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 13°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 4°C

Saturday, December 17

Day Clear
High: 12°C

Night Clear
Low: 3°C

published by
The Messenger

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