

Toxicologist gives testimony at Mikheil Saakashvili's trial, says ex-president has been poisoned

By Liza Mchedlidze

American expert toxicologist David Smith gave testimony at Mikheil Saakashvili's trial in Tbilisi City Court. According to him, medical records and laboratory tests show that Mikheil Saakashvili was poisoned with mercury, arsenic and barium, which causes serious toxic effects.

As Smith explained in the testimony, the medical condition of the former president is extremely serious.

"I reviewed a large amount of medical records and laboratory test results, as well as hair, nail, and blood samples. Also, extensive medical records and a 170-page report.

In my opinion, he was poisoned with various metals. Among them are mercury, arsenic and barium, which cause quite serious toxic effects. These types of heavy metals are excreted from the body after some time, in the process of excretion from the body, they poison various organs in the body. As a result, he suffered a serious brain injury," Smith said.

According to the toxicologist, Mikhail Saakashvili needs to be transferred to a medical institution where detoxification related to heavy metals and drugs will be possible, such an institution does not exist in Georgia, and Smith suggested a facility that is located in the United States of America.

"Deriving from the fact that there is no facility in Georgia that can provide specialized treatment for heavy metal intoxication, therefore, he should be transferred to a qualified medical facility, we have such a facility in the United States," said David Smith.

Smith gave a positive answer when



asked about whether the dynamics of the course of Saakashvili's diseases are sharply negative and whether there is a risk of disability or death.

In addition, the expert also positively answered the question of whether Saakashvili faces an imminent risk of death due to the lack of access to treatment in Georgia.

"He didn't get proper treatment for heavy metals, which involves specific therapy, it's about the mechanism of heavy metal removal. Detoxification was also not carried out in connection with the drugs that were given to level the existing symptoms."

Smith explained that these substances

are not used for medical treatment.

"They cannot be an indicator of any medical treatment because they are very toxic. These metals aggravate the health condition and also we are dealing with a causal relationship - these metals have a connection with the patient's diseases," Smith stated.

Lelo party leader Davit Usupashvili says Georgia 'suffers' amid Saakashvili's case

By Liza Mchedlidze



Lelo MP Davit Usupashvili spoke to journalists regarding Mikheil Saakashvili's issue and said that Georgian Dream cannot handle the prisoner Saakashvili, and Saakashvili cannot handle the imprisonment:

"The problem is that the government of Georgian Dream cannot handle the prisoner Saakashvili, and Saakashvili cannot handle the imprisonment - we have a situation when the country suffers because of this issue, and the purpose of the punishment is not achieved."

According to Usupashvili, transferring Saakashvili abroad for treatment would be the right legal, political and humane solution.

"Every day, the government gives excuses to that part of the society, who doubted whether Mikheil Saakashvili is truthful or a liar, why he is in prison and so on, that political reckoning is in the foreground, and justice is in the background.

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7103; Euro - 2.8832; GBP - 3.2621; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.7504; Swiss Franc - 2.9282

Lelo party leader Davit Usupashvili says Georgia ‘suffers’ amid Saakashvili’s case

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According to Usupashvili, Saakashvili’s decision to return to Georgia was ‘politically grave’ and an ‘irreparable mistake’. He added that the issue of the ex-

president has become a subject of political speculations in Georgia and internationally.

“Saakashvili made a politically very grave, practically irreparable mistake when he came to Georgia and came like

this... It was clear to everyone that he would not survive in a prison - I am also surprised how he survived until now... Now we are all hostages of this situation! Therefore, when we see the pointing of fingers here and

there, whose fault is it - everyone who holds the state lever in their hands! Among them is the president, whose pardon is one of the tools when the state is damaged by the government’s wrongful impris-

onment of Saakashvili and failure to deal with this issue - the issue has become a subject of political speculations inside and outside the country,” Usupashvili stated.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Ministry of Justice provides information about Mikheil Saakashvili to diplomatic corps

tailed information about Mikheil Saakashvili’s condition.

“The Ministry of Justice provided the representatives of the diplomatic corps with information about Mikheil Saakashvili.

On December 28, 2022, a meeting was held with represen-

tment since his placement in the penitentiary system.

Maximum transparency is a priority for the Ministry of Justice, and the public and all interested persons will be informed about the issue in the future as well,” the statement read.

dent of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili during the last month.

According to him, President Zourabichvili assesses ‘the

together the development vector of the country. Not only on the vector of foreign political development of the country, but in general, how we want to be - Do



The Ministry of Justice stated that on December 28, a meeting was held with the representatives of the EU representation, EU member states, and US embassies, where, according to the report, the representatives of the diplomatic corps were given de-

tatives of the EU representation, EU member states, and US embassies. Within the framework of the meeting, representatives of the diplomatic corps were provided with detailed information about Mikheil Saakashvili’s conditions, medical treatment, and

UNM leader Nika Melia meets with President Salome Zourabichvili

The chairman of the United National Movement, Nika Melia, said that he met with the Presi-



harshes reality rationally’.

Nika Melia said that although the United National Movement and its voters have had complaints about her presidency, everything is ‘unimportant’ now and everyone should work together to form the ‘development vector’ of Georgia.

“We, all of us, should form

we want to kill the president again, which will automatically be followed by the lowering of the iron curtain and being left behind with Lukashenko’s Belarus and Putin’s Russia, or do we want to already become a part of the civilized world. This is at stake today,” said Melia.

EBRD Business Guide: updated guidance now available for Georgian MSMEs

Weather

Friday, December 30

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 6°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: -3°C

Saturday, December 31

Day Clear
High: 9°C

Night Clear
Low: 0°C

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has issued updated guidance for micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Georgia.

The guidance provides legal and practical advice on how to set up and operate a business in Georgia. The latest update of the Georgia-focused guide covers environmental responsibility, the protection of consumer rights, e-contracting and other

legislative topics.

The update follows previous publications on Ukraine and Moldova and forms part of the Bank’s ongoing legal and business guidance for MSMEs, published in a dedicated online Business Guide.

The EBRD Business Guide website was launched in September 2021 and provides interactive



webinars and links to useful busi-

ness and legal resources. To date, it has seen more than 41,000 users.

This December, the Bank also launched the first in a series of newsletters for Georgia, aimed at keeping subscribers informed of new government programmes and recent legislative developments that might be useful for MSMEs.

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