

## Vivamed Clinic Doctors Hold Press Conference Regarding Mikheil Saakashvili's Health Condition

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Vivamed doctor Tamar Davarashvili spoke about Mikheil Saakashvili's health condition at the press conference held in the clinic.

The doctor said that Mikheil Saakashvili's condition is getting worse. The doctor treating the former president noted that the patient suffers from general weakness and is eating unbalanced. In addition, he continues to lose weight.

"We can say that there is a tendency to worsen because the body weight and mass remain low. For the number 20, the weight was 67.2 kilograms and the mass index was 18.2. General weakness is expressed, he is very weakened, the patient is generally in bed, he is lying down, he has, as I mentioned, pain in his limbs, which he suffers a lot. We help in every way, but this pain still remains.

The most unfortunate thing is that the diet remains unbalanced.



He takes unbalanced food and eats it. Vomiting, not nausea was very rarely observed with us. But this unbalanced diet hinders us a lot," stated the doctor.

The doctors announced at the press conference that Saakashvili's calorie intake is a third of what is offered to him. According to them, the patient re-

fused to take protein supplements. "I can confidently say on behalf of our clinic and staff that our doctors are doing the best they can, as I told you, with all

modern treatment methods and means provided.

According to doctors, their goal is to improve Saakashvili's health condition.

## Mikheil Saakashvili Criticizes Vivamed's Press Conference

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Mikheil Saakashvili responded to the press conference held by the doctors at Vivamed clinic, where he is undergoing medical treatment and accused the clinic of taking part in a 'special operation' to kill him.

According to the third president of Georgia, the only truth that was said at the press con-

ference is that his health is worsening day by day and added that the clinic has refused to treat his alleged heavy metals poisoning and anorexia.

He also addressed Bidzina Ivanishvili and said that he has never stolen any money from the country and has sold everything to pay his legal team.

Mikheil Saakashvili called on Georgia and international partners to prevent 'criminal corpo-

rations' from carrying out their 'evil' intentions.

"In the press conference of the VivaMed Clinic doctors, the only truth was that my situation is serious and rapidly deteriorating and that the clinic practically cannot do anything. Everything else was a lie.

This clinic refused to treat my main diseases. In particular, on the treatment of heavy metal poisoning, anorexia and

cachexia.

No one wants to live as much as I do!

I want to witness the victory of Ukraine, which is within reach and the end of all Putinists.

I would like to appeal to the oligarch Goshia, I did not receive 1 million, not 1 tetri from Georgia, and if I had that much money somewhere, I would not sell the last piece of land to cover

the expenses of the lawyers.

The truth is, all this fits into the context of Maria Zakharova's statement.

We are in the final stage of the special operation to kill me, and 'parliamentarians', 'journalists' are participating in this, now the clinic. I call on Georgia and the world do not allow this criminal corporation to carry out its evil intentions." Mikheil Saakashvili wrote.



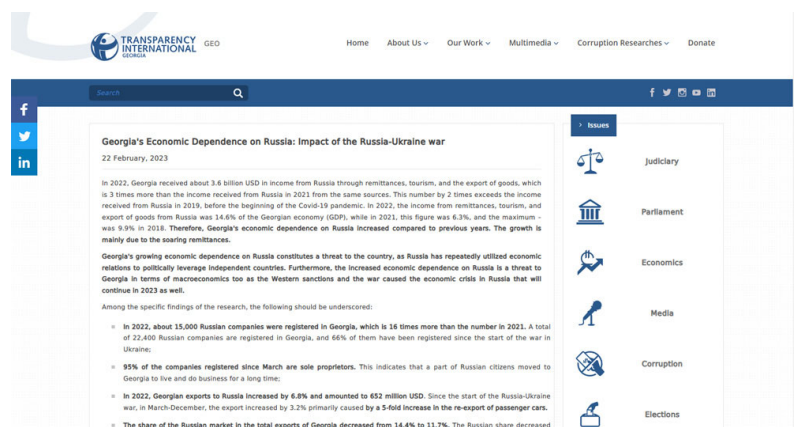
Mikheil Saakashvili

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The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Georgia's Economic Dependence on Russia Increased in 2022, TI Reports



Transparency International - Georgia (TI) has published a new study on Georgia's economic dependence on Russia.

According to the study, in 2022, Georgia received about \$3.6 billion in income from remittances, tourism and export of goods from Russia, which is 3 times more than the income received from the same sources in 2021.

According to the "Transparency International" research, in 2022 Georgia's exports to Russia increased by 6.8% and amounted to \$652 million, and after the start of the war, in March-December, exports increased by 3.2%, which was mainly due to a 5-fold increase in the re-export of light vehicles, although the total Russia's share in exports still decreased, as it increased more in other countries.

"In 2022, the income from remittances, tourism and export of goods from Russia was 14.6% of the Georgian economy (GDP), while in 2021 this figure reached 6.3%, and the maximum - 9.9% in 2018.

the Georgian economy (GDP), while in 2021 this figure reached 6.3%, and the maximum - 9.9% in 2018. This means that compared to previous years, Georgia's economic dependence on Russia has increased. The growth is mainly due to the jump-like increase in remittances," TI wrote.

As TI wrote, Georgian wine exports are distinguished by their high dependence on the Russian market.

"After the start of the war, the import of oil products (fuel) from Russia increased the most - by \$482 million (5 times more). The share of Russian fuel in imports was 51%" TI report reads.

Jeanne Shahin Says People's Power Bill is Similar to That of Russia, Effective to Silence NGOs and Media

US Senator Jeanne Shahin responded to the People's Power's initiated bill which is supported by the "Georgian Dream" and said the "People Power" bill is similar to the one in Russia, which was effective in shutting down NGOs and silencing the media in Russia.

It is not conducive to the 12 conditions that the European Union asked Georgia to fulfill for EU integration, and this law is very similar to the one that Hungary adopted and which came under attack. So it's not in line with the values that I think we would want in a democracy. And, transparency does not require such a law either.



The argument that this is necessary for transparency simply does not cut it, because there is already transparency. "Non-governmental organizations are already obliged to declare where they are funded from," the senator noted.

"The law that was introduced in the Parliament is not the American FARA law. I worked on that law, to reform it. It was originally passed in the 1930s in response to Hitler, as an effort to identify lobbyists or others who represented other countries in the United States and asked them to register. The bill here is similar to a law in Russia that has been very effective in shutting down non-governmental organizations and silencing the media."

Mtskheta Municipality sets an example of sustainable forest management



Tbilisi. 22 February 2023 – A new Business Service Yard opened in Jighaura village on 21 February to supply people with sustainably harvested timber. The Business Service Yard sells registered fuelwood to citizens and businesses, ensures that vulnerable families receive a certain amount of timber free of charge, and reinvests the revenues to the National Forestry Agency supporting sustainable forest management in Georgia.

Jighaura, Dzegvi and Qvemo Lisi are three villages in Mtskheta Municipality where Business Service Yards were established by the National Forestry Agency with support from Japan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

ongoing forestry reform in Georgia," Minister Shamugia said. "Our goal is to gradually replace social logging with forest-friendly services and create easy access to sustainably harvested wood resources for citizens and businesses."

"Forests are critical for Georgia's climate-smart development and people's well-being," said H.E. Imamura Akira, Ambassador of Japan to Georgia. "Japan is proud to share its decades-long experience in forest management and contribute to the protection and sustainable use of natural resources."

"UNDP supports forest reform in Georgia as a step forward to protecting nature, sustainably managing natural resources and mitigating climate change," said Nick Beresford, UNDP Resident Representative in Georgia.

UNDP and Japan assist the National Forestry Agency to protect forests from illegal logging and wildfire

management at both national and local levels." With US\$920,000 in funding from Japan, UNDP assists the National Forestry Agency to build, develop and improve Business Service Yards in Mtskheta Municipality and introduce a successful forest management model to be expanded to the other regions of Georgia.

This support is part of UNDP's global Climate Promise effort to assist 120 countries and territories to achieve their climate goals. Georgia is one of 23 countries where Climate Promise is funded by Japan, the largest supporter of this pioneering and groundbreaking initiative.

Weather

Thursday, February 23

Day Mostly Cloudy

High: 8°C

Night Partly Cloudy

Low: 0°C

Friday, February 24

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 7°C

Night Partly Cloudy

Low: -1°C

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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

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