

Shalva Papuashvili: Ministry of Internal Affairs Took Action to Safeguard Human Health during Disruption of Pride Festival



lence in advance, the Chairman of the Parliament stated that the Ministry of Internal Affairs will address this matter.

"As for the policing measures, I cannot answer that. The Ministry of Internal Affairs will provide an answer on how this or that measure is planned, including the tactics and strategy involved."

As for the announcements, we sometimes hear different kinds, including various actions announced against the parliament, which eventually turned into violent actions. Let us remind you that on March 7-8, there was an attack on the Parliament of Georgia. We remember the broken windows and the burning Parliament, and at that time, the police had to evacuate both employees and journalists from the Parliament. No one here said that keeping Parliament functioning was more important than your health or the health of Parliament staff...

Regarding crowd management, this is a separate field in which the police and relevant units possess strategies and tactics of the highest standard, according to the decision of the European Court of Human Rights. Therefore, they can manage crowds of different types and sizes," he said.

When asked about the actions the police would take if it was an anti-government demonstration, Chairman Papuashvili stated that the Ministry of Internal Affairs would have ensured the evacuation of the event.

"I am sure that if there was an event of the ruling or non-ruling party and their health was in danger, the police would also have ensured that they were evacuated," Papuashvili said.

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, Shalva Papuashvili, while speaking about the Pride Festival which was disrupted by violent groups, stated that the Ministry of Internal Affairs has made a decision to protect human health and has acted accordingly.

"I have a feeling that there are certain groups or actors whose statements leave the impression that this event should be

held at any cost, including putting people's health at risk. I don't know what the priorities of these groups and actors are, whose statements we were listening to, but the Constitution and legislation of Georgia demonstrate the priorities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and these priorities revolve around the first value of human health.

Of course, when people's health is at stake, along with the freedom of assembly, both the Ministry of Internal Affairs

and the police could not make any other decision than to prioritize and protect people's health.

...we saw that, on the one hand, no one was injured, and on the other hand, the police did not escalate the situation and were able to ensure this. Thus, the police were able to protect this main priority," he said.

Regarding the question of why the police did not use proportional force against the violent groups that announced the vio-

Archil Talakvadze Criticizes Ukraine's Decision Regarding Georgian Ambassador

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

After Volodymyr Zelensky announced on July 3rd that he would ask the Georgian ambassador to leave Ukraine within 48 hours for consultations in Tbilisi regarding the issue of Mikheil Saakashvili's handover to Ukraine, Archil Talakvadze, the Vice Speaker of the Georgian Parliament, expressed his opinion that Ukraine's decision regarding the ambassador is unfair. He firmly believes that this step will not weaken Georgia's support for Ukraine.

"Certainly, this decision is not fair, especially for the ambassador who did not leave Ukraine and Kiev for a single day during the war. He stayed in Kiev, even

when it was being bombed. He was among the exceptional diplomats, and Georgia was among the exceptional embassies that were not evacuated and remained in Ukraine, standing by the Ukrainian people until the end. This step cannot weaken Georgia's support for Ukraine, but it is clearly unfair and undeserved. The ambassador of Georgia truly did not deserve such a decision," Talakvadze stated.

Additionally, Talakvadze pointed out that the 'radical' opposition is not interested in protecting the interests of Georgia and the ambassador's position.

"The fact that the opposition



CONTINUED ON Page 2

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.5894; Euro - 2.8372; GBP - 3.3134; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.8300; Swiss Franc - 2.9098

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CONTINUED FROM Page 1

is acting against the interests of the state and our country can be seen from all directions, and they will also be happy with the decision made regarding the ambassador. A true politi-

cian should be interested in Georgia's interests and should protect the ambassador's position, especially when the truth and all arguments support our ambassador, who stayed in Kiev during the war, even when it was being bombed. If

the radical opposition is not interested in this, it is not really surprising. I hope that in 2024, the electorate that supported the opposition will properly evaluate this," said Talakvadze.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Six Georgian Citizens Illegally Detained by Russian Occupation Forces Released



According to the State Security Service, six citizens of Georgia who were illegally detained by Russian occupation forces in

the vicinity of the village of Mejvriskhevi in the Gori municipality have been freed and are now in the territory controlled by the central government.

"Upon receiving information about the illegal detention, the

'hotline' was immediately activated, and all mechanisms available to the central government were put into action. The infor-

mation was shared with the co-chairs of the Geneva International Discussions and our international partners. The European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in Georgia was directly involved in this process. 'Responsibility for all destructive actions carried out in the occupied regions of Georgia and along the occupation line rests with the occupying power,' read the information.

The agency further stated that the central government, in collaboration with international partners, will continue actively working to secure the release of all Georgian citizens who are illegally imprisoned in the occupied territories.

Prime Minister of Georgia Holds Farewell Meeting with Ambassador of the Netherlands Maaïke van Koldam

The Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, held a

farewell meeting with the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Georgia, Maaïke van Koldam.

According to the press service of the Prime Minister, the meeting, which took place in the gov-

ernment administration, addressed bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the two countries.

and the Kingdom of the Netherlands were also discussed during the meeting. "Irakli Gharibashvili expressed gratitude to Maaïke Van Koldam for her support of Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as for her



ernment administration, addressed bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the two countries.

"The positive dynamics of political relations between Georgia

assistance in the process of European Union integration. He also extended his best wishes for her future endeavors," stated the Prime Minister's press service.

UNDP and Germany Join Forces to Enhance the Rule of Law in Georgia

Empowering Disadvantaged Communities with Greater Access to Justice and Strengthened Resilience



TBILISI. 10 July 2023 – The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Germany launched a new

project aimed at fortifying the rule of law and bolstering resilience and access to justice for disadvantaged communities in Georgia. The initiative places a strong emphasis on persons with disabilities, rural populations, women, and ethnic minorities, as well as communities facing environmental threats. Furthermore, the project extends its support to refugees and Ukrainian nationals residing in Georgia, enhancing their social and economic resilience, and promoting integration.

With funding amounting to over US\$1.62 million from German Cooperation, UNDP leads the initiative in close collaboration with the Georgian authorities, civil society organizations, and the UN High Commissioner

for Refugees. By building capacities of the rule of law institutions, increasing access to disability-inclusive infrastructure, and ensuring the legal empowerment and socio-economic resilience of disadvantaged communities, the project seeks to create lasting change and foster just and inclusive societies in Georgia.

"Germany supports inclusive development and strengthening the justice system in Georgia. We are pleased to collaborate with UNDP and other partners to strengthen rule of law institutions in Georgia, as this is one of the most essential criteria for Georgia to advance on its path towards EU membership. This will also help the most disadvantaged communities in Georgia by

improving access to justice and contributing to their socio-economic empowerment," noted H.E. Peter Fischer, the Ambassador of Germany to Georgia.

According to Nick Beresford, UNDP Resident Representative in Georgia, "UNDP's partnership with Germany marks a significant milestone in our efforts to promote the rule of law in Georgia. The effective functioning of the national rule of law system is crucial for inclusive and sustainable development. By prioritizing the needs of disadvantaged communities, we aim to empower people, strengthen institutions, and create an enabling environment that ensures equal access to justice for all."

In addition to its local impact,

the new initiative also promotes regional cooperation in the fields of justice and the rule of law. It brings together civil society organizations and rule of law professionals from Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine fostering knowledge exchange and mutual learning among countries in the region.



Weather

Tuesday, July 11

Day Showers
High: 22°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 15°C

Wednesday, July 12

Day Clear
High: 28°C

Night Clear
Low: 15°C

published by

The Messenger

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