

## Shalva Papuashvili Criticizes MEPs' Letter to Georgian Government Regarding Saakashvili

By Liza Mchedlidze

About 50 European Parliaments have issued an appeal requesting the Georgian authorities to transfer Mikheil Saakashvili, the imprisoned former president of Georgia, to Europe for treatment.

"Given the accelerated decline in Mr. Saakashvili's condition, we, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, urgently call upon you to endorse the only compassionate, morally just, and effective solution: the transfer of the former President Saakashvili to one of the EU Member States, where he can receive the necessary and appropriate medical care," read the statement.

The letter was addressed to President Salome Zourabichvili, Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili, and Chairman of Georgian Parliament Shalva Papuashvili.

"I received the letter, read it, and unfortunately, I could not find any apology in it. The only thing I expect from these MPs is to see words of apology towards the Georgian people," said Parliament Chairman Shalva Papuashvili.

As Papuashvili mentioned, specific Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) should apologize for their involvement in a disinformation campaign regarding Mikheil Saakashvili that lasted for over a year.

"It is as if Mikheil Saakashvili is not



provided with proper medical care, as if he was poisoned, as if he was tortured. It is not only the participants of this campaign, but even the European Parliament that adopted resolutions," Papuashvili said.

"We and the European Court of Human Rights share the same opinion that all of this is based on a lie. This is exactly what the Strasbourg Court stated, affirming that he is provided with all the necessary services and that he is, in fact, engaging in self-harm.

It is regrettable that all those who have touched upon the issue of Mikheil Saakashvili in this regard have brought shame upon Georgia and the European Parliament, which adopted resolutions based on misinformation. This also includes the president of Ukraine, who, instead of thanking the ambassador of Georgia - the only ambassador who remained in Kiev until the last moment, undeterred by Russian bombs, and who proudly waved the Georgian flag - chose to expel him from Ukraine without expressing gratitude.

Shame on the former ambassadors who are involved in this misinformation, shame on the current ambassadors in Georgia who sent a demarche to the Minister of Justice based entirely on lies," Papuashvili said.

## Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili Addresses Incident with Polish Doctors and Mikheil Saakashvili

By Liza Mchedlidze

In response to the incident involving Polish doctors during their visit to Mikheil Saakashvili, the Special Penitentiary Service released a statement highlighting the 'unusual' behavior exhibited by one of the doctors.

According to the statement, the doctor attempted to conceal a sample taken from Saakashvili by wrapping it in paper and hiding it in his shoe.

The statement emphasized that the service had granted the doctors permission to officially take the sample out, making the doctor's action even more perplexing and contrary to medical ethics and legal norms.

In light of the incident's significant public interest, the Special Penitentiary Service released the footage capturing the event. Additionally, they called on everyone to refrain from engaging in provocative and illegal actions.

The Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, expressed his strong disapproval of the recent incident, stating that it is truly disgraceful.

Gharibashvili mentioned the ongoing election campaign in Poland, saying that certain groups associated with Mikheil Saakashvili are spreading disinformation. He stated that the discussion around Saakashvili's imprisonment in the campaign is purely political.

The Prime Minister expressed disappointment over the alleged attempt to conceal samples taken from Saakashvili and emphasized the importance of transparency. He hinted that there might be underlying motives behind the incident and vowed not to let the issue mislead the public or international community.

"In this election campaign, the active discussion of Saakashvili's imprisonment suggests that it is purely a political issue for them, an internal matter driven by their excessive activity. I am personally aware of this through our Polish connections. While I won't go into specifics, it was also a gesture on our part, considering our commitment to transparency and having nothing to hide.

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.5771; Euro - 2.8910; GBP - 3.3778; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.8595; Swiss Franc - 2.9994

# Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili Addresses Incident with Polish Doctors and Mikheil Saakashvili

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We operate with complete

transparency in all aspects, and it is truly disgraceful what has occurred. It is concerning that

they themselves have discredited this process. When the footage was revealed yesterday, we felt

obligated to share it as they concealed the officially approved samples they had taken. This once again confirms the politicization of this issue.

Perhaps they had alternative intentions in mind. Only time will reveal the underlying motives behind hiding the samples. We will no longer allow anyone to confuse the public or mislead the international community on this matter," stated Gharibashvili.

Gharibashvili stated that prior to the incident, experts conducted thorough examinations and analyses, including additional research in Germany, which conclusively confirmed that there was no poisoning. He emphasized that the claims of poisoning are entirely false and asserted the need for this issue to be permanently resolved. Gharibashvili perceived the situation as yet another attempt to orchestrate a new dramatic scenario.

## The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

### Government's Effective Sanctions System Earns Appreciation from International Partners, Says Irakli Gharibashvili



Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili stated that the government received appreciation from the delegation consisting of representatives from the United States, Britain, and the European Union for establishing an effective system to prevent the misuse of the country for circumventing sanctions. He mentioned that the opposition appeared disappointed with this positive acknowledgment.

Gharibashvili emphasized that the government has been careful to engage only with companies and their owners who are not subject to sanctions and according to him, this approach has been a key factor in their success.

The Prime Minister stated that the recent visit by the international delegation demon-

strated the effectiveness of their policies in implementing sanctions and combating disinformation campaigns.

"We are making our best efforts to develop tourism in our country and attract more visitors. One of the key factors in our success is implementing the

right policy from the beginning. We have carefully selected companies and their owners who are not subject to sanctions, which

is of utmost importance.

A few weeks ago, a delegation consisting of representatives from the United States, Britain, and the European Union visited our country. They expressed their gratitude to the government for establishing an effective system, ensuring that our country is not being used to bypass sanctions. On the contrary, we are effectively implementing the policy.

Unfortunately, we have witnessed numerous disinformation campaigns, which have led to disappointment among our opposition representatives. This serves as further evidence of their lack of concern for the country, its image, and its reputation," stated Gharibashvili.

### Georgia Ready to Become NATO member, Says Shalva Papuashvili

Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, Shalva Papuashvili, stated that Georgia's army and state institutions fully comply with NATO standards. He em-

phasized that Georgia is ready to become a member of NATO, and any remaining reforms are merely 'excuses'.

Papuashvili expressed disappointment in the lack of readiness within NATO itself to make a decision.

Papuashvili highlighted that the attention at the NATO summit in Vilnius was primarily focused on Ukraine, and according to him, it was evident that Ukraine was dissatisfied with the outcome.

Papuashvili emphasized that Georgia is prepared and surpasses several NATO countries in various parameters, including the strength of state institutions and democracy.

Parliament Chairman asserted that the only remaining factor for Georgia's NATO membership is the 'political' decision of the NATO member states themselves.

"As for Georgia, it is fully prepared to become a member of NATO in every possible way, and any claims of pending reforms are merely excuses. Un-



fortunately, NATO itself lacks the necessary readiness to make a political decision.

The only remaining aspect is the political decision of the NATO member states themselves. The Georgian army, along with the Georgian state and its institutions, completely align with NATO standards.

If you compare and assess Georgia against any criteria, you will notice that it surpasses five, six, or even seven NATO countries in various aspects, such as the strength of state institutions and its commitment to democracy," stated Papuashvili.

## Georgia: EU and UNDP organise master class on street art and graffiti for youngsters from Lagodekhi and Kabali

On 12 July, the United Nations Development Programme together with the European Union in Georgia and Lagodekhi Municipality City Hall organised an art master class for children in Lagodekhi and Kabali.

Guided by the Georgian artist George Gamez, the activity brought together over 70 children and teenagers, to dive into the world of street art and graffiti.

Through their art, the schoolchildren expressed their views on the values of equality, inclusion, justice, independent living, trust, and dignity.

This master class was organised as part of the HumanRights4All project, aiming to foster a society where everyone's rights are respected and upheld.

(euneighbourseast.eu)



## Weather

Monday, July 17

Day ☀ Clear  
High: 28°C

Night 🌙 Clear  
Low: 15°C

Tuesday, July 18

Day ☀ Clear  
High: 29°C

Night 🌙 Clear  
Low: 17°C

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*On the occasion of the National Day of the French Republic, French Ambassador to Georgia H.E. Ms. Sheraz Gasri held a reception on July 14.*

















