

Polish President Andrzej Duda Reflecting on President Lech Kaczynski's Historic Speech 15 Years Later

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Polish President Andrzej Duda mentioned that it had been 15 years since President Lech Kaczynski delivered a historic speech in Tbilisi. This occurred precisely as Russian tanks were moving towards the capital of Georgia.

"Exactly three days ago, we marked the passage of 15 years since President Lech Kaczynski's momentous address in Tbilisi amidst the Russian aggression. This occurred precisely as Russian tanks were en route to the capital of Georgia. The valiant Polish president, along with other courageous leaders from our region, called upon the global community from the heart of Tbilisi to stand together and oppose Russia's imperialistic endeavors. He issued a warning: 'Today - Georgia, tomorrow - Ukraine, the day after - the Baltic countries, and then perhaps the time for my country, Poland.' These words remain deeply etched in our memory," expressed Duda during the ceremony commemorating Polish Army Day.

According to Duda, regrettably, Lech Kaczynski was met with mockery and disregard at the time, yet history ultimately vindicated his stance.

"Lech Kaczynski, my teacher,



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was a big supporter of further expansion of NATO to include Georgia and Ukraine, which

would ensure the security of our entire region. Unfortunately, he was not listened to them. He was

attacked, severely ridiculed, his ideas undermined, but he was right. History has proven this

and this is a lesson that every politician should learn from," said Duda.



'The Killers' and Black Sea Arena Issue Apologies Amid The Concert Controversy

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

On August 15th, during the US band The Killers' stadium concert at the Black Sea Arena, a wave of controversy unfolded as a Russian drummer was brought to the stage by the band, leading many attendees to exit the event. The lead singer's plea for Georgians to forge a sense of 'brotherhood and sisterhood' with Russians, despite ongoing issues such as Russia's occupation of 20 percent of the country and war crimes in Ukraine, stirred strong reactions among the audience.

Upon the revelation that the participant was Russian, the audience openly voiced their discontent. The mentioning of 'brotherhood' triggered opposition

and uproar from the crowd, yet the band persisted with their performance.

"We acknowledge our part in this matter and offer our heartfelt apologies," reads the statement from the Black Sea Arena in response to the incident.

As detailed in the statement, the artist's performance on stage does not reflect the stance of the Black Sea Arena.

"We understand the sentiments of our guests. The artist's appearance on stage does not represent the official position of the Black Sea Arena. We accept our share of responsibility, extend our sincere apologies, and present you the artist's statement concerning the incident.

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‘The Killers’ and Black Sea Arena Issue Apologies Amid The Concert Controversy

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It’s important to underline that Russia is the occupying force,” the statement emphasized.

The band itself issued an apology to the public for the incident through a statement, clarifying that their aim was not to ‘upset’ anyone.

“Good people of Georgia, it was never our intention to offend anyone! We have a longstanding tradition of inviting people to play drums and it seemed from the stage that the initial response from the crowd indicated that they were okay with tonight’s audience participation member coming onstage with us. We rec-

ognize that a comment, meant to suggest that all of The Killers’ audience and fans are ‘brothers and sisters’, could be misconstrued. We did not mean to upset anyone and we apologize. We stand with you and hope to return soon,” the statement reads.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Mikheil Sarjveladze Condemns NATO’s Stian Jenssen Statement as ‘Unacceptable’



Mikheil Sarjveladze, a Chairman of the Human Rights Committee, emphasized that the concept of territorial integrity for both Georgia and Ukraine is an irreplaceable idea. He shared this perspective while commenting on the statement from the

NATO Official Stian Jenssen, who suggested that Ukraine might potentially join the alliance in exchange for giving up the territory to Russia.

Sarjveladze underlined that the unanimous consensus is that neither Georgia nor Ukraine will tolerate the occupation of their territories, regardless of the circumstances.

“That’s why, when seeking solutions, it’s universally understood that Georgia, for instance, will never entertain any notion of compromising its territorial integrity. The same sentiment likely applies to Ukraine and its populace. Hence, anyone discussing the Euro-Atlantic integration of either Georgia or Ukraine must consider this standpoint. However, formulating proposals that imply a compromise in search of a resolution is unequivocally unacceptable,” Sarjveladze stated.

The Insider Alleges Poisoning of Journalists Who Left Russia in Various Countries, Including Georgia

Independent online newspaper The Insider has recently reported on alleged poisoning incidents targeting journalists and activ-

ists who have left Russia. The detailed investigative material suggests that these poisonings occurred in multiple European countries, including Georgia.

The individuals affected by these alleged poisonings include Elena Kostyuchenko from ‘Novaya gazeta’ and ‘Meduza’, Irina Babloyan from ‘Echo of Moscow’ and Natalya Arno, the head of ‘Free Russia’-

The Insider engaged various experts in its discussions, rang-

ing from chemical weapons specialists to numerous doctors from diverse fields.

According to the publication, in October of last year, journalist Elena Kostyuchenko, associated with both Novaya Gazeta and Meduza, fell victim to poisoning while in Munich. Just a week later, Irina Babloyan from Echo of Moscow visited Tbilisi, where she began to experience suspicious symptoms during her stay in Georgia.

Irina Babloyan’s visit to Tbilisi occurred in the middle of October where she stayed at the King Tamar hotel. On the evening of October 25, she started feeling unwell, waking up the following morning with dizziness and severe weakness.

The allegations of these poisonings have raised concerns and drawn attention to the safety of journalists and activists who have chosen to leave Russia.

THE INSIDER РАССЛЕДОВАНИЯ РЕПОРТАЖИ АНАЛИТИКА

USD 97.42 EUR 186.57 OIL 83.54 ПОДДЕРЖИТЕ НАС English

ПОЛИТИКА

Уже не «Новичок»: что известно о новой волне отравлений журналистов и активистов в Европе

The Insider 15 августа 2023

СОДЕРЖАНИЕ

- Елена Костюченко – отравление в Мюнхене
- Наталья Арно – отравление в Праге

В течение последнего года новая волна отравлений затронула уехавших из России журналистов и активистов, выяснил The Insider. В октябре в Мюнхене была отравлена журналистка «Новой газеты» и «Медузы» Елена Костюченко, человек спустя с практически идентичными симптомами

The European Union has, so far, sent 214 buses to Ukraine to safely transport Ukrainian children to schools.

Donations in the form of buses were made by eleven EU member states: France, Estonia, Spain, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Poland, Slovenia, Luxembourg, Austria, and the Czech Republic.

“We are also donating Euro 14 million to the procurement of school buses – 65 buses are on

EU procures 214 buses to safely transport Ukrainian children to school



the way, with more to come,” says a press release by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for EU Neighbourhood and Enlargement. “Safe access to education will give Ukrainian children a better future, develop their full potential and restore a sense of normality and safety.”

In November 2022, the EU launched a solidarity campaign to bring more buses to Ukraine.

The European Commission called on public and private entities in the EU and beyond to

join forces and show solidarity by donating buses that are essential to bringing Ukrainian children safely back to their schools.

Potential donors can still do that through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), which has been critical in channelling urgent support to Ukraine, including food, shelter, hospital equipment, ambulances, fire trucks, and much more.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Thursday, August 17

Day ☀ Clear
High: 34°C
Night 🌙 Clear
Low: 21°C

Friday, August 18

Day ☀ Clear
High: 34°C
Night 🌙 Clear
Low: 20°C

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