

## Chairman of Parliament Accuses U.S. of Hypocrisy Over ‘Defeating Putinism’ Conference

By Liza Mchedlidze

The international conference ‘Defeating Putinism’ took place in Tbilisi, with notable absence from members of the ruling Georgian Dream party, who cited the presence of ‘radical forces’ as their reason for not participating.

The Parliament Chairman Shalva Papuashvili leveled accusations against certain conference attendees from abroad, alleging that they have a history of “disseminating false information about Georgia, such as claims about sanctions evasion.”

Papuashvili referenced the ongoing legal proceedings against the former U.S. president as part of his argument and reiterated his accusation of American organizations practicing ‘double standards’.

“Since these organizers are American organizations — today, in America, there is a legal process against the former president based on the allegation that he spread disinformation about the alleged election fraud. The US organizations, namely the McCain and Bush Institutes, along with the Georgian organization, are the conference organizers. This conference includes speakers from European Georgia, who have been accused of spreading disinformation about the 2020 elections, claiming they were rigged, and who still refuse to acknowledge the legitimacy of those elections.

Therefore, these organizations are practicing double standards. On one hand, there is a legal process in their own



country against the former president for allegedly spreading election conspiracy theories, and on the other hand, they provide a platform in Georgia to the very same radical forces that propagate such conspiracy theories about Georgian elections,” said Papuashvili.

The Chairman accused the U.S. of a hypocritical approach to democracy. He pointed out that while the U.S. considers

spreading disinformation about its own elections a criminal offense, it funds the spotlight for those who, according to Papuashvili, are ‘disseminating’ false information about Georgian elections.

“There exists a double standard for democracy — one standard that appears to be applicable in the USA and another that they believe should be imposed in Georgia. On one hand, if they deem

spreading disinformation about U.S. elections to be a potential criminal offense, then in Georgia, those who disseminate false information about Georgian elections should not only face prosecution but also find support through funding from American taxpayers. This represents a hypocritical approach to democracy,” stated Papuashvili.

### The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

#### Mdinaradze: Impeachment Documents for President Salome Zourabichvili to be Prepared by September 6



Mamuka Mdinaradze, the executive secretary of the Georgian Dream party, has stated that the required documents to initiate the impeachment procedure

against President Salome Zourabichvili will be prepared by Wednesday, September 6.

“The preparation of the documents will be completed by Wednesday and will be submitted to the Committee on Procedural Issues, which, in turn, will check the authenticity of the sig-

natures. After that, we will submit these documents to the Constitutional Court for a relevant conclusion,” said Mdinaradze.

According to Mdinaradze, he

believes that Zourabichvili will not ‘yield to blackmail’ and pardon the third president of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili.

“Despite everything, there is a limit, and I don’t think Salome Zourabichvili will yield to blackmail and pardon Saakashvili solely because she is threatened with support for impeachment. This would constitute political self-destruction,” Mdinaradze said.

#### 67<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Georgia’s EU Integration Commission Held Under Chairmanship of Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili

The 67<sup>th</sup> meeting of Georgia’s EU Integration Commission was held under the chairmanship of Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili. According to the government’s press office, the meeting covered EU integration-related issues.

“The 6-month report on EU integration and the implementation of the Association Agreement — prepared with engage-

ment from various institutions — was presented at the meeting. It was noted that the country



has achieved considerable progress in this direction, which will be presented to European colleagues in the near future.

The meeting’s participants discussed the process of implementation of the EU recommendations. Steps to be taken in the near future were considered.

Within the scope of the commission, the systemic approach to the topic of de-oligarchization was discussed, which is being

implemented in line with the EU recommendation. It was decided to develop an action plan de-

signed to define steps compatible with the findings of the Venice Commission and the requirements of the European Union. It was noted that these steps will further bolster the implementation of the 12 recommendations and will comprehensively articulate the steps taken by Georgia prior to the development of the EU report,” reads the press statement.

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6248; Euro - 2.8356; GBP - 3.3177; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.7146; Swiss Franc - 2.9689

# Pawel Herczynski - we are talking about a big enlargement, which is also a challenge for the EU itself, for the first time we have a date proposal, 2030, I sincerely hope it will happen

Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia H.E. Pawel Herczynski hopes that Georgia will become a member of the European Union by 2030.

When asked by the First Channel of Georgia whether Georgia has a chance to become a member of the European Union by 2030, Herczynski said that he and his team are working tirelessly for this.

"I sincerely hope it will happen. That is why I am here and we are working tirelessly with the team to help the government deliver on the reforms, but we are also talking about the next government and possibly the one after that. So we, as the European Union, are here to help, facilitate, support as much as we can, although a lot depends on the Georgians themselves. It is important that everyone works



together. We need the country to be ready, compliant, so that it can receive all the benefits of future membership. On the other hand, you need 27 member states to be ready to accept new members, which is also very

difficult, because we are talking about several Eastern Partnership countries, namely Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova, and we are also talking about our partners from the Western Balkans, who have started this process

much earlier, 20 years ago.

As Herczynski explained, Charles Michel implied that the 27 EU member states need to be ready for the enlargement.

"Thus, we are talking about a major enlargement, which is also a challenge for the EU itself. This is why Charles Michel's speech was so important. It opens a discussion not only about the readiness of the candidate states, but also about the preparation of current members for enlargement. For the first time a date was proposed - 2030, seven years from now. I sincerely hope that this will happen, and I have my fingers crossed for Georgia."

"In my opinion, this is a really important speech. This is the vision and for the first time, a date was proposed. 2030 is a seven-year timeframe, which,

unlike previous European standards, is faster. It is the proposal of the President of the European Council to start a discussion. I think this is a very ambitious goal, but I am sure that if Georgia achieves certain changes, there will be full agreement from the current 27 member states. In this speech, Charles Michel meant that the 27 member states need to be ready for enlargement. So it is very good that the discussion is starting and the EU member states, we should be ready to make a decision. So, this is not a task only for the candidate countries, including Georgia, it is also our internal task for the EU members to make sure that in 2030, around this date, we can have another wave of enlargement", said Pawel Herczynski.

## Event

On August 24, the press conference of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary international festival "Night Serenades" was held at the Ilia Chavchavadze Professional State Drama Theater in Batumi.

The press conference was attended by Deputy Mayor of Batumi Sopho Khalvashi, Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Sports of Adjara Akaki Dzneladze, artistic director of "Night Serenades" festival German-based musician and

# "Night Serenades" Diary

teacher Giorgi Isakadze, director of the festival Nina Tsagareli, concertmaster of the "Georgian Virtuosi" and first violin Lela Mtchedlidze. Soprano Eilika Wunsch, tenor Riccardo Marinello, violinist Heyeoon Park and pianist Tamar Licheli.

Organizers and supporters talked about this year's festival

ditionally, Batumi City Hall is a supporter of the festival, and I want to wish it a lot of success, and I would like to wish it great success, because this year's musicians are really outstanding, and listeners are in for a great celebration."

Akaki Dzneladze, Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Sports of Adjara:

cultural space in recent years. It is necessary to support this festival, and I would like to emphasize if it is possible, but I will say - it is one of the best cultural festivals in Georgia in terms of its intellectuality. Great thanks to this festival".

Giorgi Issakadze, artistic director of the festival:

"The program of the festival, as

Conductor of the Orchestra Scarlatti Young Beatrice Venezi will perform famous Intermezzos and Overtures from Italian Operas. She will also perform Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with famous Georgian violinist and winner of the Wieniawski International Competition Veriko Tchumburidze. Laura Marzadori, concertmaster of La Scala orchestra, soloist and winner of international competitions, will present



program, invited artists, news and future plans.

Sopho Khalvashi, Deputy Mayor of Batumi:

"Throughout the years, "Night Serenades" has always been distinguished, it will be important for our Batumi this year as well. Tra-

Festival "Night Serenades" is important not only for Batumi, but for the whole Georgia, because I emphasize that Liana Issakadze is a brilliant musician, and Batumi-Tbilisi geography of Night Serenades is one of the most outstanding musical episode of the Georgian

usual, is very diverse and interesting. This year, we will host a number of world-renowned foreign and Georgian musicians:

Principal Guest Conductor of the Orchestra della Toscana, Principal Conductor of the Orchestra Milano Classica and Principal

Mozart's Violin Concertos. Piano recital will be held by Antti Siirala, winner of the international Beethoven competition, professor of the Hochschule für Musik und Theater München and one of the

CONTINUED ON Page 3

## Weather

Tuesday, September 5

Day Clear  
High: 33°C

Night Clear  
Low: 20°C

Wednesday, September 6

Day Clear  
High: 34°C

Night Clear  
Low: 20°C

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CONTINUED FROM Page 2

outstanding pianists of his generation.

Korean violinist Hyeyoon Park collaborating with Tamar Licheli will play works by Franck and Vaughan Williams, as well as Beethoven's Violin Concerto. The audience will also meet young Georgian musicians. The soloists will traditionally be accompanied by Festival Base Orchestra "GEORGIAN VIRTUOSI" (First violins Lela Mtchedlidze).

An amazing evening was presented to us by tenor Riccardo Marinello, winner of the German project "Das Supertalent" and the internationally renowned Georgian tenor Giorgi Oniani, who performed masterpieces of Italian opera and Neapolitan songs in Borjomi. I would like to mention the amazing performance of the world-famous German clarinetist Sabine Grofmeier.

Nina Tsagareli – Director of the festival:

We meet the fifteenth anniversary "Night Serenades" with important and joyful novelties. First of all, I would like to mention that our geographical area has expanded and Borjomi, a very important city for the history of the festival, has been added to the host cities. This year "Nigh Serenades" was solemnly opened with gala concert in Borjomi and then traditionally moved to the beautiful Batumi.

The second most important novelty is that the Georgian Philharmonic Orchestra has become the partner of the festival, which will hold one concert every year within the framework of the festival.

Along with 6 unforgettable evenings, master classes and workshops for music school students, students and people with disabili-

ties, as well as an exhibition of the artist Eka Abuladze, the first representative of Astro-Art and Art-Science in Georgia will traditionally be held as part of this year's Festival.

Ricardo Marinello – tenor  
"I'm very happy to be here. It's my first time in Batumi and I'm proud to offer my music to the audience of this festival. I'm Italian and I'll perform the masterpieces of vocal music such as "O Sole Mio" and the greatest aria "Nessun Dorma".

Eilika Wunsch – soprano:  
"I am the happiest that I am in Georgia and I will meet the audience in this beautiful theater. I will perform the most precious arias for me and I hope that the audience will enjoy it. Thank you Georgia for the invitation.

Heyeoon Park – violinist:



On August 25, the final evening of the Batumi series of "Night Serenades" was held at Iliia Chavchavadze Professional State Drama Theater in Batumi.

The participants of the concert were world renowned Korean violinist Heyeoon Park, famous Georgian pianist Tamar Licheli, Festival base orchestra "Georgian Virtuosi" (first violin Lela Mtchedlidze). The concert program included Ludwig van Beethoven's Violin Concerto in D major, Op.61 (arr. C. Hynde for Violin and String Orchestra), Liszt/Counoud's Waltz from Faust, Vaughan Williams's The Lark Ascending and Rachmaninov's Hungarian Dance from "Salon Pieces", Op.6 N2.

"Night Serenades" will move to Tbilisi from September 22 and will meet the classical music listeners at Tbilisi State Conservatoire Grand Hall.

Giorgi Issakadze:  
We are so happy. The first three concerts of the festival were held with great success. The concerts featured excellent musicians, soloists, and we had a very huge vocal and instrumental program. Participants of the evening performed an amazing violin concerto in D major of Ludwig van Beethoven, op. 61 (K. Hind's version for violin and string quintet) Franz Liszt / Charles Gounod's - Waltz from the opera "Faust", Ralph Vaughan Williams's - The Lark Ascending and Rachmaninoff's Hungarian Dance, from - "Salon Pieces".

Our festival will continue in Tbilisi - on September 22, 23 and 24 we will meet listeners in the capital. The festival evenings will be held in the Vano Sarajishvili Tbilisi State Conservatoire Grand Hall, where fabulous artists will appear before the public.

Tamar Licheli:  
It is the happiest day. "Night Serenades" returned to Batumi

again with its amazing evenings. I am very glad to be a part of this festival. It is very pleasant to meet with listeners and talented participants. Our concert was held with great success and I would like to thank the organizers of the festival for giving a real musical celebration to music lovers every year.

Heyeoon Park:  
I am the happiest to have played with the wonderful Georgian pia-

nist Tamar Licheli. I performed works by Rachmaninoff and Williams and I hope the listeners enjoyed it. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this festival.

Lela Mtchedlidze:  
I am the happiest that I'm a part of the "Night Serenades", which was founded by the legendary Liana Issakadze. This festival is continued by the representative of the Issakadze family - Giorgi Issakadze. I am happy that the most precious festival is not lost and continues and develops. In addition to the fact that we had amazing soloists - Heyeoon Park and Tamar Licheli, we as a quintet, of "Georgian virtuosi", presented the most difficult program, with a new version of Beethoven's violin concerto.

The founder of the festival is the world-famous violinist and conductor Liana Issakadze, the artistic director - German-based musician and teacher Giorgi Isakadze.

Night Serenades" is an international festival with the longest history in Georgia, which has been ex-

"I am looking forward to the meeting with the audience, it's great pleasure and I want to show my abilities as much as possible - to play my best. I will play with Tamar Licheli. She is a talented pianist and I am glad that I had the opportunity to work with her. I love Georgia, the weather is good, and the mood is also..."

We would like to remind you that this year's international classical music festival "Night Serenades" is being held for the fifteenth time. The festival is hosted by three cities: Borjomi, Batumi and Tbilisi. Traditionally, at the concerts of "Night Serenades" world-famous musicians will perform works by famous composers.

The founder of the festival is the world famous violinist and conductor Liana Isáakadze, the artistic director German-based Georgian

musician and teacher Giorgi Issakadze.

On August 24 at 20:40 the concert was broadcasted live on Adjara Public Broadcaster.

- Program:
- César Franck – Sonata for violin and piano in A major
  - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - Exsultate, jubilate, K 165
  - Ernesto De Curtis - Torna surriento
  - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – *Il re pastore* - *L'amerò*, sarò costante
  - Emmerich Kálmán - *Die Csárdásfürstin* - Tanzen möcht' ich
  - Giuseppe Verdi – *Rigoletto* - La donna è mobile
  - Franz Lehar - *Die lustige Witwe* - Lippen schweigen
  - Giacomo Puccini - *Turandot* - Nessun Dorma
  - Eduardo di Capua - O sole mio
  - Giuseppe Verdi - *La Traviata* - Sempre libera

istry of Education, Culture and Sports of Adjara, Batumi City Hall, Tbilisi City Hall, Borjomi City Hall, Embassy of Italy, Embassy of Germany.

Hosts: Hotel Borjomi Likani, Hilton garden Inn Tbilisi.

Partners: Georgian Philharmonic Orchestra. Iliia Chavchavadze Professional State Drama Theater, furniture house "Nita" - best guarantee of quality and design, perfumery store chain "Lutecia", Yves Rocher, the founder of herbal cosmetics from France, Company "Sarajishvili", Brothers Khutsishvili Wine Cellar, HOTSAL.E.GE, "PSP" pharmacy.

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XV საერთაშორისო ფესტივალი  
XV INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

დაპირისპირებული  
სპირიტუალიზმი  
NIGHT-SERENADES

ART  
საყურადღებო

ფესტივალის დაარსებელი  
ლიანა ისაკაძე  
FOUNDER OF THE FESTIVAL  
LIANA ISSAKADZE

საერთაშორისო ხელმძღვანელი  
გიორგი ისაკაძე  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
GIORGI ISSAKADZE

**AUGUST 22, BORJOMI**  
Hotel BORJOMI LIKANI

**AUGUST 24-25, BATUMI**  
Iliia Chavchavadze Professional State  
DRAMA THEATER

**SEPTEMBER 22-23-24, TBILISI**  
Tbilisi State  
CONSERVATOIRE, GRAND HALL

Festival Base Orchestra  
**GEORGIAN VIRTUOSI**  
**GEORGIAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**

**19:00**

**20:00**