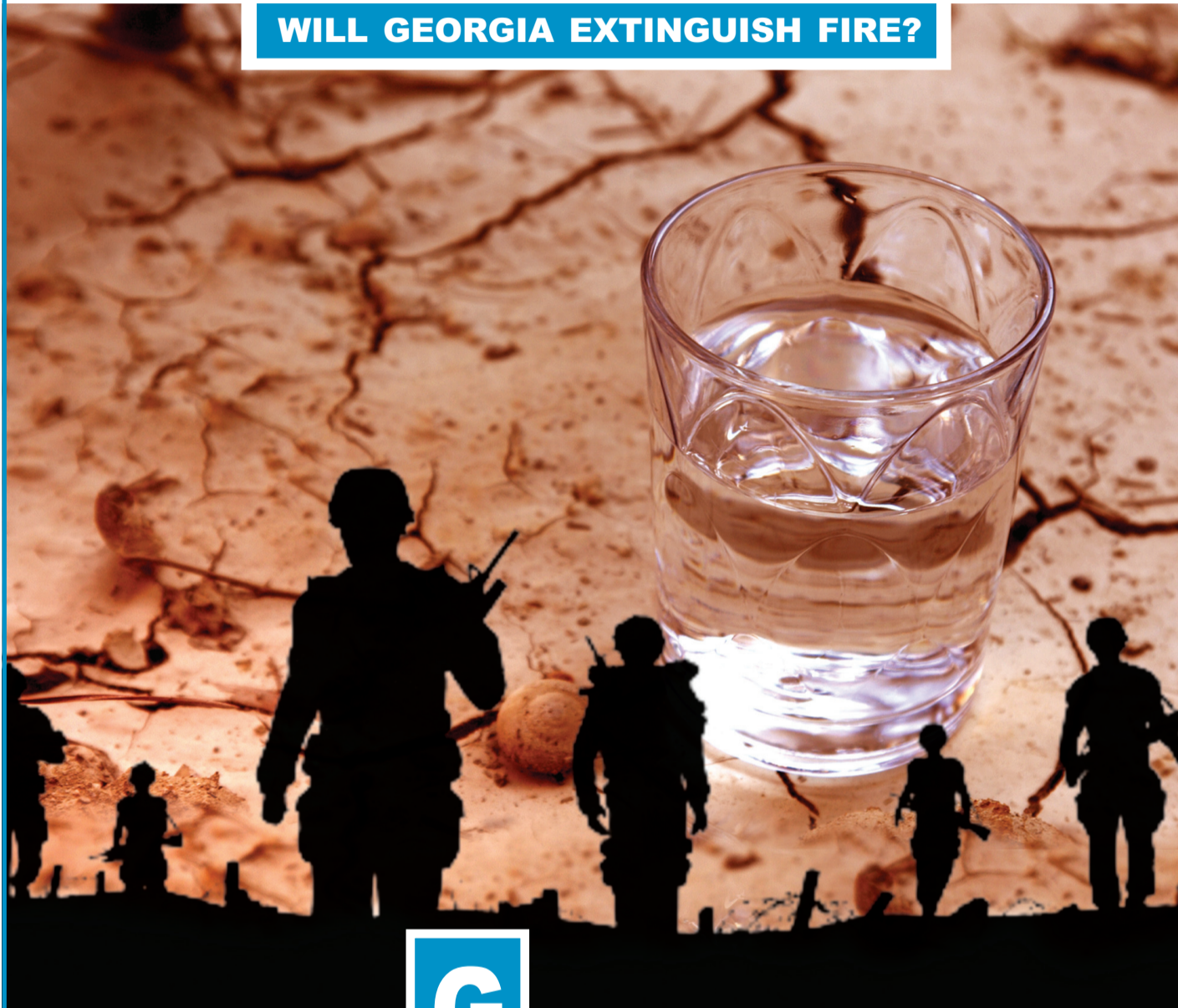




WHEN WATER WARS COME... WILL GEORGIA EXTINGUISH FIRE?



In XXI century humankind will fight for water, not oil

Ground water reserves of Georgia exceed 6.5 cubic meters per 24 hours, i.e. 2.3 billion cubic meters annually. These sources meet all the EU and WHO strict chemical standards head on. Interestingly, only Bulachauri and Natakhartari basins are being partially exploited today. According to reports, the acute potable water deficit experienced by the EU will amount to 120 million cubic meters of fresh water, only 5% of the Georgia's fresh water reserves!

See p. 3

EXCLUSIVE

PHILIP DIMITROV: "STOP TELLING US THAT YOU MAY FAIL"



"Stop convincing world that all your achievements were a lie"

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EXCLUSIVE

WHAT WILL GEORGIA BRING TO EU MARKET?



"We should not expect the EU production to suffocate us"

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THREATS OF UNCONTROLLED MIGRATION

From 1 September the Emigration Service will get interested in people illegally living in Georgia

See p. 8

BYRON & GEORGIA AND GEORGIA & EU

NUGZAR B. RUHADZE

Georgia will find its deserved place among the friendly nations of Europe



See p. 2

"BACK FROM USSR" – DOES CHINAWOMAN OWE GEORGIANS AN APOLOGY?

See p. 14



WHAT IS THE PRIORITY – DEFENSE OF GEORGIA OR PROTECTION OF AFGHANS AND AFRICANS?

Why should we send 150 militaries, included in the EU mission, to Central African Republic when the EU member Estonia has only 45 men there?

Why should we have 1600 militaries in Afghanistan while the NATO member Turkey has only 450 men there, Czech Republic – 250, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania taken together – less than 150?!

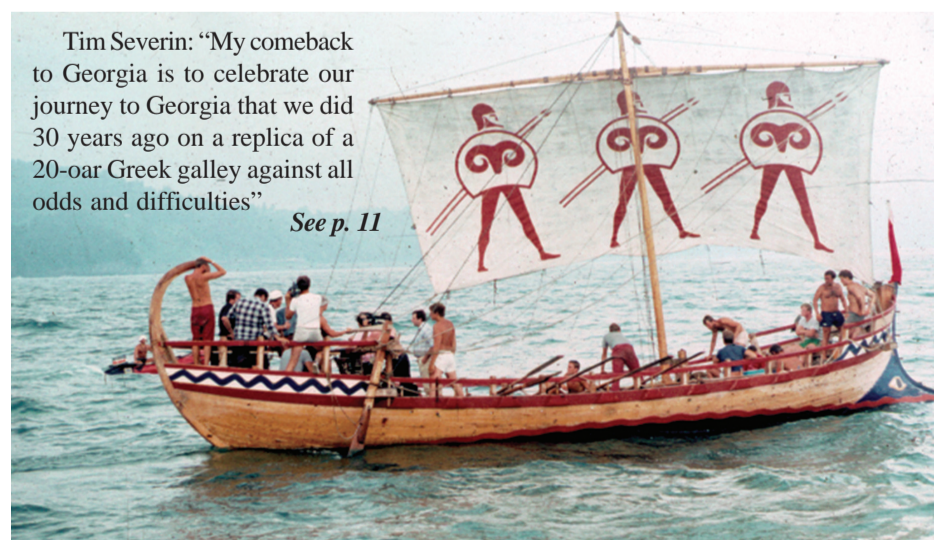
See p. 8

ARGO 2014 – REVIVAL OF LEGEND 30 YEARS LATER

Modern Argo was built without any nail

Tim Severin: "My comeback to Georgia is to celebrate our journey to Georgia that we did 30 years ago on a replica of a 20-oar Greek galley against all odds and difficulties"

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Comment

Continued from p. 1

BYRON & GEORGIA AND GEORGIA & EU



A couple of months ago, during one of my occasional television appearances, I mentioned that we are the eaters of benches, used by exhausted pedestrians for a momentary rest in the street. What I meant was our habit to break

those speechless and motionless innocent benches along the sidewalks of our Rustaveli Avenue into pieces which are happily utilized by all of us to make our stroll along our people's beloved central street more pleasurable. And forthwith, I had an interactive telephone call from an overexcited viewer, who definitely sounded very angry at me for diminishing the culture of a nation of an ancient civilization. Well, I felt like jumping at the throat of this ultra-nationalist flag waver, who is thoughtlessly pushing his "beloved" Georgia over the edge of precipice, from where there is no way to return. I am sure he is also confident that Georgia has long deserved to be a full member of the European Union, the associate member of which we could hardly become the other day, and God knows for how long we will have to be in line for real membership. Indeed, Georgia is a nation of an aged and appreciable culture – nobody is denying that – but we are also the people of a contemporary culture and behavior that leave a lot to desire. Take for instance the selfsame bench-eating syndrome of ours, or our men's unabashed penchant to get ahead of line over the fragile bodies of the weaker sex, or the savage way we are driving or parking our incongruently expensive and sleek cars, or our aggressive habit of being loudly argumentative without any reason, or our proclivity to be spitting around in the streets and letting our pets mess around without even having a clue that we are responsible for cleaning up the horrible mess after the animals who we often resemble in demeanor. The list of these uncivilized patterns of behavior in this country may continue interminably, but let me save some ink for what I think is more significant to dwell upon. Please make no mistake – the only serious reason for mentioning our bad points in this high-minded context is my desire to let you know that I am very much conscious of what makes us look crude and vulgar – I am just preempting your criticism! While attacking my own nation so bitterly, I cannot help paying it the dues when it comes to our people's talent and intellect. The freshest example of Georgia's closeness to western civilization is the recent International Byron Conference, held in Tbilisi, which was a genuine triumph of our national competence to skillfully and rightfully handle the pinnacles of the world's highest ideals. As Lord Byron would have noticed himself, the famous Byronic call for action is in full swing and appliance in Georgia, meaning that our people's intelligence and gift of perception of the depths of European culture, philosophy and literature is undoubtedly present and witnessed accordingly. So we have what to export to Europe! When the skeptics are becoming doubtful of our capacity of membership in the European Union because of our current lack of qualitative products and the absence of manners in public, they might have some reasons to be

doubtful, which is not a catastrophe at all to my mind. The Euro-standard production can easily be taken care of via hard work and readiness to use our natural acumen to do good business. And manners could also be learnt by following a refined example, displayed by Europeans. It is much, much more important that we have enough intellectual and spiritual power to know, recognize and put in action all what the eminent English poet and the hero of all time George Gordon Byron has bequeathed to civilization. To produce high-standard goods, compatible with the European markets, is just a matter of fair commercial play and dedicated labor, but the real ticket to the European Family of highly advanced nations is in our readiness and ability to be part of Byronic ideals. When I mention Byron, I certainly mean more than just the poet Byron. I am using the name of this great Englishman as a symbol of lofty human ideals, part of which the genius of the Georgian people had become even in times of Byron, having translated and learnt well his gigantic legacy. Hence my openly daring and self-confident thoughts about Georgia's political and economic destination, called the European Union. To reiterate clearer, high-standard goods might need years to be produced, but being the natural part of Byronic legacy has probably taken centuries. Incidentally, the fruits of the early medieval oriental renaissance, based on the genius of Georgia's national pride and conscience Shota Rustaveli, is also a wonderful product to be intensively exported to Europe, which can also learn much from Georgia. And again, I do not want Europe and the rest of the world to think that we are headed for Euro-Union empty-handed. We will soon and easily kill all our bad and embarrassing habits and manners and make for Euro-union, loaded with European – Platonic, Aristotelian, Shakespearian, Voltaire-

■ We have what to export to Europe!

an and Byronic thoughts and reflections. Georgia even has its own Byron – Galaktion Tabidze – the shining poetic eminence among the greatest magicians of verse of all times and peoples. We have already exported this Georgian genius of poesy to Europe. In an outstandingly compatible and masterful poetic translation of Tabidze by the Georgian professor Innes Merabishvili, the book of Galaktion's poems was given to Great Britain to read and enjoy. This was our best export to Europe so far. And much more is coming up! It was Innes Merabishvili who made the Byron International Conference a life-size consummated possibility here in Tbilisi, enthusiastically supported by the direct descendents of Lord Byron. Success of the Byron Conference is a powerful signal to the world and the sign that Georgia will find its deserved place among the friendly nations of Europe in every imaginable and anticipated respect – the bad of the civilization, which Georgia has always been, is and will forever be the recognized member of. What is propelling us forcefully to Europe in the first place is our relevant mentality and the strength of our intellect as well as our longtime communion with the old continent. With minor repairs and improvements, with the help of our western friends and with our own unmitigated efforts, we will soon be there. Fulltime!

■ Former Tbilisi Mayor Ugulava

The court has not satisfied the motion of the Prosecutor's Office regarding former Tbilisi mayor Gigi Ugulava. Accordingly, Ugulava will not face any legal action. The Prosecutor's Office was demanding Gigi Ugulava to be held on 50,000 GEL bail and confiscation of his passport and identi-



ty card. The Court addressed the Prosecutor's Office with a petition on July 1. Ugulava faces charges with regard to the agreement signed between the Government of Tbilisi and City Park.

■ Bacho Akhalaia indicted with new charges

The Office of the Chief Prosecutor has released a statement about the indictment of Bacho Akhalaia. "Today, Office of the Chief Prosecutor of Georgia brought charges against the former Minister of Defence of Georgia Bachana Akhalaia regarding organization of sexual violence and abuse of official power in the publicly well-known case of the death of Sergo Tetradze.

Investigation revealed that in order to get the name of a successful manager, the Minister of Defence Bachana Akhalaia together with the Deputy Head of the Military Police Department and the Director of #8 Correction Facility Alexandre Mukhadze decided to obtain confessions by torturing innocent citizens, and to disseminate these testimonies through mass media, as if they had identified the so-called 'espionage' group.

In September 2011, in the building of the Military Police Department, Bachana Akhalaia, Megis Kardava, Alexandre Mukhadze and several officers of the Military Police were continuously beating and humiliating officer of Ministry of Defence of Georgia, Lieutenant-Colonel Davit Londaridze, Reserve Colonel Sergo Tetradze and citizens Sergey Chapling and Giorgi Gorelashvili over a period of 4-5 hours in order to obtain a confession of espionage. In order to get the next confession, Megis Kardava, together with the officers of the Military Police, with the consent of Bachana Akhalaia, was physically and verbally abusing Giorgi Gorelashvili throughout the

whole day. Having made sure that Giorgi Gorelashvili was not confessing to a crime he had not committed, they transferred him to the temporary detention isolator as accused of espionage.

Also, in order to obtain a confession, they inflicted severe physical and moral torment on Sergo Tetradze, they put polyethylene bag over his head and did not let them breathe. Sergo Tetradze, despite the severe physical violence against him, didn't admit to being guilty of the crime.

For this reason, Bachana Akhalaia and Megis Kardava organized Sergo Tetradze's further torture and sexual violence, as a result, on 23 September 2011, according to Bachana Akhalaia's plan, the prisoners in #8 prison Aleksis Terashvili and Tamaz Sisauroi carried out sexual violence against Sergo Tetradze in prison.

Sergo Tetradze became ill as a result of the mentioned sexual violence inflicted on him and died."

Imprisoned Bacho Akhalaia has released an address about the charges brought against him.

"I want to address not criminals, but healthy patriots! Dear friends, this charge against me is not true like all the others. The important thing is that today Russia is fight-



ing against Georgia through Ivanishvili. Georgia's independence and freedom are at stake. Despite the fact that Russia is exerting unprecedented pressure on the court through Ivanishvili, we still have to fight for the fate of Georgia," says Akhalaia in his address.

■ "In a way, signing of the EU Association Agreement is declaration of independence" – Richard Norland

Ambassador the United States to Georgia Richard Norland commented about the signing of EU Association Agreement at the event dedicated to the US Independence Day. As the Ambassador said, the USA is celebrating the 238th anniversary of the declaration of independence. "It has been a very important week for Georgia too. In a way the signing of the EU Association Agreement is declaration of independence again by Georgia," said Richard Norland. He said that Georgia has reaffirmed its right to choose its economic and security partnerships in the region and this is something the United States is going to continue supporting strongly.

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WHEN WATER WARS COME...

BY EKA LOMIDZE

“Planet Earth on Standby for Water Wars”

Most of the people living south of Sahara drink water directly from pits alongside wild animals. Every fifth resident of the developing world is dreaming of clean, potable water. According to statistics, over two billion people in the world suffer from water deficit. The UN data as of December 2006 shows that 39 countries have import water from abroad to meet the growing demands. Among them are Azerbaijan, Latvia, Slovakia, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Croatia, Israel, Moldova, Romania and Turkmenistan. The same UN report notes that water scarcity and unequal distribution may enkindle conflicts and even wars between countries.

Five thousand years ago, when the Sumerian civilization was springing up in the Euphrates River valley, water wars were already underway, first of such wars in the history of the humankind. And the danger is still there today.

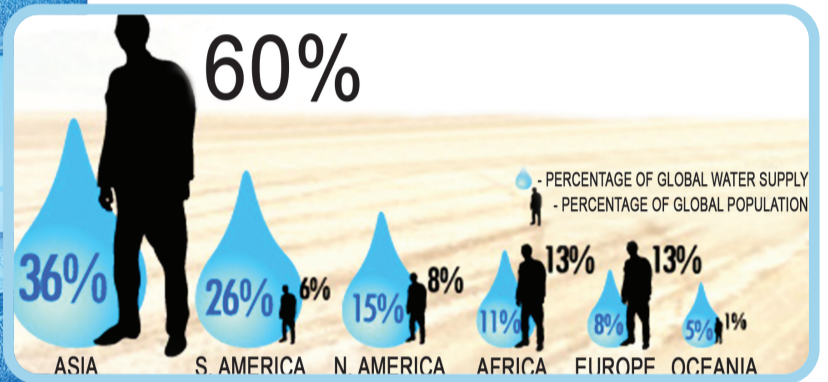
Gia Kuchava, political expert:

– Several years ago, at the summit of Asia-Pacific Ocean countries dedicated to the fresh water problem the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon uttered an ominous warning: “The Earth is on the verge of a water war.” The threat of water wars had been pointed out as early as in 1995 when Ismail Seraheldin – Vice-President of International Bank for Reconstruction and Development– stated that in XXI century mankind will fight for water, not oil. Politicians cannot put water resources under sovereign

WILL GEORGIA EXTINGUISH FIRE?

■ **Ban ki-Moon:**
“The Earth is on the verge of water war”

■ **Where the water war may start? – Most likely in Central Asia**



control because most sizeable rivers run through more than one state. Hence, leaders of these states can claim that “their neighbour drank all the water.”

According to the UN, water for 47% of World land area, excluding the Antarctic continent, is supplied by rivers which belong to

BLUE GOLD

THE WAR OVER YOUR WATER IS ABOUT TO BEGIN

two or more states simultaneously. Constant fresh water deficit is a reality for Israel, Lebanon, Jordan. So, Israel imposed a strict control and quotas on water use, unnerving the Arab world.

Continued on p. 7

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PHILIP DIMITROV: "STOP TELLING US THAT YOU MAY FAIL"

BY MAKA LOMADZE

After four years of negotiations and 22 years of cooperation, Georgia took the first very important step – on 27 June, together with Ukraine and Moldova, we signed the Association Agreement with European Union. Georgian Journal was privileged to have an exclusive interview with Philip Dimitrov, Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union to Georgia.



Philip Dimitrov, Head of EU Delegation to Georgia

G.J: Georgia signed AA and DCFTA. Local and foreign politicians and diplomats say that this is a first and the very important step towards full EU membership. Do you share their enthusiasm?

P.D: The AA is a historical step for Georgia. It is a recognition that you have indeed gone a long way forward. This a new gener-

■ **"Stop convincing world that all your achievements were a lie"**

ation agreement that gives Georgia a lot more than the Association agreements did years ago. But as you know, whether when and how you can join the EU is not mentioned in it.

G.J: There are countries, most notably, Turkey (1963), which signed the AA, but never managed to become member states. Do you think that could happen in Geor-

gia's case as well due to circumstances that are not dependent on us, i.e. the factor of Russia?

P.D: I think that you must search not for status but for sensible results. What if we don't make it? I am sure you can make it. And the obstacles put on your way should only strengthen your determination. So, stop telling us that you may fail.

G.J: A lot of work is ahead to raise the awareness of public. As our Speaker of the Parliament put it on 27 June, "Europe is not an earthly heaven, nothing will change overnight and we should disperse these illusions". What levers do you see – how can we provide the society with the correct image of the EU, free from myths and stereotypes?

P.D: Of course, being in Europe is not like being in Heaven. First of all, that would require dying and we wouldn't want that now, would we? On a serious note though, people usually are not easily satisfied. In 2003, Georgia was in very bad shape, both

economically and socially. What Georgia has achieved in ten years is amazing and admirable. Reforms per se don't make people happy. Because of the reforms you have done, are and will be doing, doors are now opening for you. You have to step in – with your efforts and industriousness. But we know by experience – once these doors are open, the quality of life in every such country starts to increase conspicuously.

G.J: There were a lot of success stories during the rule of Saakashvili as well as problems. You have been Ambassador here for almost four years and also have impressions from much earlier time. As a foreign diplomat, what do you think were the weakest points of the Saakashvili's rule? What are the strongest and weakest points of the present government and what about its achievements and maybe, drawbacks?

P.D: Reforms are a painful thing. We raise monuments to individual heroes but in fact people have to endure a lot in the effort to make a country better for their children. I am not here to make a beauty contest or give

understand that the European way – with all its bumps and problems - is their own way.

G.J: In case if Russia imposes sanctions towards us – be it economic blockade or, in the worst case, the military aggression - what levers does EU have to help Georgia?

P.D: The only new thing I can say is the quotation of President van Rompuy who said that now you will see the European Union standing by your side more than ever.

■ **"Because of the reforms you have done, are and will be doing, doors are now opening for you"**

G.J: Almost all the member countries have first of all entered NATO and then the EU. Are these two processes so strongly interlinked and does it also mean that we too will first have to enter NATO and then the EU?

P.D: I do believe that these processes are linked but not necessarily in such a rigid fashion. The important thing is not to give up on them. When and how your goals will be achieved is another matter.



Georgia signs the Association Agreement with European Union

marks to students. I congratulate PM Gharibashvili and all his team for this historical Georgian achievement. And naturally I congratulate President Saakashvili, and all his team whose role for making this day possible is beyond any doubt. But above all I congratulate the Georgian people who do not buy cheap threats or temptations and

G.J: Nevertheless, there are countries which are skeptically disposed towards Georgia. What does Georgia lack in order to convince everybody that we are really Europeans?

P.D: Stop trying to convince the world that all your achievements were a lie – this might help.

AN OFFER YOU CANNOT REFUSE - CHIEF EU NEGOTIATOR GORDADZE TELLS A STORY

Tornike Gordadze, chief negotiator in association agreement with the EU:

I remember one story when I think about this agreement. I am neither emotional nor romantic but I would like to tell you the story.

"In June 2010, by the time when I have already spent 20 years in France, I receive an offer to return to Georgia as the chief negotiator of the Association Agreement. My heart wants to accept the offer but I thought in this case my French career would be upside down, etc... I am at my former professor, Pier Hassner, 80 and tell him about this offer before I leave. I thought he will advise me to say no, as he is a true academic and does not like politics. But he turns to me and says: "I was 15 year old when I left

Romania, as it was impossible to live there (because of Soviet Union). Today I am 80 and have many achievements, the world have recognized me, I am a professor in the best universities but I still regret that I have done nothing for my country which suffered from communists for 45 years. Don't reject the offer or you will regret it after." Then he added: "We have a Czech colleague, who wanted to become a politician but I did not advise him to do it." Then I asked why he did not do the same in my case. He answered: "Czech Republic is fine, it is the NATO and EU member and Georgia has a transitional period, go and struggle... I do not know what will I regret at the age of 80 but I would like to thank Pier and the people who trusted me, worked with me and did a very important thing for the country."



Tornike Gordadze

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FORMER TBILISI MAYOR UGULAVA FACING 7 TO 11 YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT

BY LALI PAPASKIRI

A court case was opened against Gigi Ugulava, chief of United National Movement's election headquarters and former mayor of Tbilisi, on charges of embezzlement of a large sum of money from the state budget.

The case concerns a contract signed on 7 December 2007 between parking regulation body CT Park and the Tbilisi's City Hall. Ministry of Finance declares that Ugulava was purposefully ignorant of misappropriation of 1,086,718 GEL that belonged to the state.

If the Ugulava's guilt is proven, former mayor of Tbilisi risks getting behind the bars for 7 to 11 years ...

Members of United National Movement, however, think that actions of the current government are nothing short of a vendetta against them. As Ugulava himself declared, "Georgia does not have selective justice; it has cynical justice, the roots of which stem from a single man, whose name is Bidzina Ivanishvili."

Goga Khachidze, MP from United National Movement:

– These accusations are laughable because actions Ugulava is being incriminated with cannot occur without City Hall's Legal Services team and subsequent examination by Ministry of Justice... Ugulava has nothing to do with this.

The government has huge problems with getting Narmania elected, and to cover this



Goga Khachidze

■ **"In a country ruled by some obscure ichthyologist with Gharibashvili as a Prime Minister, not even Lela Kakulia will be able to guess what happens tomorrow"**

up, they open court cases against the chief of their main rival's election headquarters.

– According to Ministry of Finance's Investigative Services, he planned on leaving the country...

– You know, Ugulava never had problems with leaving the country; neither does he have them now. He often had business visits to foreign countries and whenever he needed to travel abroad, he somehow managed. And now let me give you an example – Can you imagine

the scope of the scandal had we opened a court case against Ivanishvili or Gharibashvili during the 2012 elections?..

– How do you think the events will unfold?

– In a country ruled by some obscure ichthyologist who busies himself with breeding sharks and zebras, and Gharibashvili as a Prime Minister, not even the fortune-telling lady Lela Kakulia will be able to guess what happens tomorrow.

"Ah, so now you no longer like Koba Bekauri's testimony, do you?" – such was the response published by journalist Shalva Ramishvili on his Facebook page to Gigi Ugulava's ironic statement about the main witness in his case being a corrupt politician Koba Bekauri...

– All this talk about Bekauri being trust-



Shalva Ramishvili

■ **"Ah, so now you no longer like Koba Bekauri's testimony, do you?"**

worthy or untrustworthy is nothing but a shameless impunity by the National Movement and namely Ugulava. Ugulava was the one who set me up with Bekauri's help, which resulted in me spending years in jail. It was Ugulava who installed cameras in the Bekauri's office and then removed him from his post after the provocation that was played upon me. Therefore, it blows my mind to hear from the likes of him about Bekauri being untrustworthy... Personally I forgave Bekauri for everything because I know that wrongs he has done was not by his own will. Saakashvili, Merabishvili and Ugulava stood behind his back at that time...

Zaza Papuashvili, MP from Georgian Dream:

– I want to bring good news to the "Nationals" by saying that many of them will share the Ugulava's fate, by which I imply court cases. Hearing them talk about injustice, morals and conscience is mind-boggling, since they possess none of these traits... Their complaints are nothing but squealing and whining of the defeated people. I understand them, it is hard to get used to such a state but they'll have to.



Zaza Papuashvili

■ **"I want to bring good news to Nationals by telling them that many of them will share Ugulava's fate"**

WHEN WATER WARS COME...

Continued from p. 3

Where the water war may start? – Most likely in Central Asia. Many experts point this out, and even name potential adversaries – Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The Uzbek President Islam Karimov stated openly that a water war can be in the offing.

Georgia – Land of Rivers

It can be said that Georgia is in a much better position because of its considerable natural resources and huge energy potential. In terms of “the white coal” reserves, Georgia is richer than Switzerland, Austria and other European countries where HPPs are a leading source of electricity. As for relative power, Georgia is a champion among European countries by potential energy per square kilometer.

Georgia is rich in thermal resources too. Currently they are used for therapy and rehabilitation only. According to specialists, deep wells reaching artesian basins (up to 2500 meters in depth) can deliver the heat equivalent of many thousand tons of coal.

Georgia has immense resources of fresh and mineral water and uses less than one per cent of them currently. Georgian deep earth fresh water is characterized with extraordinary chemical composition (bicarbonate-chlorine waters with magnesium deficit) and bacterial purity. Thanks to all these factors, Georgia will not have to engage in water wars. Yet, as a



wealth, water poses extra threats (given the country’s location) to our country as many outside forces would seek to put us under their control.

Georgia – Aquarius of the world

The programme of Georgia’s social-economic development was

the lead in the solution of global water issue. Considering the processes that are underway in the world, the time is nigh when fresh water would become the most precious and sought after commodity. Irrevocable changes, shallowing water basins in Europe, population and hence water demand

Georgia has immense resources of fresh and mineral water and uses less than one per cent of them currently.

tabled as early as in the Shevardnadze’s era, in the first years of 21st century. The programme prioritized development of potable water business.

“The Georgian State can claim

growth, climate change, catastrophic drop in precipitation, coupled with an already raging potable water deficit (from 5% for the central Europe to 25% for the southern Europe and Mediterra-



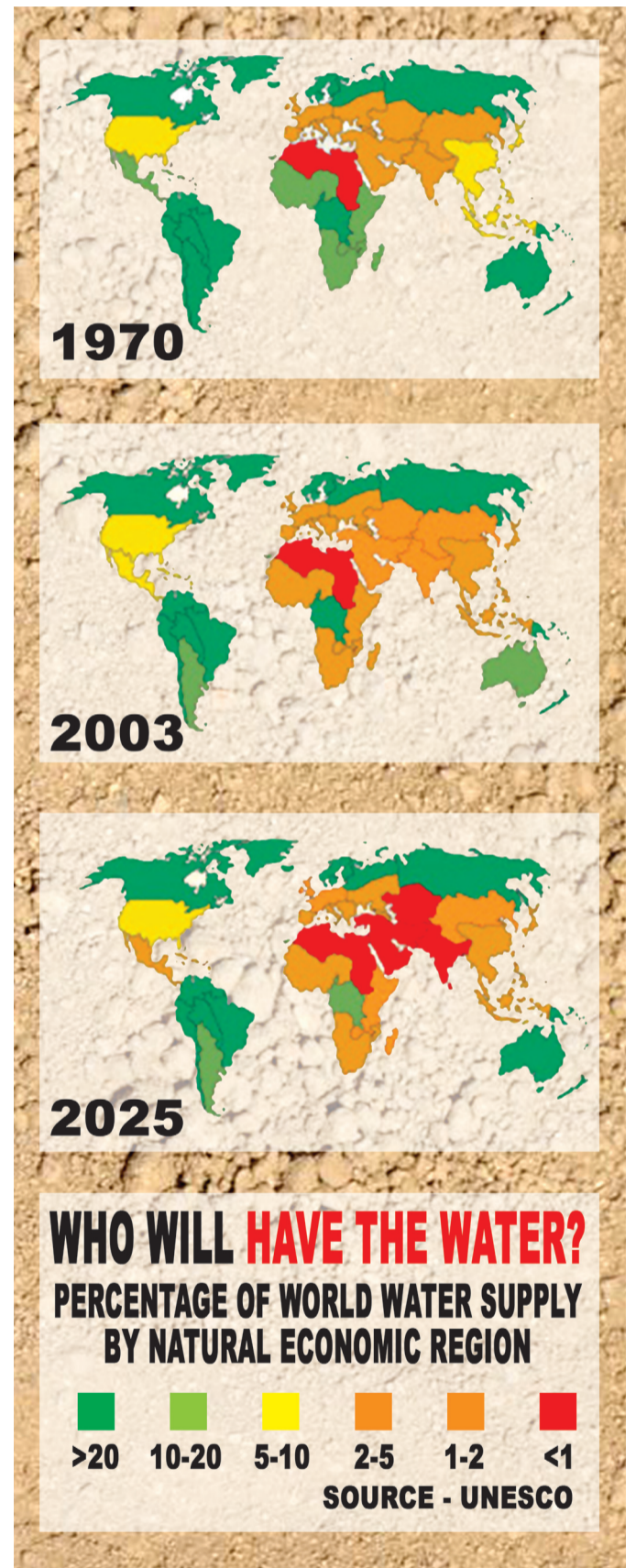
Ground water reserves of Georgia exceed 6.5 cubic meters per 24 hours, i.e. 2.3 billion cubic meters annually. These sources meet all the EU and WHO strict chemical standards head on. Interestingly, only Bulachauri and Natakhtari basins are being partially exploited today. According to reports, the acute potable water deficit experienced by the EU will amount to 120 million cubic meters of fresh water, only 5% of the Georgia’s fresh water reserves!

WILL GEORGIA EXTINGUISH FIRE?

In XXI century humankind will fight for water, not oil

sustainable supply of quality water or will have to deal with the mass deterioration of population health conditions by 2020-2025,” reads the document. So far, nothing has been done to change the status quo...

Ground water reserves of Georgia exceed 6.5 cubic meters per 24 hours, i.e. 2.3 billion cubic meters annually. These sources meet all



nean belt), usher in water apocalypse.

By 2025, the potable water deficit will engulf entire Europe. Today already, 80% of the Europe’s population is supplied with surface waters, which do not meet basic chemical and bacteriological, as well as purity level standards set for potable water.

Either Europe finds the way out of this conundrum and establishes

the EU and WHO strict chemical standards head on. Interestingly, only Bulachauri and Natakhtari basins are being partially exploited today. According to reports, the acute potable water deficit experienced by the EU will amount to 120 million cubic meters of fresh water, only 5% of the Georgia’s fresh water reserves!

Infographics courtesy of www.princeton.edu

WHAT IS THE PRIORITY – DEFENSE OF GEORGIA OR PROTECTION OF AFGHANS AND AFRICANS?

BY IRAKLI ALADASHVILI

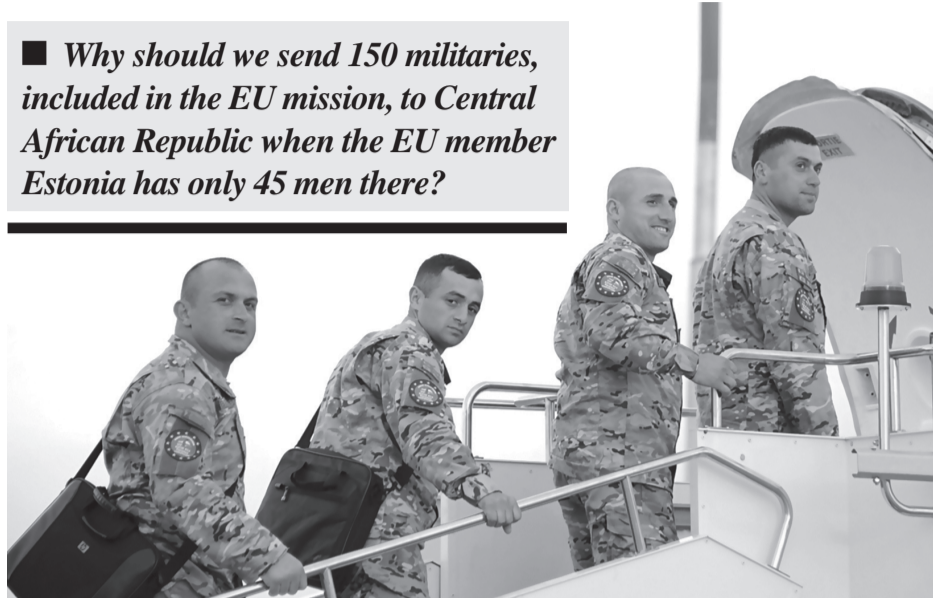
It's already five years since the Georgian militaries, included in the NATO structures, have been fighting for the Alliance.

The Georgian armed forces have been included in two more international peacekeeping missions. This time the first group of Georgian militaries went 4 thousand kilometers away to the African continent, to Central African Republic; they will carry out the EU peacekeeping mission there.

It has also become known that from 1 January 2015, despite the end of the ISAF mission, Georgia will keep more than 700 militaries in Afghanistan. Georgian militaries may also be sent to Mali where the military conflict is on.

Can this be the priority for the country, two regions of which are occupied by the neighboring country and there is a big threat of renewing of military aggression? And how justified is it for Georgia to send 10% of its infantry to different parts of the world (1600 men to Afghanistan, 170 - to Central African Republic) when the USA and NATO are sending their combat units to East Eu-

■ *Why should we send 150 militaries, included in the EU mission, to Central African Republic when the EU member Estonia has only 45 men there?*



Georgian soldiers boarding a plane to Central Africa

■ *Why should we have 1600 militaries in Afghanistan while the NATO member Turkey has only 450 men there, Czech Republic – 250, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania taken together – less than 150?!*

rope, namely to the border with Russia? What is more important – defense of the Georgian population or care about the security of Afghans and Africans?

We've been asking this question for years already but the Ministry of Defense and the authorities of the country are still stubbornly increasing the number of Georgian contingent abroad.

Of course we aren't against participation in the peacekeeping operations under the aegis of NATO but why should we have 1600 militaries in Afghanistan while the NATO member Turkey has only 450 men there, Czech Republic – 250, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania taken together – less than 150?!

Or, why should we send 150 militaries, included in the EU mission, to Central African Republic when the EU member Estonia has only 45 men there?

Several NATO member countries are only symbolically represented in Afghanistan (for instance, Greece sent only 10 militaries) while the flags of these countries are proudly flying at the ISAF Headquarters and they are considered to have fulfilled their duty to this Mission just like Georgia which sent two reinforced battalions to Afghanistan...

THREATS OF UNCONTROLLED MIGRATION

From 1 September the Emigration Service will get interested in people illegally living in Georgia



■ *“If in-depth study of the issue is carried out, many facts of trafficking and other illegal deeds will come to light”*

BY UTA BITSADZE

Illegal migration still remains one of the unsolved problems of the world. Despite the fact migration laws all over the world get tougher, Georgia has implemented an opposite policy and in recent years it has vastly simplified the visa regime.

According to specialists, opening of borders has sharply increased the number of illegal immigrants. Georgia has visa-free regime with 118 countries including African countries and the Arab and Asian ones where martial law is functioning. Marc Hulst, Program Coordinator of the International Migration Organization:

– Nowadays majority of immigrants arrive here from China, India, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt. Majority of them enter the country legally but stay here longer than envisaged by the law. At present many countries enjoy visa-free regime with Georgia but this may change as soon as you have new migration legislation.

Q. – Why these people choose to come to the country where the employment issues and social problems are still unsolved?

A. – There are several motifs, for instance temporary employment, studying, shelter in Georgia due to unrest in their countries.

Some foreign immigrants think that they can use Georgia as a jumping-off place to hit Europe.

Q. – Europe has made the immigration legislation stricter while recently Georgia pursues the policy of visa liberalization.

A. – On 1 September 2014, Georgian Immigration legislation will change. The new legislation stipulates that the pre-immigration policy with regard to the citizens of the other countries and those having no citizenship will undergo conceptual revision and it will envisage stricter procedures for entering and leaving

the country as well as for living here. This law is adjusted to the approaches of the European migration management and is more focused on the control mechanisms than migration liberalization.

Levan Machavariani, Deputy Director of Interior Ministry Patrol Police:

– Despite the fact that we have no visa regime with some countries, within the existing legislation we can regulate activity of those people who desire to illegally penetrate into the country. Believe me, when people don't know where they are arriving, don't have the needed money or luggage, only a cellophane bag under the arm-pit and are trying to persuade the border guard that they are tourists, such guests won't be received by the country.

Kakha Gogolashvili, Head of the European Research Center:

– After signing of the Association Agreement, we are assigned to review certain obli-

gations of migration policy. Georgia will have to substantially review the immigration policy, begin exposure of the illegal migrants and make them leave the country.

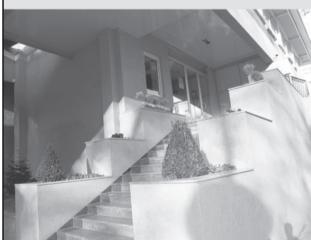
Q. – What are the threats to national security caused by uncontrolled migration of foreigners?

A. – Illegal migration acquired mass character especially during the past years. Unless we deal with the problem it will be difficult to manage the processes. This will cause a lot of social problems and will especially aggravate crime rates. Illegal migrants are directly connected with drugs and trafficking. There is mass migration from the African countries and in case we let everybody in, results will be grave. To say the least we won't be able to nourish the wave of illegal migrants and everybody knows what hungry people can do.

By the way, these people get employed in the spheres shunned by the Georgians. In case in-depth study of the issue is carried out, many facts of trafficking and other illegal activities will come to light.

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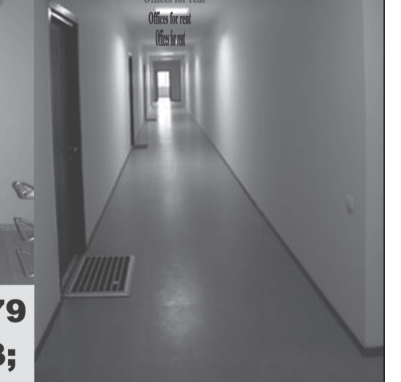
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“I SPEAK ARAMAIC THAT IS SPOKEN IN ‘THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST’”

Extraordinary life of a deacon who speaks the tongue of Jesus from Nazareth

BY EKA ABASHIDZE

36-year-old deacon Father Seraphime is Assyrian by ethnicity and his native language is Aramaic. The deacon lived an ordinary life until 24 years of age, trained in Eastern wrestling and was head of security of a government member in Ukraine. But certain events that had occurred in his life made him take up the mantle of a priest. Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia Ilia II learned of his fate and presented him to Assyrians living in Georgia as a “confessor of all Assyrians”. It was Ilia II’s idea of Father Seraphime learning Aramaic and then perform public worship in the presence of Assyrians in this language. Currently Father Seraphime lives in the village of Kanda, where we visited him for an interview:

– As we know, you lived an earthly life until you were 24: you did martial arts and worked as a bodyguard. What made you turn your life towards divine worship?

– I didn’t really believe in God back then. I would enter a church, light a candle or two and think myself a believer. I read the Bible when I was eleven years old, but took it as a fairy tale. Then when I actually realized God existed, I went and became a monk. That’s pretty much it.

– Was there any significant event in your life that pushed you towards this decision?

– I spent a large part of my childhood and youth in hospital beds. I experienced a most devastating trauma when I fell into a concrete mixer. Not a single man in history returned alive from such an incident – except me. For two years I wasn’t even able to walk. First I was chained to a bed, then to a wheelchair, then to crutches.

– What other injuries did you receive in the past?

– Once I got hit by a car. Then there was this bottle of hydrogen peroxide; I took it for a bottle of water and drank it. I survived a lot of things by a hair’s breadth, such as falling from several meters’ height. Long story short, a lot of occurrences pushed me towards taking up a monk’s life. Once I had quite an experience: someone very close to me, a relative, was in mortal danger. I went to the grave of the last Georgian saint, Father Gabriel, and said “God will, I shall become a monk, just leave him with his life” And when we thought all hope was lost, a miracle happened and this man survived.

For some time after this, I lived in Kiev. As I told you, I was into martial arts back then, namely wrestling. I even won a Trans-Caucasian Championship. Soon I became chief of security for a government official. Then something happened that I do not wish to speak of. It was a miracle; you can call it enlightenment or a dream. I was reminded that I was chosen and that it was time to keep the promise I made to God about becoming a priest. This miracle reminded me of my words daily for two months, so eventually, at Holy Trinity’s Jonah Monastery, I died, figuratively speaking, and was reborn as a monk.

– What can you tell us about your people, the Assyrians?

– My people, Assyrians are probably the only ethnic group in the world who still pay with their lives for their worship of Christ. In Eastern countries such as Iraq, Iran, Syria and other warzones, Assyrians get at-

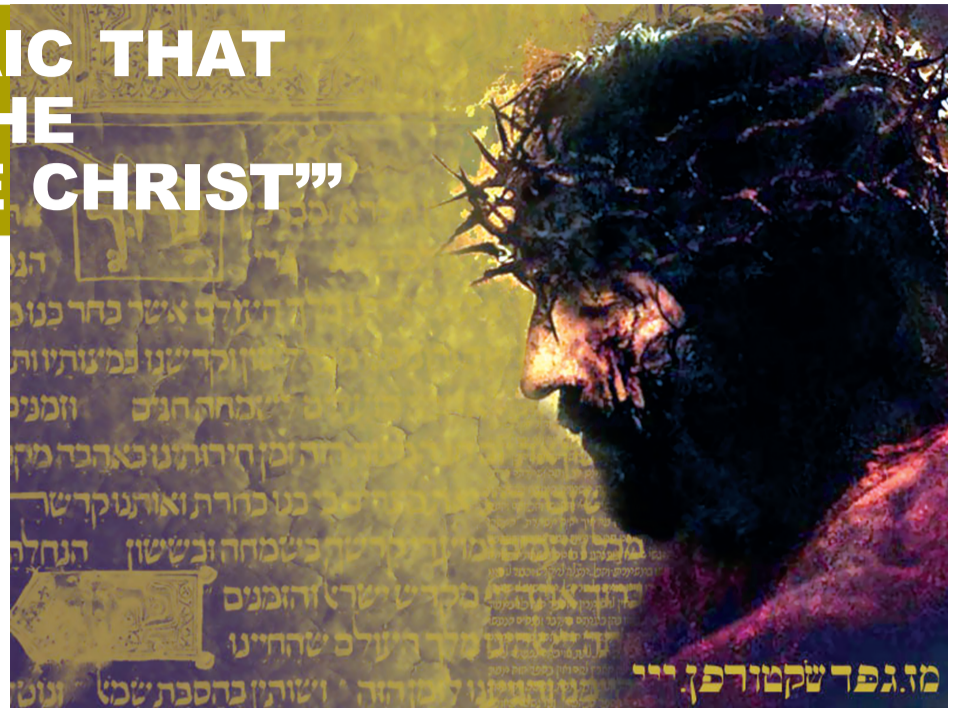


■ I said: “God will, I shall become a priest, just let him live”

tacked in their churches and beheaded if they refuse to convert to Islam. They are being destroyed en masse. The apocryphal story regarding Assyrians being the first Christians comes from the story when



■ “Chanting in Aramaic is completely different culture-wise. It is Eastern, after all, and we replicated it exactly as it sounded in ancient times”



■ Neo-Aramaic language is about 2500 years old. The wonderful thing is that this language allows us insight into what people living centuries ago sounded like

Christ’s face appeared on a canvas. The canvas was presented to the last king of Assyrians, Abgarus the Fifth.

As for Assyrians in Georgia, there are about 4000 of them. The Assyrian language is basically Neo-Aramaic. Many historians write about Christ speaking the Chaldean language, which almost exactly the same as Aramaic. Just like in Georgia there exist Gurians, Imeretians and Megrelians, so were Assyrians and Chaldeans: the same people but from different corners, so to say. Neo-Aramaic language is about 2500 years old. The wonderful thing is that this language allows us insight into what people

living centuries ago sounded like. Out of 4000 Assyrians living in Georgia, 2000 of them live in my village of Kanda and comprise 95% of its population. Almost 90% of these people speak Neo-Aramaic.

– Upon becoming fluent in Aramaic, you are now able to perform divine service in it. How difficult is it for you and in general, what is the process like?

– When His Holiness talked with me, he confided with me this idea: since I am Assyrian, why not perform divine service for my people in my own language? He conferred a lot of responsibility on me. Ilia II treated Assyrian issues with great attention, responsibility and love. I love him a lot as

■ “I experienced a devastating trauma when I fell into a concrete mixer. Not a single man in history returned alive from such an incident – except me”

well. There was a time when I said to myself “I probably love him the most of all” But after I was appointed as shepherd over my people, the Assyrians, I realized that they were who I loved the most. We are very grateful to His Holiness for giving us the right to praise God in our own language while living in Georgia.

– The video that depicts you, together with the church choir, chanting in Aramaic, is quite popular on the internet. What is chanting in Aramaic like, what quirks does it have? How is it different from chanting in another language, Georgian for example?

– Chanting, be it in Aramaic or Georgian, is a unique thing. The main difference is, of course, in the language itself, and another in the tune and cadence. Chanting in Aramaic is completely different culture-wise. It is Eastern, after all, and we replicated it exactly as it sounded in ancient times. Well, almost exactly.

– You have probably seen Mel Gibson’s movie “The Passion of the Christ”, where Aramaic is spoken. Can you understand it? Is it identical to the language you speak?

– There are three languages used in the movie: Aramaic, Latin and Hebrew. And yes, I can freely understand Aramaic that is spoken in “The Passion of the Christ” – it is the same language that I wield.

PUMPKIN ELARJI - DISCOVERY OF GEORGIAN CUISINE

BY MAKALOMADZE

Elarji is a Mingrelian dish. It is made of ghomi and sulguni. There is a variety of elarji in Georgian cuisine, but this time, we talk about... not less than a pumpkin elarji.

Manuel Faundez is the Georgian-born cook with Spanish origins. He lives here, as his parents came to live in Georgia after the Spanish Civil War. He is a lecturer on the world cuisine at Ikaros Professional College and the Chef Consultant at Vera Steak House.

Ingredients:

1 kg pumpkin (better if it's one with a thin skin), 300 gm sulguni, 2 cloves of garlic and Svanian sault by taste, or Mingrelian dry ajika (less pepperish), 60-70 gm butter or 40 ml oil



Step-by-step Instruction:

Preparation:

Bake pumpkin (it is possible to boil it too but baking is better, as it is drier). Use the blender for pumpkin, Svanian sault (or Mingrelian Ajika) and garlic. Put the mass in the steam-boiler; then add butter or oil and mix it well. Then put thinly sliced chkinti (baby) sulguni. Knead until the mass totally absorbs sulguni and becomes stretched. Afterwards spread lightly fried pumpkin seeds over for serving.

You should eat it in the hot condition. If cooled up, add a little bit of cream or milk and warm in a microwave oven for 1 minute.

At your discretion, one can add slices of smoked sulguni too, or nadughi.

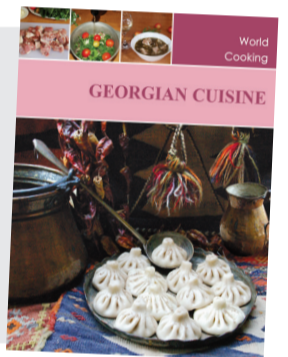
CHEF'S COMMENT



"It was a discovery for me. I was preparing classic elarji with ghomi and sulguni, as well as Svanian one with potatoes and sulguni, which is a wonderful dish, but I had never heard about pumpkin elarji, of which my student from Tsalenjikha, mountainous Mingrelia, told me," Manuel Faundez, Chef at Vera Steak House.



The source:
"Georgian
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guidebook by
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Be Informed About Georgian Reality

ARGO 2014 – REVIVAL OF LEGEND 30 YEARS LATER

BY TORNIKE KAJRISHVILI

20 July 1984. Several thousand people gathered at Poti port will witness a historic legend come true. 33 centuries later the legend of Argonauts is being revived. The Greek hero Jason's Argo is returning to Kolkheti. People are looking out to spot Argo on the horizon. And here it is... the legend has been revived. The 20-man crew on a wooden boat captained by the English scientist, Tim Severin, is approaching the coast. The people are cheering for brave sailors... The myth that Greeks could not reach to the coast by a wooden boat has just been busted.



■ **Tim Severin: "My comeback to Georgia is to celebrate our journey to Georgia that we did 30 years ago on a replica of a 20-oar Greek galley against all odds and difficulties"**

■ **Modern Argo was built without any nail**



Tim Severin 30 years ago and today

When the expedition hero, Tim Severin, was asked in Batumi whether he had found his Golden Fleece, he answered: - "Yes, I have found it. But unlike Jason, I take it by my heart rather than by ship. Impressive and unforgettable meetings with Georgians are my Golden Fleece and I hope I will someday come back to this beautiful country..."

30 years later he is back to Georgia. On 30

■ **He proved that Irish monks visited America before Vikings by boats made from bull skin. Severin made such a boat himself and sailed Atlantic Ocean from Ireland to Newfoundland.**

sportsmen from the countries the ship visited on this long voyage.

Iliko Peradze is the Georgian Argonaut, who took part in the expedition 30 years ago. He is actually the organizer of this conference. He was keen to share with us his fond memories of Severin and his Argo.

Iliko Peradze:

- 12 successful expeditions, including the Argo endeavor, demonstrate what a living legend Tim Severin is. He studied principles of ship building for three years before constructing the Argo ship. He made it without using any nail. Setting sails from Greek town Iolkos, Argonauts passed Greek islands, seas, channels the coastline of Anatolia and sailed to Georgia. We, Georgian Argonauts joined them at the border and entered the river Phasis next

morning. After the meeting in Poti port, we sailed 2400 km to Vani, the center of Kolkheti. Sailing in Rioni was a real celebration. The river banks were full of people.

The expedition members have had no contact with each other since then and we are gathering them in Georgia now, 30 years later. These people are successful figures in many different countries. Severin is 73 but still continues taking part in expeditions.

The man himself, the Argonaut of 20th century, Mr. Tim Severin too shared his memories with Georgian Journal:

- This is my chance to visit Georgia after the gap of 30 years. My comeback to Georgia is to celebrate a successful journey to Georgia that we did 30 years ago on a replica of a 20-oar Greek galley against all odds and difficulties. We had a very difficult voyage



getting here but we managed. There were a lot of enthusiastic welcomes along the way but nothing compares to being in Georgia. This is a chance to renew a friendship and to remember happy times we had thirty years ago, to realize nothing has changed."

June, a conference Argo 2014 – Revival of Legend will be held in Tbilisi. The distinguished guests of the conference will be Tim Severin and 10 Argonauts. But before telling you the conference details, we will tell you how the legend was revived.

How it began

Some scholars considered that the story of Argonauts was not true but the well-known British traveler, writer and scientist Tim Severin thought otherwise. He aimed to reconstruct the history. His past expeditions were successful: He proved that Irish monks visited America before Vikings by boats made from bull skin. Severin made such a boat himself and sailed Atlantic Ocean from Ireland to Newfoundland. He also confirmed that the tale of Thousand and One Nights was based on reality. He restored the Medieval Arabian ship and voyaged from Mascat to China. And 30 years ago, he built the Argo using the technology described in old historic sources. 12 Argonauts were the main members of the crew – students from Oxford and Cambridge universities. The crew was enriched with

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ROOTS OF GEORGIAN PAGANISM

BY ZURA AMIRANASHVILI

If you approach a Georgian passer-by in the street and ask him or her about the cornerstones of Georgian culture, Christianity will probably be on top of the list. It is well known that Georgia was among the first countries to convert to Christianity – crosses on her flag are no random motif, and Christian traditions and morality run deep through the country.

However, not many people know about Georgian religion before the advent of Christianity, which is extremely unfortunate because Georgian Paganism and mythology are a cultural marvel on par with their Ancient Greek and Roman counterparts. For example, very few Georgians know that “ghmert”, their word for “God”, was originally the name of Ghmerti, the main deity of the Georgian pantheon. Many will only shrug at the names of Gatsi and Gaimi, the twin manifestations of a deity that lorded over the cycle of life and death as well as all secrets that mortals hold. Worship of Ainina and Danina, goddesses of fertility, was also widespread in pre-Christian times; they are suspected to be of Sumerian origin by historians. The gruff, deerskin-clad and horn-bearing god Apsati protected and brought luck to hunters, and sacrificing part of the catch after a successful hunt was customary. However, those who wandered too deep into forests had to be careful of encountering Dali, the beautiful but mischievous wife of Apsati, who protected woodlands and often turned those

who harmed them into stone. Those who killed more animals than was needed risked incurring the wrath of Ochopintre, a wild, fawn-like deity who lorded over animals and was not above sending a stampede of boars to trample the disturbers of balance. The widespread Georgian name Tamar originates from the goddess with the same name, clad in golden armor and mounted on a monstrous serpent. Considered to embody the sun, she was responsible for the change of seasons by restraining the fickle god of winter.

Some of the Georgian deities and myths are very much alike those of other Pagan faiths. Many Georgian women of old used to be priestesses of Lamara, a grim but generous patroness of love, vengeance, femininity, jealousy

■ **Few Georgians know that “ghmert,” the word for “God,” was originally the name of the main deity in the Georgian pantheon**

and seductiveness, not dissimilar to the Ancient Greek goddess Hecate. She was considered to manifest through cats and snakes; these animals were held sacred by her priestesses. The Georgian deity named Pirkhusha, a hardy and hot-tempered blacksmith who forged weapons and armor for other gods, bears a stark resemblance to the Baltic god Perkunas (known as Perkele by the Finns) and Greek Hephaestus, both of them sharing the

same disposition and profession. The mythical demigod Amirani is reminiscent of several legendary Greek entities simultaneously: he is a slayer of many dangerous monsters, just like Heracles; he got his power from bathing in a sacred spring, akin to Achilles; and he taught people metalworking, for which he was punished by getting chained to a cliff with an eagle devouring his liver for eternity, just like Prometheus.

Zoroastrianism also left its trace in ancient Georgian religion, bringing in Armazi, a god of moon and lightning, who replaced Ghmerti on the throne of the Georgian pantheon. Numerous statues dedicated to him were erected, one of which is said to have been toppled by a lightning strike during the conversion of the country to Christianity. Another Zoroastrian deity was Zaden, a somber god of rain and harvest, frequently prayed to by peasants. He replaced the god Kviria, who used to fulfill the same role.

Contrary to what most people believe, the arrival of Nino the Cappadocian, the cross-bearing missionary, did not destroy the original faith of Georgians; it simply incorporated it into Christianity. Take candles, for example: even though they are now lit in the churches, they were originally used in Pagan rituals. Tales of Amirani’s deeds are still told to children; except now he does his deeds – fighting the evil devi and helping people - in God’s name, and his power stems from His blessing. Toddlers are put to sleep by singing iavnana to them: a song originally intended to ward off the malicious spirits who bring sickness. Various manifesta-



“Devi Wedding” by famous Georgian artist Lado Gudiashvili

tions of evil, such as the yeti-like monster Ochokochi and spirits Ali and Alkali became the spawns of Satan and are now repulsed by the cross, but nobody ever denied them roaming the forests and ambushing the unwary. Borjgali, a seven-winged Pagan swastika symbolizing the Sun, never ceased being a symbol of Georgia, either – you can see it everywhere in the country, except now it represents endlessness of the lifecycle.

This assimilation explains why the process of conversion of Georgia to Christianity was rather peaceful and saw little conflict. Things did not take such a course in other parts of the world, however, and a lot of blood was spilled between Pagans and Christians in religious battles of old.



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UIA

WHAT CAN GEORGIA BRING TO EU MARKET?

BY NINO PATSURIA

"We should not expect the EU production to suffocate us"

Gorgia signed the associated agreement with the EU on 27 June and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement enters into effect soon between the two sides. This means a huge market of 500 million people with high purchase power becomes open to Georgian export. However, this huge market also challenges small and poorly developed Georgian production.



Shalva Pipia, Minister of Agriculture of Georgia

To have a deeper insight of opportunities and challenges the free trade with the EU holds for Georgian agriculture Georgian Journal interviewed Shalva Pipia, Minister of Agriculture of Georgia.

Q: Mr. Minister, what prospects does the DCFTA hold for Georgian agriculture?

A: I believe this DCFTA offers the best paragraphs to Georgia: it allows Georgian entrepreneurs to export all our key products to the market with around 500 million consumers free from customs barriers. Accordingly, more competitive prices become available to our entrepreneurs.

Q: But the DCFTA still implies quotas and restrictions like the ad valorem component of the import duty to almost all products except the garlic.

A: In fact, garlic is the only product we have a quota at 220 tons while all other products are free in volumes and exempted from duties. That said, there are fixed volumes for some other products too but it means no re-

"In nearest future we expect to start exporting fresh fruits and citrus while honey and product subject to the veterinary product will go in the middle-term prospect"

strictions. We just assume obligation that we will inform the EU if we exceed those volumes and then go ahead. The Ad Valorem component is built in the deal but it is so low that implies no risk to Georgian producers. It simply means that if the sale price of the export is lower of ad valorem price - that is a price fixed at the EU market - the producer must pay the difference between its sales price and the ad valorem price. The trick is that the ad valorem prices are so low in the EU that it is quite unimaginable that we will be selling any of our products cheaper. For example, the ad valorem price for citrus is between 45-50 cents while it is impossible to sell Georgian product below this if we take into account the production cost plus logistic and storage expenses. It will be higher at any rate. So, Georgian entrepreneurs face no ad valorem price risk in fact.

Q: Which products do you think have greater potential to be exported to the EU?

A: All the products that are already exported today like wine, mineral water, alcohol

drinks, hazelnut, dry and frozen fruits, chestnut, will be exported free of customs duties now. In nearest future we expect to start exporting fresh fruits and citrus while honey and product subject to the veterinary product will go in the middle-term prospect.

Q: How long will this middle-term take?

A: We are the meat and dairy product importers as yet. Besides, we have number of regulations to approve. We have already approved changes to the national food code which is an umbrella document and a national program has already been approved. Within the next 7 years we have to change around 90 enactments from both veterinary and phytosanitary points of view. We already strengthened the National Food Agency, added 180 employees and four-fold increased the number of inspectors. The goal is to meet the EU standards on those products that we do not meet today and export them in near future. Now we are building the phytosanitary lab in order to have high quality referral lab on the herbal product. Besides, we have a plan to make the honey diagnostic and international certification available at our lab by the end of the year. Accordingly, in the first phase we will start honey production and then the fish and other product of animal origins will follow.

Q: The volumes have always been the problem of Georgian export. Do you think there is sufficient production of honey, wine or citrus to be exported to the EU?

A: But I believe there is a great potential for export. Georgian honey is in great demand in Turkey and, to my information, in the EU too, especially the chestnut honey. As of wine, I cannot say there is a volume problem. Wine export exceeded 50 million bottles last

year and there is a potential for 100 million bottles as new vine-yards were deployed within last 2 years. Georgia is already an important player at the global hazelnut market. It was the third largest exporter and fifth largest producer of hazelnut last year and the production will only increase with new plantations.

Q: Some analysts fear that the huge EU agriculture goods supported by subsidies and modern know-how may kill the local production. What are the plans of Georgian government to increase the competitive power of Georgian agriculture?

A: Georgian export to the EU was 23% past year whereas the EU import was just 12% and I do not expect the figure to change much. The point is that in spite of high subsidizing of the EU agriculture its production price is too high first of all due to high salaries and high expenses on production and I do not expect this trend to change. We should not expect the EU production to suffocate us.

Q: Tangerines for example could not get a strong foothold even at the Ukrainian market due to low standards of package and logistic. How can they get this produce in the EU?

A: I can not agree with that, honestly. Tangerines were properly packed and we exported around 60 million tons of tangerine to many countries including the Ukraine past year that is an unprecedented statistic



"Garlic is the only product we have a quota at 220 tons"



"The ad valorem price for citrus is between 45-50 cents while it is impossible to sell Georgian product below this if we take into account the production cost plus logistic and storage expenses"



"Wine export exceeded 50 million bottles last year and there is a potential for 100 million bottles as new vine-yards were deployed within last 2 years"



"Georgia was the third largest exporter and fifth largest producer of hazelnut last year and the production will only increase with new plantations"

of the last 10 year. Logistic and standards are settled. As to effective production, we have some problems and are working on this. There was no scientific-research in the country, no new specimen were made and adopted. We set up a scientific-research center that will be focused on the transfer of technologies and new specimen.

Q: But the credits still remain unavailable and expensive to farmers, beside no alternative financial instruments like leasing or agriculture insurance is developed.



"Georgian honey is in great demand in Turkey and, to my information, in the EU too, especially the chestnut honey"

A: We are working on an agriculture insurance project together with the KfW that carries on a research and will offer certain projects soon. The cheap agro-credits [implying the state co-financing of banking loans] are on and will be continued, Produce in Georgia project focused on reprocessing industry has been added recently. We boost cooperatives by special consultancy and financial support programmes, provide consultation to farmers and entrepreneurs. As we have problems of professionals at every level in agriculture there is a project to raise due specialists. Besides, the Technical University together with the Iowa University launches training courses on agriculture direction.

“BACK FROM USSR?”

Does Chinawoman owe Georgians an Apology?

Was Chinawoman Right? Does Georgia still have soviet mentality?



eral legislation tries to live as part of the civilized western world. After all the troubles we - as a country - have encountered, thoughtless comments such as these work as a step backwards. When someone, who is not really aware of what is going on here, reads this comment from an international artist, they will believe it and think that we are a part of Russia.

This kind of statement will cause millions of associations. Anyone, who reads that we are still part of USSR, definitely will not come to visit Georgia. Some might say, oh look at them, I thought they tried to become a European country but they are still with Russia.

In conclusion, I can't really say what motifs behind Chinawoman's post. Maybe she thought that it was a quirky joke, maybe it

■ *It is a huge insult and inappropriate comment. Even if it is supposed to be a joke, it was a really bad one*

BY BACHO ODISHARIA

The Soviet Union (the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or USSR) was officially dissolved in December 1991. After this Georgia hurriedly underwent transformation to a free market economy. As most post-Soviet countries, we had no economical future, we were bankrupt. Georgia faced hyperinflation. Still, the first president of independent Georgia, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who opposed the Soviet mentality, achieved an incredible thing – separation and independence from the Soviet Union. Georgia was no longer a Soviet country, it was free. After 200 years of slavery, we had to learn anew how to evaluate private property, how to act like an independent country, how to open up to western society and, most importantly, how to be a state.

Nowadays, we can proudly call ourselves a free nation. Among other things, we are trying to introduce and exchange our culture with other countries. And we would like to be received as a rightful part of the western world.

So, the reason why I wrote this: A few days ago, Canadian musician Michelle Gurevich, best known as Chinawoman, who was our guest at the Tbilisi Open Air music festival, made a post via Facebook. She wrote: “Back from the USSR. Next stop = Bucharest.” She basically said that Georgia is part of the USSR. The post quickly went viral and garnered lots of controversial responses. At the end, the musician posted again that she intended it a joke.

So what is the big deal one might ask? It is a big deal. It is a huge insult and inappropriate comment. Even if it is supposed to be a joke, it was a really bad one. What makes her statement even grosser is that she has Russian heritage, her parents are Russian immigrants and her first language is Russian. So, I think that she is pretty aware of the history of the Soviet Union and that the collapse of the Soviet Union

■ *After what we went through, mentioning us as a part of USSR is a humiliation, to say the least*



Chinawoman

Back from the USSR. Next stop = Bucharest.

Like · Comment · Share · June 24

👍 510 people like this.

was a geopolitical triumph, especially for Georgia.

After what we went through, mentioning us as a part of USSR is a humiliation, to say the least. Even if she had proclaimed Georgia as a post-Soviet country, that would have been rude as well. One can label Georgia a post-Soviet country while making academic research or something like that but

not while making a comment via social media.

Georgian people tried and suffered enough to not be associated with the Soviet Union, especially when a famous artist makes a public comment about a country whose people have kindly invited and hosted her twice at music festivals.

Georgia with its liberal economic and lib-



was a reference to The Beatles song or maybe it had a way different meaning. I simply don't know. But what I know for sure is that we are not a part of the Soviet Union and we have clearly declared it, so when a famous person goes on social media and makes an ignorant comment about our painful past, first of all it is non-ethical and she owes us an apology for damaging our reputation in international community. Imagine if, after touring around Virginia, some artist wrote: back from the state which has the biggest amount of slaves. Yeah, calling us USSR was equally immoral.

BY DAN PELESCHUK

When Russian President Vladimir Putin joined his counterparts from Kazakhstan and Belarus on stage last month to sign an agreement for a new union between their countries, their awkward-looking smiles betrayed many unknowns about exactly what they were about to do.

After absorbing Crimea and thumbing his nose at the West over his moves to destabilize the rest of Ukraine, Putin was taking his geopolitical power play to a new level by launching a regional economic bloc aimed at rivaling the European Union. His plan for the Eurasian Union is the Kremlin's most ambitious post-Soviet integration project yet. Critics claim it's based on Putin's neo-imperial fantasy of rebuilding the Soviet Union.

But experts seriously question whether it will be anything more than a toothless club of autocracies, especially in the wake of the crisis in Ukraine. "Russia has invested enough to make sure the project would go on, and it will go on," says Arkady Moshes, a Russian foreign policy expert at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. "But it's also clear that the returns will be diminished in both economic and political terms."

Set to launch in January and officially billed as the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), the new group will be based on a current Moscow-led customs bloc with Belarus and Kazakhstan. Shortly before his reelection in 2012, Putin promised it would become a new pole of influence in the world. With a current market of around \$170 billion and a combined

THIS IS WHAT PUTIN WANTS



■ *Putin's plan for the Eurasian Union is the Kremlin's most ambitious post-Soviet integration project yet*

GDP of nearly \$3 trillion, the bloc would enable the free movement of goods and labor among member states, as well as closer coordination of sweeping economic policies. But the Kremlin's unrelentingly aggressive rhetoric on the international stage - as well as a surge of nationalism at home - is stoking fears that the EEU's main aim is to restore Moscow's official dominance over its former territories. Putin has dismissed suggestions he's aiming to resurrect the Soviet Union despite describing the treaty signing on May 29 in Kazakhstan's capital Astana as an event with "epoch-making significance."

Russian officials have praised the results of the customs union, which went into effect in 2010, saying trade among the three members has seen a significant boost since its

conception. On the surface, the benefits of the EEU for smaller member states seem clear. For Belarus and Kazakhstan - as well as other prospective members, such as Kyrgyzstan and Armenia, which have signaled possible intentions of joining - the bloc would give local producers easier access to a far larger and more lucrative market than their own. But analysts say the Kremlin's recent folly in Ukraine is undermining the project, sending ripples of consternation through some post-Soviet republics. When Moscow annexed Crimea earlier this year, it claimed it was protecting the rights of ethnic Russians, setting what critics warn may be a chilling precedent for future potential land-grabs.

But the conflict over Ukraine has forced political leaders across the former Soviet

Union to effectively pick sides in what's amounted to the largest geopolitical stand-off since the Cold War, says Yulia Yakusheva, a researcher on the post-Soviet region at Moscow State University. "It's indeed a very serious problem for the elites insofar as they became used to balancing and receiving bonuses" from Washington, Moscow and other major powers, she says. "Few want to change that tactic ... and make a choice in favor of only one foreign policy direction." Kazakhstan, the Eurasian Union's second-most important member, has been most vocal about the future prospects for the bloc - although probably not in the way Moscow would have liked.

Bakytzhan Sagintayev, Kazakhstan's first deputy prime minister and a top negotiator in the accession process, told The New York Times that his country was "forming a purely economic union."

"It is a pragmatic means to get benefits," he said. "We don't meddle into what Russia is doing politically, and they cannot tell us what foreign policy to pursue." That's partly why more grandiose integration schemes such as a common energy market and a monetary union - part of the Kremlin's original plans - may end up as pipe dreams, says Moshes, the Russian foreign policy expert. "Originally for Russia, a political component of the union was quite important - it wasn't the sine qua non, but it was important," he said.

"At the moment, it is just not there at all."

Prepared by NBR

HARD TIMES FOR OLD SOLOLAKI

In October 2012 I wrote the following letter to Mr. Ivanishvili on behalf of the residents of Sololaki. Copies were delivered to his office in town and his home above Sololaki. No response was ever received. (I have had two occasions to send my articles to The Queen of England and each time received a fast, courteous and relevant response from her private secretary).

Since the above letter was sent, very little has happened although attempts have been made to renovate some entrances to buildings and courtyards. One historic house in Lado Asatiani Street has been beautifully restored, but the street is totally congested by traffic from huge new inappropriate buildings constructed with no regard for road access. We do not know if these restoration efforts are private projects or done by the municipality or the government.

Basically Sololaki remains a run-down slum, with the great "nuclear reactor" of Mr. Ivanishvili overlooking us all.

The 15 metre tunnel entrance to my building in Kojori Street seems about to collapse with potentially catastrophic results as it is opposite a big kindergarten school with many children playing in the street. Who is responsible? I renovated the entire façade of the building but cannot undertake a structural project of this nature.

Old Tbilisi is unique in the world. Perhaps the new mayor will implement a dynamic plan to save and sensitively restore the area, without turning it into a Disney-world/Potemkin fantasy which, sadly, has happened elsewhere in Georgia.



7 Kojori Street
Sololaki, Tbilisi
22nd October 2012

Dear Mr. Ivanishvili

I write on behalf of all your Sololaki neighbours to congratulate you on your recent triumph, and to request your support of our Save Sololaki Campaign.

I believe I am the only English property owner in Sololaki. Since I purchased my property in 2004 we have seen the area deteriorate, suffering from neglect due to poverty, ignorance and apathy. Yet this is part of the soul and spirit of historic Tbilisi which houses many solid citizens and attracts visitors from all over the world. How can this be allowed to become a slum when Georgia is looking to western values? You as our new leader, must be aware of the circumstances below you.

The sidewalks are crumbling away so that we cannot look up at the once beautiful buildings, many of which are crumbling away, their elegant entrances hardly visible

■ *Sololaki remains a run-down slum, with the great "nuclear reactor" of Mr. Ivanishvili overlooking us*

any more. Developers have destroyed wonderful buildings and constructed huge concrete blocks without any regard to aesthetics, the seismic situation of Tbilisi and the Sololaki river flowing dangerously beneath.

While I was able to save part of Kojori Street, we have watched destruction on an unprecedented scale elsewhere. We are all powerless to develop the Save Sololaki Campaign without your support.

We think that a group of concerned and experienced Georgian architects and restoration experts should be formed to assess the situation and to see what can reasonably be done to save Sololaki before it is too late. The residents need to be consulted and to participate in this within their means.

We do not want a "Quick Fix." We do

not want Potemkin facades with desolation behind. We do not want Hollywood style stage sets built with inferior materials and with pseudo architectural historic features stuck on.

We want to retain and develop the traditional lifestyle of Sololaki but with sidewalks upon which we can all walk. This means buildings of humanity-style scale, with our Italian courtyards retained for the social use of the inhabitants. Restoration and conservation can be done slowly and within budgets.

The newly formed Tbilisi Heritage Group has been set up in London as a result of international concern about what is being done to this city. It has rapidly gained support from local architects and historians so that a new dynamism has been created, coinciding with your new situation.

However, without your care and commitment we will be powerless to do anything except create awareness. We realize that until now you could do nothing for Sololaki but we hope that, as our powerful neighbour, determined to make a difference, you will include us in future planning.

The new spirit of optimism which had suddenly developed throughout Georgia gives us all hope for the future.

We hope our goodwill can support your endeavours and wish you every success.

Yours sincerely

Edna Fortescue

Managing Director

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BY MANANA GABRICHIDZE

“I have often arrived in Tbilisi from the world’s nicest cities and always felt that Tbilisi is no less than the best of them out there with its peculiar charm and individuality,” says Nino Surguladze, well-known mezzo-soprano plying her trade in world famous La Scala theatre. She visited Tbilisi with a special charity mission and shared with us her impressions...

NINO SURGULADZE: “TBILISI IS MY FAVORITE CITY, HAVING NO PEER”



Shardeni Street in Tbilisi

– I love Shota Rustaveli, Iliia Chavchavadze, Zakaria Paliashvili, Vazha Pshavela streets... The territory around Gabriadze Theatre is special for me. I passionately love Shardeni Street, it reminds me of Paris. And Rustaveli Street reminds me of one of the Barcelona streets.



Nino Surguladze
Photo by Giorgi Tsava



Tbilisi Opera Theatre

– Tbilisi Opera Theatre is very precious for me and I am looking forward to the time it will be open. Rustaveli, Marjanishvili, Music and Drama Theatres are also precious for me...

– It is impossible a person not to be enchanted with Abanotubani, Metekhi, and Tbilisi at night, old streets... Tbilisi is my favorite city having no peer followed by other cities – Milan, London, etc... Tbilisi is totally different with its scent, wind, cloudy or sunny weathers... This is not my point of view only, May foreigners say the same.



Abanotubani

– I purchase mostly appliances in Georgia. I am fond of buying some items on Dry Bridge. There are many old-fashioned items that I simply adore. I like antiquary and look for such items with great pleasure. These items are real gems with their own stories to tell.



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BY EVA BOLKVADZE

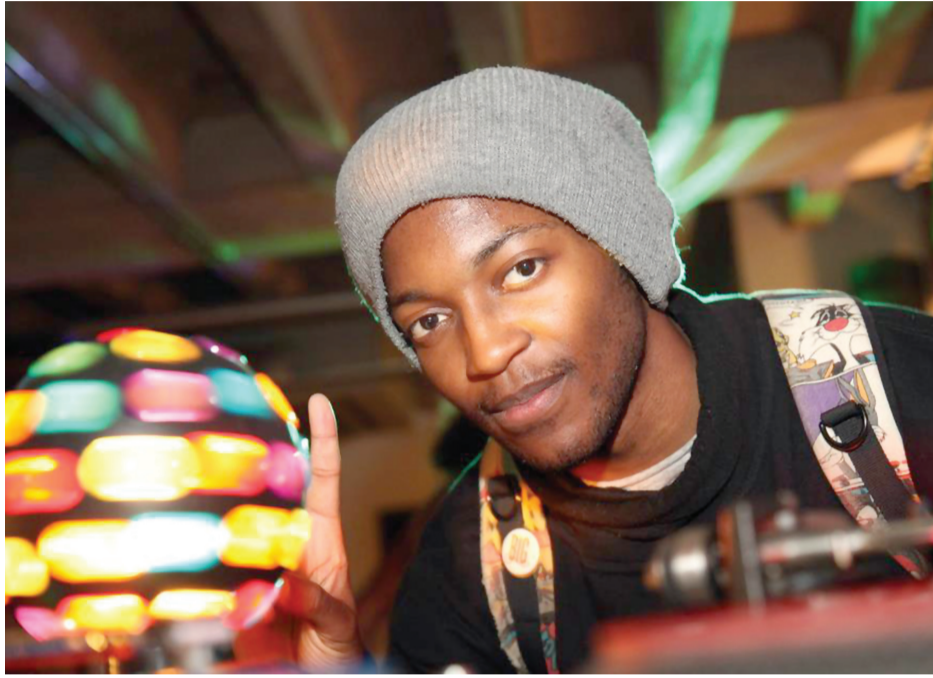
A British citizen living in Tbilisi claims he is subjected to racial discrimination. Aaron Charles, a dancing instructor speaks out about two appalling incidents that happened with a few days interval. The first occurred in supermarket Smart, and another one in a McDonald's at Rustaveli street.

British Citizen speaks out about racial discrimination he experienced in Tbilisi

AARON CHARLES:

I came to Georgia because my wife from Georgia. I am a dancing instructor in 3 different studios in Tbilisi. In short, I'm get-

"I WAS RACIALLY ABUSED HERE"



Aaron Charles

Charles with his wife
Nutsa Eristavi

■ **"The security just stood there, watching... he didn't do anything"**

ting my income here, doing different projects with my wife, Nutsa Eristavi.

– **What really happened at Smart's and McDonalds?**

– Me and my wife were having dinner at a Smart's supermarket. A man approached us and stared at us strangely. My wife politely asked him if something was wrong but he reacted with shouting and cursing. As I was told, he asked my wife, what was such a beautiful woman doing with an ape like myself. I don't believe he was drunk, he didn't look like, it was more like pure hatred and rage. There also was a security guy. He was standing behind me. It seemed he was scared of the guy. He didn't do anything, anything at all. He was just standing and looking at the guy who was shouting at me. I was confused, He was supposed to protect people. But he did not do anything.

As for the McDonald's, I was there with my student. Two men came to us and they roughly told me to stand up. I refused but they stood there, looking down at me and joked about me. My student asked them to behave and to my surprise, they politely asked me to change my seat and I agreed. Then they started talking with us. They asked from where I came from, what I wanted in Georgia, whether I was from Africa... Most appalling thing in all this was that they were asking me about my skin color...

They gradually became very aggressive, I asked to calm down and then I stood up and tried to just walk away from trouble, but he came at me and wanted to attempt what I would call a physical assault. After this came a security and they kicked me out of the McDonald's. Then police came.

– **Was it first time when such an accident happened to you?**

– No, it's not the first time, it happens

■ **"They asked from where I came from, what I wanted in Georgia, whether I was from Africa... Most appalling thing in all this was that they were asking me about my skin color..."**

quite often in buses, restaurants, on streets, people say words, stare at me. Obviously, it's nothing, but it is very uncomfortable when people laugh because you are different.

– **What do you think, what is the reason why people behave like this?**

– I think it's lack of open-mindedness and education.

– **Are you going to sue the abusers?**

– No. I am not that kind of person. I just want people to change and have more positive.

– **What would you say to Georgian people after this?**

– Just love each other, we are all humans, there is one race, human race. We all have hurt, feelings, I'm a guest here, I must feel here comfortable. I'm trying to help people here every day, people who are asking money in the streets. I see a lot of Georgians in London. They probably feel the same way, and they want to have good life there, survive like me. So, think about them when you start laughing about guests in your country...

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BTA BANK

HOTELS

HOLIDAY Inn.
HOTEL CITADINES
SHERATON METECHI PALACE
COURTYARD MARRIOTT
TBILISI MARRIOTT
RADISSON BLU
HOTEL 'SYMPATHY'
HOTEL VARAZI
BRITISH HOUSE
HOTEL VILLA
HOTEL BOMOND
'BETSI'
PRIMA VERA
HOTEL VERA PALACE
VIP VICTORIA
AMBASSADOR
KOPALA
NEW KOPALA
OLD METECHI
OLD TBILISI
HOTEL OLD DISTRICT
HOTEL D'PLAZA
HOTEL ISTANBUL
'BOMOND GRANDE'
HOTEL 'CRUISE'
TBILITEL
GPM KAPAN
HOTEL KMM
HOTEL ZP
HOTEL SHARDEN
CITYHOTEL
TIFLIS PALACE
HOTEL DIPLOMAT
HOTEL 'DAVID'
HOTEL ARGOPALACE

CAFE-BARS, RESTAURANTS

RESTAURANT 'CRUISE'
SPORT LAND CAFE
CASABLANKA CAFE
RESTAURANT GOSTAN
TEPSHEBI
TASTE OF INDIA
RESTAURANT VERA STEAK HOUSE
'ACID' BAR
CAFE LATTE
CAFE BATONEBI
CAFE COFFEE GE
RESTAURANT LE MARI
CAFE DISCOVERY
CAFE SEGAFREDO
CAFE 'ROTONDA'
'MAHARAJA'-INDIAN RESTAURANT
SANCHO - SPANISH RESTAURANT

RIDER BAR
SANTA FE - MEXICAN RESTAURANT
WHEELS - IRISH BEER BAR
NOSTALGIA BAR
CHABA'S JAZZ-ROCK BAR
CAFE FAHRENHEIT
BEER HOUSE
TOUCAN BAR
PROFILE CAFE
'DUNA' CAFE
RESTAURANT 'KARTULI'
RESTAURANT BELLE VILLE
NEW BAR
CAFE 'VERGNANO'
MCDONALDS
RESTAURANT 'LOST PARADISE'
PROSPERO'S BOOKS
RESTAURANT 'TAI HOUSE'
CAFE 'NEAR OPERA'
CAFE 'SALVE'
PUR-PUR CAFE-RESTAURANT
ELITE TEA HOUSE
CAFE-RESTAURANT 'LA COOL'
CAFE '3,1/2'
PREGO PIZZERIA
CAFE 'KALA'
TAPAS BAR
CAFE BAR NUMBER ONE -
COFFEE HOUSE - CAFFEINE
FAGOT BAR
SHARDEN 12 - BAR
N BAR
MARAKESH BAR
MARAKESH EXPRESS
HANGAR BAR
CAFE 'KONKA'
LITERARY CAFE
PIPE CAFE
CHINA TOWN RESTAURANT
SHARDEN MUSIC BAR
RESTAURANT 'SOLOLAKI GATE'
CAFE 'ALDO BERNARDI'
RESTAURANT 'IN VINO VERITAS'
DECO STOP RESTAURANT
BAR-RESTAURANT 'BOMONDI'
OLD LONDON PUB
GREEN BAR
JOHN SILVER BAR
PANORAMA CAFE
AL MAGRIPH CAFE
JUST 12
BAR 'ARABICA'
BAR 'CAIRO'
RESTAURANT 'OLD METEKHI'
CAFE 'KGB'
CAFE BAR '19'
CAFE 'PARNASI'
RESTAURANT 'TAN TSAIGE'
CAFE BAR 'NERO'
RESTAURANT 'DOWN TOWN'
RESTAURANT 'SEIDABAD'
RESTAURANT 'PICASO'
RESTAURANT 'SIAN GAN'
CAFE 'ATSTECA'
CAFE BAR 'CORNERS'
CAFE BAR 'NERO'
RESTAURANT 'PIANO'
'GOLD FISH' RESTAURANT
'PAETONI' RESTAURANT
'FILINI' RESTAURANT
RESTAURANT 'MAIDAN'
RESTAURANT 'SENATE'
'TSISKVILI' RESTAURANT

OTHER COMPANIES

ARCHIL KHOMASURIDZE INSTITUTE
OF REPRODUCTOLOGY
BODY IMAGE - COSMETOLOGY
AND MASSAGE
GPI INSURANCE COMPANY

'IMEDI L' INSURANCE COMPANY
IC GROUP INSURANCE COMPANY
ALDAGI BCI INSURANCE COMPANY
DEVELOPMENT SOLUTION
RAKEEN (BUILDING COMPANY)
BRITISH CENTRE
AECOM CONSULTANCY COMPANY
AVIS CAR RENT CENTER
SYNERGY GROUP
AVERSI
PSP
BELAVIA AIRWAYS
BMI (BRITISH MIDLAND INTERNATIONAL)
AIRZENA
LUFTHANSA
AZERBAIJANIAN AIRLINES
UKRAINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES
TURKISH AIRLINES
KAZAKHSTAN AIRLINES
CZECH AIRLINES
NATIONAL AIRWAYS
LUTECIA
BEAUTY SALOON 'STUDIO SALOON'
GD ALCO
ALIONI 99
'GEPRU' CONSULTING GROUP
CELLER
CAUCASUS ONLINE 8-07
NOKIA CENTRE
'WINE WORLD'
'NABADI' (THEATRE)
SOROS FOUNDATION
BOOK HOUSE
UGT
CHF INTERNATIONAL
E WORD
VIA TRAVELS
LEVON TRAVEL
PEACE CORPS
AVON COMPANY
GALLERY 'SHARDEN'
GALLERY 'HOBI'
TOYOTA KAVKASIA
TOYOTA TAXIES
ASTRA PARK - CARTING
APM
TBILISI BAIRON SCHOOL
STATE UNIVERSITY OF
ILIA CHAVCHAVADZE
SCIENTIFIC-RESEARCH INSTITUTE
GEORGIAN-AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
KATONI & COMPANY
BEELINE
GEOCELL
MAGTI
MOBITAL LTD
TELASI
AIR BATUMI

EMBASSIES, CONSULATES & DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS

DUTY FREE ALIANCE
AMERICAN CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE IN GEORGIA
ITALIAN EMBASSY & CONSULATE
CZECH REPUBLIC -
EMBASSY, CONSULATE
CHINESE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC EMBASSY
BRAZILIAN EMBASSY
ESTONIA - EMBASSY, CONSULATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY -
EMBASSY & CONSULATE
GREECE REPUBLIC - EMBASSY
& CONSULATE
IRAN ISLAMIC REPUBLIC - EMBASSY
& CONSULATE
IRAQ REPUBLIC - EMBASSY
& CONSULATE
JAPAN - EMBASSY
KINGDOM OF BELGIUM -

HONORARY CONSULATE
KINGDOM OF DENMARK HONORARY
CONSULATE
KINGDOM OF SWEDEN - EMBASSY
SWEDEN HONORARY CONSULATE
KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS
- EMBASSY
LATVIA REPUBLIC - EMBASSY
LITHUANIA REPUBLIC -
EMBASSY & CONSULATE
NORWAY HONORARY CONSULATE
PHILIPPINES - HONORARY CONSULATE
POLICE DELEGATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF FRANCE
REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA - EMBASSY
& CONSULATE
REPUBLIC OF FRANCE - EMBASSY
& CONSULATE
REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY - EMBASSY
REPUBLIC OF POLAND - EMBASSY & CONSULATE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES - CONSULATE
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY - EMBASSY
ROMANIA - EMBASSY & CONSULATE
SPAIN HONORARY CONSULATE
STATE OF ISRAEL - EMBASSY & CONSULATE
SWISS CONFEDERATION - EMBASSY & CONSULATE
UKRAINE - EMBASSY & CONSULATE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND
NORTHERN IRELAND - EMBASSY
USA - EMBASSY & CONSULATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY - EMBASSY & CONSULATE
EU SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE SOUTH-CAUCASUS
VATICAN (THE HOLLY SEE)
SALFORD REPRESENTATION IN GEORGIA
BRITISH COUNCIL (CULTURAL DEPARTMENT)
EUROPEAN UNION REPRESENTATION
EUROPEAN UNION BC PROGRAM
AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN GEORGIA
BRITISH COUNCIL
SAVE THE CHILDREN
UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA
UNICEF - UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
UNRHC - UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
EURASIA PARTNERSHIP FOUNDATION
EVERY CHILD - BRITISH CHARITY ORGANIZATION
ABA ROL
NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE
NORWEGIAN REFUGEES UNION
OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENDER (OMBUDSMAN) OF GEORGIA
RED CROSS INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
WHO - WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
GEORGIAN YOUNG LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION
EURASIA PARTNERSHIP FOUNDATION
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
GEORGIAN PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICINE DEVELOPMENT FUND
GENDER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
FUND OF CAUCASUS
SOCO - CHARITY FUND
HORIZONT
GEORGIA - ELADA -
GEORGIAN-GREEK RELATIONS DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
GEORGIAN PARLIAMENT ADMINISTRATION
TBILISI CITY HALL - STAFF
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BATUMI

INTOURIST PALACE HOTEL
SHERATON PALACE HOTEL
RADISSON BLU HOTEL
PRESIDENT PLAZA HOTEL
ERA PALACE HOTEL
HOTEL 'ALIK'
HOTEL 'ISTANBUL'
HOTEL 'RCHEULI VILLA'
HOTEL 'MARINA'
HOTEL 'SANAPIRO'
TURKISH AIRWAYS
MINISTRY OF TOURISM OF ADJARA

WEEKLY UPDATED

MEIDAN BAZAAR – SOUL OF OLD TBILISI

BY SALOME SHIKHASHVILI

“French traveler Jean Sharden already mentioned it in the 18th century. According to history, this place has always been a commercial square, although under different names – Shaitan Bazaar, Tattris Moedani, Tsikhis Moedani.”

If you want to buy traditional Georgian wine, handmade accessories, souvenirs, delicacies and many other things, there is a unique place for you in the very center of old Tbilisi, Gorgasali street – Meidan Bazaar.

The idea of Meidan Bazaar belongs to the company Akhali Gza and



Levan Karumidze, who told us something more about the historical importance of this place:

“The idea of creating a grand market belongs to us; although the French traveler Jean Sharden already mentioned it in the 18th century. According to history, this place has always been a commercial square, although under different names – Shaitan Bazaar, Tattris Moedani, Tsikhis Moedani.

This unique place and its well-known location gave us a great chance to again establish a marketplace here. We gathered talented people with a variety of skills and offered them a chance to participate. It turned out to be so easy...

Our work isn't only aimed at well-known people. Anyone who can create something worthy or unique can join us. We'll help them to sell their product. There is a place for everyone at Meidan Bazaar,” said Levan Karumidze, creator of the idea.

Items made of felt using a traditional Georgian method, candles made of natural wax, clay wine jugs, enamel accessories, churchkhelas and cheese. This is but a fraction of what Meidan Bazaar has to offer.

Pur Pur Restaurant & Lounge
Working hours from 12pm to 2am.
Special lunch menus!
We have LIVE MUSIC every evening!

N1, Abo Tbileli Str., Gudishvili Garden Tel: (995 32) 2 47 77 76 Cel: 574 44 12 12 e-mail: info@purpur.ge

Old Metekhi
Georgian-European Restaurant with Live music everyday/ saxofone (in case of banquets and weddings additional singers are available)

3 Metekhi slope, Tbilisi
Tel: +995 32 274 74 07
Mob: +9955 93 23 07 88

Jasmin Thai Massage

THAI MASSAGE - 1 HOUR - 50 GEL
OIL MASSAGE - 1 HOUR - 60 GEL
AROMA MASSAGE - 1 HOUR - 70 GEL
BACK AND SHOULDERS MASSAGE - 1 HOUR - 45GEL
FOOT MASSAGE - 1 HOUR - 45 GEL

Add: 46 Tabukashvili str. Tel.: 293 21 66; 292 12 83; 293 11 34; (+995) 593 35 29 33

Don Gjiuseppe
Classic Italian Restaurant Special dishes, Lemonade & Coctails from Italian Chef Gjiuseppe Staiano
13, Mosashvili Street
Tel: 224 47 27

THAI RELAX MASSAGE

THAI MASSAGE - 1 HOUR - 50 GEL
OIL MASSAGE - 1 HOUR - 60 GEL
AROMA MASSAGE - 1 HOUR - 70 GEL
BACK AND SHOULDERS MASSAGE - 1 HOUR - 45GEL
FOOT MASSAGE - 1 HOUR - 45 GEL

Hotel & Home service!
Tel: 568 113 162 2 308 558 2 999 232
Address: 8, Akhvlediani Str.

Down Town
European Restaurant

Addr: 7 Tabidze Str.
Tel: 292 30 88

Addr: Addr: Mosashvili Str. 24,
Tel: 290 37 75

BANKOK THAI MASSAGE

ROYAL THAI MASSAGE 2 HOUR - 110 GEL
THAI MASSAGE 1 HOUR - 50 GEL
OIL MASSAGE 1 HOUR - 60 GEL
AROMATHERAPY MASSAGE 1 HOUR - 70 GEL
ROYAL MASSAGE 1 HOUR - 60 GEL
BACK AND SHOULDERS MASSAGE 1 HOUR - 50 GEL
FOOT MASSAGE 1 HOUR - 50 GEL
Hotel & Home service 1 hour - 80-90 GEL

TEL: 243 21 19; 593 30 53 01 ; 555 16 59 38
ADDR.: 8, Dadiani Str.

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