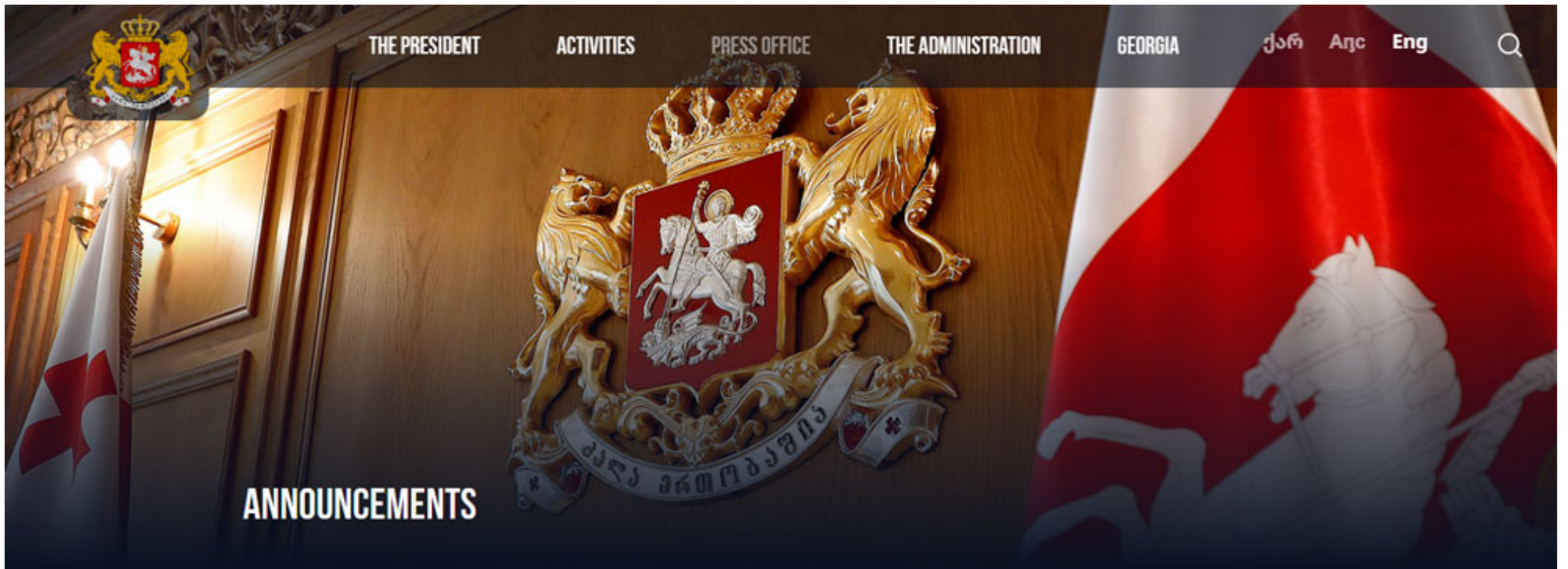


President Salome Zourabichvili's Explanation for Not Revoking Partskhaladze's Citizenship



BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

After President Salome Zourabichvili declined to revoke the Georgian citizenship of Otar Partskhaladze, the former chief prosecutor who has been sanctioned by the United States, she issued a subsequent statement explaining her decision. Zourabichvili stated that her decision does not constitute a violation of the constitution or the citizenship law. She further clarified that she has a three-

month window within which she can terminate Partskhaladze's citizenship but currently deems it inappropriate to do so at this time.

President Zourabichvili also stressed her awareness of both the legal and moral aspects of her decision. By not revoking Partskhaladze's citizenship, she intends to give state institutions the opportunity to address the issue within a reasonable timeframe to safeguard Georgia's reputation and inter-

ests. This decision holds particular importance in the context of determining Georgia's European future and countering what she referred to as a "Russian decision" made by the National Bank, which she believes is contrary to Georgia's interests and its path towards closer integration with Euro-Atlantic institutions.

"The President of Georgia does not violate either the constitution or the law. To eliminate any speculations, we would like

to remind you of Article 26 of the Organic Law "On Georgian Citizenship," which stipulates that the consideration and decision of applications and submissions regarding Georgian citizenship should not exceed a period of three months.

Regarding the President's decision, she is fully aware of the legal and moral aspects of this issue. With this decision, the President provides state institutions with the opportunity to take measures within a reason-

able time frame to protect the country's reputation and interests. This is especially crucial today, as the future of Georgia in Europe is being determined. It is important for the country to reverse the "Russian decision" made by the National Bank. Turning Georgia into a potential "black hole" serves the interests of only one country and directly contradicts the state's interests and our Euro-Atlantic path," wrote Zourabichvili.

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia, Shalva Papuashvili, has written a letter to President Claire Bazy-Malaurie of the Venice Commission. In the letter, he requests a legal assessment of the laws, bills, and the deoligarchization action plan that have been adopted to fulfill the 12 recommendations. This information was reported by the Parliament's press office.

As mentioned in the letter, based on the agreement reached with the EU, draft laws that were considered by the Parliament of Georgia to fulfill the 12 recommendations, along with the action plan prepared by the Government of Georgia to mitigate excessive influence in the political, economic, and public life of the country, have been sent to the Venice Commission.

"In particular, based on the agreement reached with the EU side, I am sending you the following documents to the Venice Commission:

- The draft amendments

Shalva Papuashvili Submits Documents Based on 12 Recommendations to Venice Commission for Evaluation



to be implemented in the Election Code and the Regulations of the Parliament.

- The Law on Special Investigation Service.
- Articles of the Personal Data Protection Law pertaining to the Personal Data Protection Service.
- Articles of the Law on Combating Corruption regarding the Anti-Corruption Bureau.
- The draft amendments to be made in the organic law on common courts.
- An action plan aimed at preventing excessive influence of interests in the political, economic, and public life of Georgia.

Madam President, I kindly request the Venice Commission to provide legal opinions on the mentioned issues," wrote Shalva Papuashvili.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Tbilisi Mayor Kakha Kaladze Denies Reports of Bidzina Ivanishvili's Return to Politics



Tbilisi Mayor Kakha Kaladze refuted the information circulating regarding the potential comeback of former Prime Minister of Georgia, Bidzina Ivanishvili, to the political arena as false.

As Kaladze conveyed during his media interaction, he stated that Bidzina Ivanishvili is currently not involved in Georgian politics and is instead dedicat-

ing his efforts to charitable endeavors throughout the country.

"Whenever you want, you say that Ivanishvili is involved in politics and manages political processes. And when it's beneficial for you, you say that he

might return to politics. This person, when it was necessary, made a statement about leaving politics. Since then, he has had no involvement in Georgian politics.

Of course, Ivanishvili enjoys a significant influence among our country's population due to his extensive charitable contributions. Even to this day, similar projects, undertaken by Bidzina

Ivanishvili's family and the Cartu Foundation, continue throughout Georgia. Therefore, the statements regarding Bidzina Ivanishvili's intention to return to politics are very false," said Kaladze.

Acting President of NBG Natia Turnava Affirms Georgia's Unwavering Commitment to International Sanctions



Natia Turnava, Acting President of the National Bank of Georgia, affirmed that Georgia's commitment to international

sanctions is unwavering, both in the past and at present.

"The National Bank and the financial system remain committed to international sanctions. Here we are talking about how to improve the execution so that the question does not even arise in the future and the court practice does not arise that would prevent us from doing so," said Turnava.

According to her, the practice of sanc-

tions is a new reality that will not come to an end in the immediate future. It is expected to persist for the next few years, potentially evolving or expanding.

Empowering foster children in Georgia: a journey of personal growth and career development

In an initiative called "Empowering Foster Children", Tamar and Nino, two enthusiastic EU4Youth Alumni, have come together to make a difference in the lives of 15-18-year-old foster children in Tbilisi, Georgia. The project helped equip these young people with essential skills, and to ignite their passion for personal development and career advancement.

Tamar and Nino organised a wide range of activities, ranging from information sessions to meetings on topics like career development, leadership, public speaking, Erasmus+, and the European Solidarity Corps. Recognising the significance of cultural awareness in shaping personal growth, the project also included visits to theatres, museums, and movie screenings, providing the foster children



with valuable exposure to different experiences and perspectives.

By honing the children's soft skills and preparing them for their first career steps, Tamari and Nino sought to instill confidence and determination in each participant. The ultimate ambition was to help these teenagers discover their true potential and build the foundations towards a successful future.

As the project progressed, so too did the participants' motivation. With each event, the foster children became more driven to

expand their knowledge and skills, eagerly embracing the opportunities for growth.

"I'm really glad to have the opportunity to be a part of this project and its activities," said 17-year-old Anna. "All of them were productive, but I was particularly impressed by our meeting with the United Nations Youth Delegate of Georgia, David Esatia. He really inspired to follow in his footsteps one day."

Some of the youngsters expressed a keen interest in joining volunteer projects under the

European Solidarity Corps (ESC). Tamar and Nino were quick to support these aspirations, helping them to find suitable projects that matched their talents and expectations. Witnessing their enthusiasm, it became clear to the two young Alumni behind the project that it had sparked a genuine desire in these young minds to seize opportunities and make a positive impact on the world.

Tamar expressed her delight, saying, "From the very beginning, we tried to make our initiative as engaging as possible for our beneficiaries to make them fully involved in the activities. According to their feedback, I believe that they gained valuable knowledge and experience from our project. That makes me really happy and very proud."

Nino adds: "This project allowed me to play a role in raising awareness in foster children about the possibilities that exist to develop their future careers. Everyone should be able to know how to build a successful life. We, as a community, should work harder to turn this into a

reality. And I am glad I was part of this process."

The programme also encouraged the beneficiaries to actively participate in their community and engage socially. By teaming up with students from Sulkhani-Saba Orbeliani University and with youth from various Georgian cities, the foster children had the opportunity to expand their perspectives and make new connections. Sulkhani-Saba Orbeliani University played a proactive role in the project, aimed at providing essential assistance and valuable resources to children in foster care. The initiatives were orchestrated in collaboration with the university's social sciences faculty and its professors.

The "Empowering Foster Children" initiative bears witness to the transformative power of mentorship, education, and community engagement. By nurturing the dreams and aspirations of these young individuals, the initiative has sowed the seeds of a promising future that they have the power to shape.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Monday, September 25

Day Showers
High: 22°C

Night Mostly Cloudy
Low: 15°C

Tuesday, September 26

Day Mostly Cloudy
High: 24°C

Night Clear
Low: 13°C

published by
The Messenger

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