

Parliament of Georgia Supports Draft Law Limiting Temporary Constructions at Rallies in First Reading

By Liza Mchedlidze

In the first reading, the Parliament of Georgia supported the draft law that limits the setting up of tents and other temporary constructions at rallies.

Seventy-five MPs supported the changes, while twenty-three were against. The Parliament will consider the bill in an accelerated manner.

The rules for arranging temporary constructions during gatherings and demonstrations are becoming stricter. It is forbidden for the participants of the assembly to set up a temporary structure in advance. Specifically, it is forbidden to set up a structure if:

- There is a danger to the participants of the rally or other persons;
- It prevents the protection of public order and security by the police;
- It causes disruption of the normal functioning of enterprises, institutions, or organizations;
- The assembly or demonstration can proceed without significant hindrance without such arrangements.

Violation of these norms will result in the confiscation of the object of the offense and a fine of 500 GEL or administrative imprisonment for up to 15 days. If the violator is an organizer, the penalty will be confiscation of the object of the offense and a fine of 5000 GEL or administrative imprisonment for a term of up to 15 days.

The Georgian Dream stated that the legislative changes are in response to the State Security Service of Georgia's statement on September 18, According to



which "a certain group of individuals, both inside and outside the borders of Georgia, is planning to destabilize the country between October and December 2023."

According to the State Security Service, the individuals in question are planning to create a so-called 'tent city', install and activate explosive devices within

the territory, erect barricades near central avenues and strategic locations in Georgia, and occupy and block government buildings.

Chairman of Georgian Dream Attributes President Zourabichvili's 2018 Support to 'Gender' and 'Background' During Impeachment Proceedings

By Liza Mchedlidze



During the impeachment proceedings of the president in the Constitutional Court, Irakli Kobakhidze, the chairman of the Georgian Dream, stated that the President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili received support in 2018 due to her gender and background.

According to Kobakhidze, the President of Georgia's mandate does not involve implementing domestic and foreign policies; instead, the role is that of a symbolic representative of the state. He further expressed the opinion that Zourabichvili does not 'deserve' to hold the presidency.

"In 2018, when we expressed our support for Mrs. Salome Zourabichvili, we did so based on specific criteria. What was the criterion? If we had faith in the president's ability to successfully implement foreign and domestic policies we would have supported not the presidential position, but the position of the prime minister.

CONTINUED ON Page 2

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CONTINUED FROM Page 1

This falls within the prerogative of the Prime Minister. We supported her for the role of president because she held a limited mandate. The criteria were also publicly stated: she was a representative of the diaspora, a descen-

dant of great ancestors, and had European life experience, among other factors.

We did not express our support for the president, and the people did not vote, expecting her to successfully implement the country's domestic and foreign policy but they supported her

based on the mandate outlined in the constitution. Today, the president is attempting to exceed this mandate.

The important factor is not my perception of this mandate, but rather the mandate the constitution provides. You were elected by the people not to intervene in domestic and foreign policy,

which the president is attempting to-day, but to primarily serve as a symbolic representative of the state. While your competencies are not solely symbolic, your mandate does not include the implementation of domestic and foreign policy," Kobakhidze stated.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Public Defender Criticizes Amendments to the Law on Assembly and Manifestations

sembly and Manifestations constitute an interference with the freedom of expression and assembly, as they restrict the expression of opinions through the use of temporary constructions, such as tents.

"Such a significant restriction

substantial and compelling interest, which is not addressed by the presented draft law.

The amendments will prohibit assembly and demonstration participants from setting up temporary constructions based on five grounds, which, according to the Public Defender, are insufficient to justify the restrictions proposed by the project.

According to the public defender, the existing norms already allow for an appropriate response in the event of such threats, and there is no need to impose additional prohibitions in this regard. Furthermore, the draft law allows for a broad interpretation," The Ombudsman's statement reads.

Georgia's Foreign Minister Meets with Council of Europe's Secretary General, Marija Pejcinovic Buric

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Ilija Darchiashvili, held a meeting with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Marija Pejcinovic Buric.

According to the Ministry of



Foreign Affairs, during the meeting, they highlighted the critical role and significance of the organization concerning the occupied territories of Georgia, the peaceful settlement of the conflict, and trust-building projects.

"There was a specific emphasis on the necessity of allowing international mechanisms in the occupied regions. The meeting also highlighted the Council of Europe's contribution to implementing democratic reforms in Georgia, with particular atten-

tion to the 2024-2027 action plan and its associated projects.

The meeting also addressed Georgia's progress in implementing the 12 recommendations of the European Commission and the results achieved. The minister expressed hope that Georgia's efforts would be appropriately evaluated, and the country would attain candidate status by year-end. In conclusion, the parties reiterated their readiness to continue their close cooperation," MFA of Georgia's statement reads.



საქართველოს
სახალხო დამცველი
PUBLIC DEFENDER
(OMBUDSMAN) OF GEORGIA

According to the Public Defender's assessment, the amendments to the Law on As-

sembly of freedom of expression in a democratic society can only be justified by the need to protect a

EU and IOM provide ten trucks to Georgian Border Police

On 29 September, the Georgian Border Police received

ten trucks, funded by the EU and procured by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), with a total value of Euro790,000.

These short wheelbase trucks, able to access areas with extremely rugged terrain, will support Border Police in supplying border guards serving at remote



border divisions and sectors.

The vehicles were handed over as part of the 'Border and Migration Management Action for Georgia (BMMAG)' project, launched in 2022 under the EU Resilience Facility. The activity aims to support the Georgian government in sustaining more effective border management and migration governance.

(a. neighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Thursday, October 5

Day ☀ Clear
High: 23°C

Night 🌙 Clear
Low: 12°C

Friday, October 6

Day ☀ Clear
High: 20°C

Night ☁ Mostly Cloudy
Low: 11°C

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43, Chovelidze st., Tbilisi,
0108, Georgia
Founded by Prof.
Zaza Gachechiladze
Tamar Gachechiladze
Publisher

Mob.: +995 599 565621; +995 577 760000
E-mail: messenger@messenger.com.ge
http://www.messenger.com.ge/

Nino Metreveli
Commercial Director

Mariam Mchedlidze
Editor-in-Chief

Khatuna Gogichaishvili
Layout Designer, Photographer

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On the occasion of the Day of German Unity, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany H.E. Ernst Peter Fischer and Mrs. Maria del Carmen Fischer held a reception on October 3.









