

Public Defender Condemns Death of Georgian Citizen in Occupied Abkhazia, Holds Russia Responsible

By Liza Mchedlidze

Public Defender Levan Ioseliani addressed the death of a Georgian citizen Temur Karbaia, resulting from an assault by the local militia in the occupied Abkhazia and issued a statement in which the Ombudsman noted that the Russian Federation is responsible for the incident.

Ioseliani urged the Georgian authorities and all international organizations to exert maximum efforts in ensuring an effective investigation, the punishment of criminals, and holding Russia accountable.

"It should be noted that the responsibility for the alleged violation of the right to life of a Georgian citizen rests with the Russian Federation, as it is the entity exercising control over the occupied territory.

The Public Defender calls on the authorities of Georgia, as well as all international human rights protection and monitoring organizations, to exert maximum efforts in ensuring an effective investigation of the mentioned incident, punishing the perpetrators, and holding the Russian Federation accountable," Ioseliani said.

The Public Defender expressed regret that those responsible for the murders of



four Georgian citizens: Davit Basharuli, Giga Otkhзорia, Archil Tatumashvili, and Irakli Kvaratskhelia, have not faced consequences under the occupation regime. Ioseliani's statement also emphasized the uninvestigated murder of a Georgian citizen, Tamaz Ginturi, which took place a month ago in the occupied territory near the village of Kirbali. The Public Defender is critical of the lack of accountability and justice in these cases.

"It is regrettable that the occupation regime has yet to hold accountable those responsible for the murders of four Georgian citizens—Davit Basharuli, Giga Otkhзорia, Archil Tatumashvili, and Irakli Kvaratskhelia. Furthermore, the murder of a Georgian citizen in the occupied territory near the village of Kirbali a month ago remains uninvestigated.

Against this backdrop, the involvement of international organizations and the global community becomes particularly crucial for preventing alleged violations of the right to life. The impunity of such actions poses a significant danger to the lives of Georgian citizens," The Public Defender's statement reads.

Ioseliani conveyed profound sorrow and extended heartfelt condolences to the family members of the deceased.

Georgian Citizen Dies in Occupied Gali Due to Brutal Beating by Local Militia

on the verge of death, they attempted to save him by taking him to Sokhumi. Unfortunately, he did not survive," said Nodia, a member of the "For Abkhazia" movement.

According to RFE/RL, the daughter-in-law of the deceased, who resides with her family in Zugdidi, stated that a few days ago, Temur Karbaia was arrested by a so-called police officer in the occupied city of Gali and subjected to physical assault.

Later, Karbaia was taken to the hospital, where he died on the night of December 9.

According to the family, the deceased had multiple injuries on his body, including bruises and fractures.

"He has injuries everywhere. He is destroyed; his ribs, sides, and bones are broken. The incident occurred yesterday. He was in a coma after that and died last night in the hospital. We don't know anything else yet. I don't know if an autopsy was conducted on the body or not, and if an investigation has been started, we don't know that either. He was walking down the street and was arrested. We only know this. Three people were beating him," said the wife of

Temur Karbaia's brother to RFE/RL.

The State Security Service of Georgia has responded to the killing of a Georgian citizen in the Russian-occupied Gali region, announcing that the Georgian side has activated a hotline with the involvement of the European Union Monitoring Mission.

"In connection with the mentioned incident, a hotline involving the EU monitoring mission was activated. According to information shared via the hotline, representatives of the occupation regime confirmed the death of the Georgian citizen but did not confirm the attempt to illegally arrest the individual in question.

As the events unfolded within the depths of the occupied territory, specifically in the occupied city of Gali, the ongoing process involves researching additional information," as per the statement from the State Security Service.

President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili also responded to the killing of Temur Karbaia and published a statement on the social network X (formerly Twitter).

"The brutal beating by local militia resulting in the death of another Georgian citizen,

Teymur Karbaia, in occupied Abkhazia is a tragic reminder of the blatant violations of elementary Human rights in the territories occupied by Russia," Zourabichvili wrote.

The Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, Shalva Papuashvili, addressed the killing of a Georgian citizen, stating that the incident once again emphasizes the importance of ending the occupation promptly.

Another tragic incident has occurred, once again underscoring the severity of the occupation. On this Day of Human Rights Protection, it is crucial to recognize that occupation not only violates the territorial integrity of Georgia but, above all, tramples on human rights in the regions under occupation.

This is an area that, among others, has been recognized by the Strasbourg Court as being under effective Russian control. Therefore, the challenge of the occupation is also important in this regard; there is a difficult situation in terms of human rights protection. My condolences to his family. This shows us once again how important it is to end the occupation as soon as possible," said Papuashvili.



By Liza Mchedlidze

According to the "For Abkhazia" movement, Georgian citizen Temur Karbaia died after being beaten by local militia in the Russian-occupied Gali. The State Security Service of Georgia reports that representatives of the occupation regime

confirmed Karbaia's death but did not acknowledge the attempted illegal arrest of the individual in question.

"This is another victim of the occupation regime. According to our information, the so-called militia arrested this person, subjected him to severe beatings. Later, when they realized he was

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6695; Euro - 2.8793; GBP - 3.3590; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.9157; Swiss Franc - 3.0495

BY MALKHAZ MATSABERIDZE

Two Decades of the Rose Revolution: A Divisive Anniversary for Georgian Politics

The 20th anniversary of the Rose Revolution turned out to be the basis for different messages for the political spectrum. The Georgian Dream evaluates this event negatively, while the United National Movement and the political forces that arose from the UNM, consider the Rose Revolution to be the most important event in the recent history of Georgia. The part of the pro-Western opposition, which separates itself from the National Movement, looks at the Rose Revolution with restraint.

To assess the Rose Revolution, it is perhaps appropriate to look at it in a global context. The rose revolution started a whole series of 'color' or 'flower' revolutions, which took place in 2003-2005 and led to certain changes in the international arena. The first revolution took place in Georgia in November 2003 and represented a protest against the falsified parliamentary elections. The Rose Revolution was followed by the Orange Revolution in Ukraine in 2004, the Cedar Revolution in Lebanon in February 2005, and the Tulip Revolution in Kyrgyzstan in March 2005.

This ended the wave of revolutions. Attempts at a "color" revolution in Belarus and Moldova ended in failure. What did the Rose Revolution bring to Georgia? Accelerating reforms and dra-

matically strengthening the Western vector in the country's foreign policy, an application was made for joining the European Union and NATO. As a result of reforms, modern state institutions were created and corruption practically disappeared from the life of ordinary people.

Georgia became a model country for the post-Soviet states for a simple reason - if post-Soviet Georgia succeeded, they could do the same. Building a modern state meant leaving Russia's sphere of influence. This would pit Moscow against Georgia in the age of rising neo-imperialism. "Putin perceived the Rose Revolution as a conspiracy against Russia," Saakashvili said on the 20th anniversary of the revolution. Of course, Saakashvili's government made many mistakes during the reforms. Perhaps the main mistake was that they assumed that it would be easier to carry out reforms without democratic changes. That is why they idealized Singaporean Lee's rule, and in the end, they created a strange formula - we want Lee Kuan's Singapore with elements of Switzerland.

The lack of democracy contributed to the growth of dissatisfac-

tion in the society, and already in 2008, Saakashvili had a very difficult time - he had to leave the post of president and hold re-elections, and the August 2008 war with Russia dealt a heavy blow to Georgia and Saakashvili's domestic and foreign positions.

The rule of the National Movement lasted until the 2012 parliamentary elections. Saakashvili's team did not expect defeat, but with the advice received from the West, they reconciled themselves to defeat and handed over power to the Georgian Dream formed by Bidzina Ivanishvili.

Changing the government through elections is generally good for democracy, but only if the political forces do not see it as a tragedy. After 2012, Georgian Dream is already in power for the third term and it is already announcing another convincing victory in the upcoming 2024 parliamentary elections. Saakashvili himself notes today that in 2012 democracy did not win by changing the government, but Putin was able to overthrow it with hybrid methods and brought the Russian-Georgian oligarch Bidzina Ivanishvili to the government of

Georgia.

During the rule of the National Movement, every year the anniversary of the Rose Revolution was celebrated, especially since it coincided with the traditional religious feast of St. George for the Georgian people. Since 2012, the Georgian Dream government no longer considers the Rose Revolution celebration-worthy. On the contrary, it is seen as a negative event. For example, in 2019, Irakli Gharibashvili said that the Rose Revolution brought the country's economy to the point of desolation.

Saakashvili, the main organizer of the Rose Revolution, marked the 20th anniversary of it in prison. As for his party, there is an internal conflict between the new leader Levan Khabeishvili and the previous leader Nika Melia. Saakashvili is trying to maintain the unity of the party, and on the 20th anniversary of the revolution, a special manifesto was published on the action plan, which should become the basis of unity.

The UNM honors the 20th anniversary of the Rose Revolution, which the Georgian Dream opposes. Regarding the anniversary, Irakli Kobakhidze said:

"The Rose Revolution brought to this country torture, inhuman treatment, business racketeering, loss of 20% of territories... Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Rose Revolution is simply hubris and nothing more."

The Chairman of the Parliament Giorgi Papuashvili repeats the same. According to him, the rule of the National Movement has shown that revolutionary changes lead to bad results, the National Movement has created an authoritarian regime, a system that violates human dignity, and a system of inhumane treatment.

There is no unanimous opinion among the opposition regarding the solemn celebration of the Rose Revolution. Iago Khvichiya, chairman of the Girchi party, considers it strange that the National Movement celebrates this date, because the leader of the party, Saakashvili, is a prisoner.

The UNM believes that the Rose Revolution played a great role in the development of the country. For the citizens of Georgia, this was a turning point, when Georgia had a chance for European development. Today, despite everything, this chance is taking a real shape.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

President Salome Zourabichvili Engages with Georgian Diaspora in Virtual Meeting for 'Our Voice for Europe' Campaign



The President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, held a virtual meeting with representatives of the Georgian diaspora living in EU countries as part of the European campaign 'Our Voice for Europe.'

According to the president's press service, Natia Sulava, the head of the administration of the

with you, our diaspora, which is a significant part of our society. You are in Europe, your voice resonates from Europe, and your experience enables you to understand exactly what Europe means with its positives and negatives. While nothing is perfect, what does exist – this secure life, respect for human dignity – is what we desire in our country. You understand very well why it is necessary, so that you can either return or share this life with us from wherever you are. Freedom is actually the main value that unites us and fuels our desire for Europe. Your 'European voice' will also be carried to Europe," President Zourabichvili stated.

EU Ambassador to Georgia Pawel Herczynski Addresses Human Rights Day in Video Message

The Ambassador of the European Union in Georgia, Pawel Herczynski, issued a video address regarding the Day of Human Rights Protection. According to Herczynski, recommending candidate status for Georgia

carries historic significance and entails a responsibility to enhance human rights protection.



"Today marks the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This landmark document recognizes that human rights belong to each and every one of us. The world has changed a lot since the adoption of the Universal Declaration in 1948. As we face adverse trends across the globe, we must be united and determined in defending the universality of these rights.

This is a collective task and an ongoing process towards a more equal and inclusive future.

Protecting human rights is at the heart of the European Union. Striving to make this vision a

reality is part of the European Union enlargement process and one of the nine steps on Georgia's path to EU membership. The recommendation to grant Georgia candidate status is truly historic, and with it comes the responsibility to improve the protection of human rights.

We are celebrating today. You can count on the European Union to stand by your side to ensure that your fundamental rights are respected. Happy Human Rights Day!" Herczynski stated.

Weather

Monday, December 11

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 12°C

Night Showers
Low: 6°C

Tuesday, December 12

Day Light Rain
High: 8°C

Night Showers
Low: 6°C

President of Georgia, opened the meeting and expressed gratitude to the representatives of the Georgian diaspora living abroad in over 40 cities for their participation and involvement in the European integration process.

"This campaign had to be shared

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