

## Georgia Appoints New Ambassadors to Israel, China, Jordan, and Kuwait

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Georgia has appointed new ambassadors to Israel, China, Jordan, and Kuwait. Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili welcomed the new ambassadors at the government administration, extending his best wishes for success in their new positions.

Zaza Kandelaki was appointed as the new ambassador of Georgia to Israel, replacing Lasha Zhvania in this position. According to the government's press service, Zaza Kandelaki has dedicated many years to public service. His extensive career includes roles at the Academy of Sciences, Tbilisi State Museum, and the Office of the Head of State of Georgia. Additionally, he served as a member of the Parliament of Georgia and held various positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, contributing to diplomatic missions abroad. Notably, he held the position of extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of Georgia to the Republic of Poland and Hungary.

Noshrevan Lomtadize has been appointed as the ambassador of Georgia to Kuwait. As per government information, Noshrevan Lomtadize has been serving as the Director of the Department of International



Economic Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia since June 2021.

Georgia is set to have a new ambassador to China, as Paata Kalandadze, former Extraordi-

nary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Georgia to the United Arab Emirates, takes on

this role. According to government information, Kalandadze has served in various capacities within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs over the years. His previous diplomatic roles include being the extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of Georgia to the Republics of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as the State of Israel.

Archil Dzuliashvili has been appointed as the ambassador of Georgia to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Libya, and Iraq. Prior to this appointment, Dzuliashvili served as the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Georgia to the Republic of India and also held the position of Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Dzuliashvili previously served as the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Georgia to the Arab Republic of Egypt. Additionally, he held the position of Senior Counselor at the Embassy of Georgia, covering the State of Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the State of Qatar, the Sultanate of Oman, and the United Arab Emirates.

## Environment and Agriculture Minister Meets with Finnish Ambassador to South Caucasus and Finnish Meteorological Institute Representatives

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Otar Shamugia, along with the Ambassador of Finland to the South Caucasus, Kirsti Narinen, and representatives of the Finnish Meteorological Institute, discussed prospects for future cooperation. The focus areas include reducing risks and disasters caused by climate change, as well as addressing challenges related to water resources and air quality.

"Ensuring the perfect maintenance of early warning systems in the country remains one of our main priorities, and active efforts have been ongoing in this direction for years. The long-term collaboration with the Finnish Meteorological Institute, along with the sharing of

their valuable experience, is expected to bring significant results.

There is a need to establish a system in the shortest possible time to effectively mitigate the risks caused by climate change. Notably, last year, Georgia attained the status of a candidate for EU membership. The Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture is actively working to fulfill its obligations within its scope of competence. The support of our partners in these processes is crucial," Shamugia stated.

During the meeting, the minister highlighted the significant progress the country has made in recent years in the management of water resources and air quality monitoring, while also addressing the existing challenges. Otar Shamugia expressed gratitude to the Finnish side for their support.

As the Ambassador of Finland to the South Caucasus, Kirsti Narinen stated, Finland supports Georgia on the path of European integration, where environmental issues play a crucial role. Finland will do its best to assist the country in achieving the set goals.





The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Lelo Party Leader Mamuka Khazaradze Files Defamation Lawsuit Against Tbilisi Mayor Kakha Kaladze

"We request the court to instruct Mr. Kaladze to retract the mentioned statement. Lately, the issue of admissibility in these types of lawsuits has been handled in a manner inconsistent with the law. Let's wait to see what will happen; there are

court's decision," Kordzadze said.

Public Defender Alleges Excessive Force Against Detainees at Anti-Eviction Rally

Levan Ioseliani.

As per the Ombudsman, six detainees stated that, during their arrests, officers from the enforcement bureau used excessive force and physically assaulted them. One of the detain-

the police.

The Office of the Public Defender promptly notified the Special Investigation Service about all six individuals to launch an investigation.

In addition to the concern



Mamuka Khazaradze, the leader of the Lelo party, has filed a defamation lawsuit against Tbilisi Mayor Kakha Kaladze in the Tbilisi City Court, represented by lawyer Zviad Kordzadze.

According to the lawyer, Khazaradze is pressing charges against Kaladze for defamation, alleging damage to his honour and business reputation. Khazaradze is seeking the correction of information that he claims to be false, which was spread by the mayor.

The lawsuit was initiated in response to statements made by Kaladze, who accused Mamuka Khazaradze of engaging in 'dirty' activities during the governance of the United National Movement, alleging that Khazaradze made people 'miserable' and forcibly took away businesses.

various grounds, the statement is in place, and the legal norms allow Mr. Mamuka to proceed. For the rest, let's await the

On January 23, representatives of the Public Defender spoke with 19 individuals arrested during the eviction of the Khatiaashvili family on Kekelidze Street. Seventeen of them were arrested under administrative procedures, and two under criminal procedures, as stated by Public Defender

ees specifically accused the police of engaging in physical assault.

"Six individuals reported experiencing alleged excessive force and physical injuries by the National Bureau of Enforcement during their arrests. Among them, one citizen specifically reported alleged physical abuse by

about a possible excess of force during the arrest, two participants in the rally reported verbal abuse directed towards them. Additionally, three individuals stated that the reason for their arrest was not explained to them, and they were not provided with information about their rights," Public Defender stated.



Ukraine – Condemnation of the Russian strikes (23 January 2024)



MINISTÈRE DE L'EUROPE ET DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES

Liberté Égalité Fraternité

France condemns in the strongest possible terms the massive Russian missile strikes on Ukraine, which left at least five people dead and around 60 others injured in the city of Kyiv and the surrounding region, in addition to the cities of Dnipro and Kharkiv. Russia continues to do everything it can to try to weaken the resilience of the Ukrainian people during the second winter of the conflict. By once again deliberately targeting Ukrainian civilian infrastructure, Russia is guilty of committing war crimes and is alone in bearing responsibility for the escalation.

As was stated by Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Stéphane Séjourné, who traveled to Ukraine shortly after assum-

ing his new position, we cannot let Russia win this war. Therefore, France will continue working in close coordination with its partners to provide Ukraine with the support it needs to ensure its legitimate defense.

Regarding the military situation, France will supply roughly 40 more long-range SCALP missiles, as well as several hundred AASM air-launched bombs and munitions, which will be delivered soon. As part of the Artillery for Ukraine coalition co-chaired by France and the United States, partner countries are working to provide Ukraine with the capabilities it needs in this key area to defend its territory, and will help build the Ukrainian army of the future.

h t t p s : / / www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/ukraine/news/article/ukraine-condemnation-of-the-russian-strikes-23-jan-2024

Weather

Thursday, January 25

Day Cloudy High: 2°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: -4°C

Friday, January 26

Day Partly Cloudy High: 7°C

Night Cloudy Low: 1°C

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