

Oligarch Bidzina Ivanishvili Criticizes Western Influence, Signals Political Actions Post-Election

By Liza Mchedlidze

In front of the parliament building in Tbilisi, the "General People's Gathering" organized by the ruling party culminated with a speech from the honorary chairperson of Georgian Dream, Bidzina Ivanishvili. The ruling party mobilized citizens nationwide to rally in support of the "Foreign Agents" Law.

Ivanishvili said the "Global War Party" pushed the European Parliament to vote for a "non-European" resolution. He said this had two aims: interfering in Georgia's affairs and showing the European Parliament is under their control.

"Everyone has seen the resolution adopted by the European Parliament a few days ago, where European politicians once again supported the criminal leaders of the United National Movement. In this case too, the 'Global War Party' forced the European Parliament to support a completely non-European resolution.

All of this had two goals: on one hand, to rudely intervene in Georgia's affairs once again; on the other hand, to demonstrate once more that the European Parliament has become one of their tools, which they can use as they wish at any time.

With the approval of this entirely non-European resolution, it was once again shown how much influence the 'Global War Party' has on the European Union.

The 'Global War Party' is destroying European values in the EU with its own hands, which is generally its usual signature. Exactly the same way they destroyed Georgia from 2004 to 2012 by the hands of Georgians who were in power then," Ivanishvili said.

He suggested that Georgia has reached the point where it has the necessary resources to assert its sovereignty more effectively. Ivanishvili believes that the "Transparency of Foreign Influence" law plays a crucial role in protecting



Georgia's sovereignty by ensuring transparency regarding any foreign influence within the country.

"The fate of Georgia should be decided by the Georgian people. Over the years, we have accumulated enough resources to begin fully consolidating our sovereignty. This is the purpose served by the law "On Transparency of Foreign Influence." After the elections, we will have the opportunity to deliver a firm political and legal judgment to the collective National Movement," he said.

Ivanishvili explained that there were "two main objective reasons" for withdrawing the law last year:

Firstly, according to him, they must

have considered the concerns of deceived fellow citizens; Secondly, they must have ensured the political stability of the country, which could have faced challenges last year if the law had not been withdrawn.

Ivanishvili stated that after the elections, the United National Movement will be held strictly accountable for all the crimes it has committed against the Georgian state and the Georgian people over the course of two decades.

Honorary Chairman of Georgian Dream, said that the primary reason for the aggression of the "Global War Party" towards Georgia is its failure to turn Georgia into a "second front", despite sig-

nificant efforts.

He claimed that this could have been easily achieved had the "agents" returned to power. Ivanishvili highlighted that despite the promise made at the Bucharest summit in 2008, Georgia and Ukraine were not included in NATO and were instead caught in a two-edged conflict.

He attributed such decisions to the "Global War Party", which according to him, has decisive influence over NATO and the European Union. According to Ivanishvili, both Georgia and Ukraine are seen as "cannon fodder" by this "party".

Justice Minister Rati Bregadze: European Parliament Resolution on 'Agents Law' Lacks Factual Support for Saakashvili Case

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resolution.

The Minister of Justice of Georgia Rati Bregadze asserted that the European Parliament's April 25 resolution on the "Agents Law", concerning former president of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili, lacks factual support. He further noted that Saakashvili's correspondence with the Strasbourg court contradicts the content of the

At a briefing held at the Ministry of Justice, Rati Bregadze informed journalists that on April 18, Mikheil Saakashvili's lawyer submitted an application to the Strasbourg court to withdraw the complaint, emphasizing that the former president's health condition is not life-threatening.

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6835; Euro - 2.8762; GBP - 3.3635; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.8785; Swiss Franc - 2.9444

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"In the text of the European Parliament's resolution, it is requested that the convicted Saakashvili be released for humanitarian purposes and transferred to a foreign country for treatment. We are dealing with a complete discrepancy.

On April 18, Saakashvili himself requested the dismissal of the lawsuit, noting that his condition is not life-threatening, while the resolution of the European Parliament calls for him to be taken abroad for treatment,"

Bregadze stated.

Bregadze stated that these occurrences suggest a 'tendentious' aspect of the resolution. According to the Justice Minister, this implies that even European Parliament members may lack complete information, influenced possibly by "misinformation from Saakashvili and the United National Movement."

"This clearly indicates that at least this aspect of the resolution is rather tendentious. It also suggests that even members of the European Parliament lack complete information. It seems

that the misinformation spread by Saakashvili and the United National Movement had a significant impact on them.

The public clearly observed that the convict's mother and another of his supporters were present in the European Parliament, along with several deputies who are his active supporters. It is up to them whom they will support, but the demand put forward in the resolution lacks factual support. This is evidenced even by the letter sent by Saakashvili regarding the withdrawal of his claim," Bregadze stated.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Legal Affairs Committee Endorses Foreign Agents Law in Second Reading, 14 Opposition MPs Expelled

Okhanashvili turned off the microphones of opposition MPs, issued warnings, and expelled 14 opposition MPs.

Okhanashvili also expelled representatives of several non-governmental organisations from the session. The committee chairman first expelled the parliamentary secretary of

Sajaia attempted to inquire why an organization funded from Europe was perceived as more threatening than the one financed by Russia. In response, Okhanashvili turned off her microphone.

Okhanashvili silenced Natia Kuprashvili, the head of the Journalism Resource Center, by cutting off her microphone abruptly. Subsequently, he expelled her from the venue, accusing her of breaching regulations.

Deputies Iago Khvichia, Ana Natsvlishvili, and Paata Manjgaladze left the session in protest.

Russian Occupation Forces Illegally Detain Georgian Citizen

The representatives of the Russian occupation forces illegally detained a Georgian citizen in the vicinity of the occupied village of Disevi, as reported by the State Security Service. According to the agency, the detained individual is a resident of Gugutiantkari village.

According to the State Security Service, upon receiving information about the incident,

they activated the "hotline" operated by the EU Monitoring Mission.

Information about another instance of illegal detention was reported to the co-chairs of the international discussions in Geneva and to international partners.

"All available mechanisms have been activated to secure the release of the illegally detained Georgian citizen as soon as

possible. The responsibility for all destructive actions committed in the occupied territories of Georgia, as well as along the occupation line, rests with the occupying power of Russia," as stated in the information distributed by the agency.

Eight citizens of Georgia are currently in the occupied Tskhinvali prison and pre-trial detention center, accused of illegally crossing the "border".



The Legal Affairs Committee of the Parliament endorsed the draft law "On Transparency of Foreign Influence" during its second reading. Chairman Anri

Transparency International - Georgia, Lika Sajaia, and followed by the head of the Journalism Resource Center, Natia Kuprashvili.



EU and UNICEF sign agreement to support implementation of childcare and support system reform

On 26 April, the European Union and UNICEF signed a 12 million agreement to support implementation of the reform of the child care and support system in Ukraine.

The signing took place within



the framework of the International Dialogue on Reforming the Child Care and Support System,

which took place in Kyiv as part of the International Summit of Ministers of Social Policy. The

aim of the event was to unite the efforts of governments from the EU member states, the United Kingdom and the United States of America to help Ukraine implement reform in the sphere of children's rights.

Representatives of the Office of the President of Ukraine, the Olena Zelenska Foundation, central executive authorities, regional state administrations, international financial institutions, civil society and international organisations also attended.

By signing the agreement, the EU and UNICEF confirmed their intention to provide further assistance in ensuring the rights

of the child, in particular the right to grow up in a family environment, and to strengthen support for Ukraine's initiatives around this reform.

"I welcome Ukraine's determination to remain steadfast in its commitment to adopting and complying with European standards. The European Union is committed to ensuring the right of every child to grow up in a safe and caring environment in which they can reach their full potential. Ukrainian children should have exactly the same prospects," said Dubravka Šuica, Vice-President of the European Commission, in a video message.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Tuesday, April 30

Day ☀️ Clear
High: 29°C

Night 🌧️ Partly Cloudy
Low: 16°C

Wednesday, May 1

Day ☀️ Clear
High: 28°C

Night 🌧️ Partly Cloudy
Low: 16°C

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On the occasion of King's Day, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Georgia H.E. Ms Meline Arakelian and Mr Yannick Dieraert held a Reception on April 25.









