

Georgian Dream to Vote Against OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Resolution Over Biased Amendments

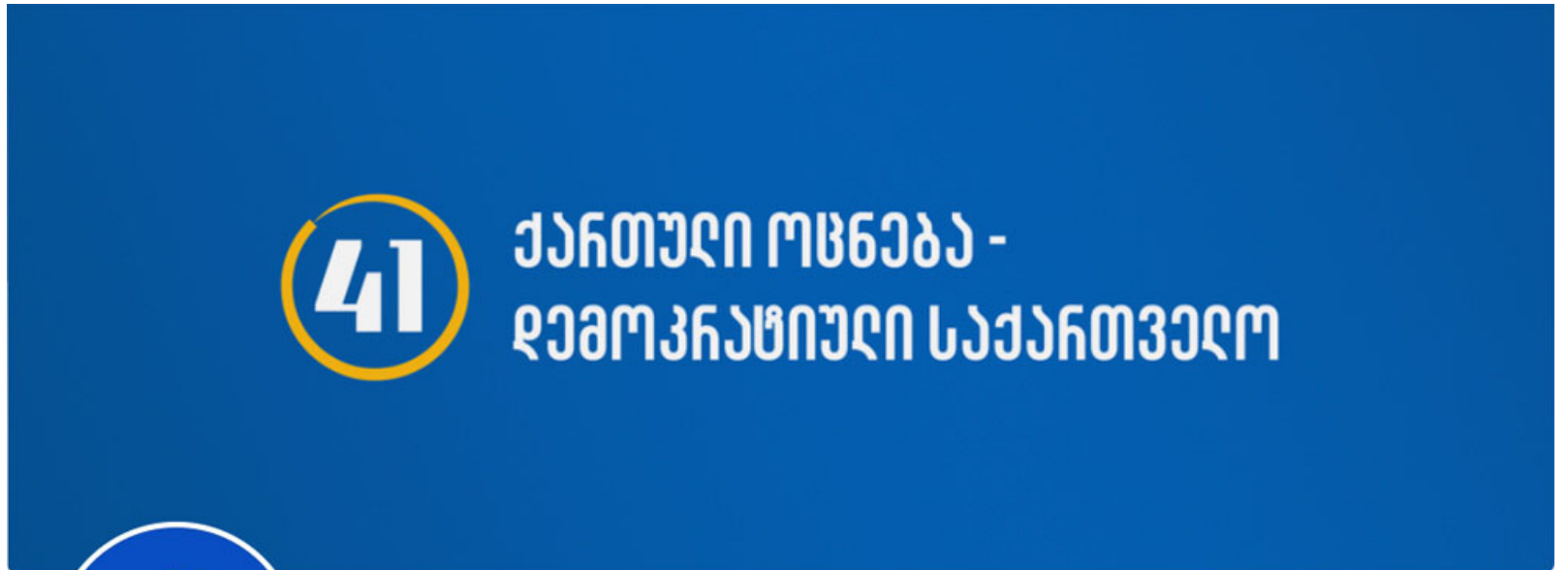
BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Georgian Dream has announced that it will vote against the resolution adopted at the 31st annual session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, citing biased amendments that contradict Georgia's territorial integrity and national interests.

According to the party's statement, the resolution titled "The Role of the OSCE in the Current Security Architecture: A Parliamentary Perspective" includes specific wording that undermines the principle of Georgia's territorial integrity and misrepresents the conflict involving Russia. The party claims that the text added to the resolution suggests there are three parties to the conflict - "Tbilisi-controlled Georgia, Abkhazia, and Ossetia" - a narrative that aligns with Russia's long-standing position in the Geneva negotiations.

The Georgian Dream party highlighted the problematic amendment: "Reconciliation of Tbilisi-controlled Georgia, Abkhazia, and Ossetia is necessary." This phrasing implies that Russia is not a direct party to the conflict and is instead acting as a mediator, which the party considers disinformation that supports Russia's destructive behavior in the region.

"We would like to note that the



ქართული ოცნება / Georgian Dream

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wording added to the paragraph about Russia's occupation of Georgian territories is exactly what Russia has been trying to achieve in the Geneva negotiations for the last 16 years - to pretend that Russia is not a party to the conflict," the statement reads. "Including this wording in the resolution contradicts the principle of territorial integrity of Georgia and the declared policy of the OSCE and the USA."

Despite Georgia's efforts to include an amendment referring to Russia's harmful actions and occupation of Georgian territories, this proposal was rejected. The Georgian Dream party expressed disappointment that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, along with the United States, appears to be playing into Russia's narrative.

"Due to the violation of the state interests of Georgia, the

delegation will vote against the final resolution," the statement continued. "We know that Georgia's vote is not decisive, because we are a small country, we have a very small delegation, and we will definitely be in the minority, but we need to openly say that the amendments are biased and are based only on oral statements; there is no evidence to prove it."

The party reaffirmed its com-

mitment to protecting Georgia's national interests and territorial integrity, vowing to continue their efforts despite the unfavorable outcome at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

"It is unfortunate that in this particular case, the said Assembly is playing Russia's game. Our decision remains unwavering and we will continue to fight to protect our country," the statement concluded.

US Deputy Spokesperson Emphasizes Continued Engagement with Georgian Officials

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The United States remains committed to engaging with Georgian officials despite recent legislative concerns, Deputy Spokesperson for the US Department of State, Vedant Patel, stated during a press briefing.

Responding to a question about the visits of Georgian officials to the US, Patel emphasized the importance of maintaining a constructive bilateral relationship with Georgia.

"When it comes to Georgia - and I know we've spent a lot of time in this briefing room talking about some of the legislation that has recently passed - it's important that also we continue to engage with appropriate officials when the Georgian Government - it is a country we continue to have a range of issues that we want to prioritize in the context of that bilateral relationship with them," said Patel.

Patel acknowledged the US's concerns over recently adopted "Foreign Agents" legislation, which has been viewed as counter to Georgia's aspirations to join the European Union. However, he stressed that ongoing dialogue is essential to ad-

dress various bilateral issues.

"And while, of course, when it has come to this specific legislation, you've heard me and Matt talk about the many issues that we have and how we believe it is counter to Georgia's own EU aspirations. It's - we still believe it's important to engage, and there continue to be other issues that we have no doubt we'll talk about with them," Patel added.

Earlier, Secretary of State Anthony Blinken stated that Washington had clearly expressed its position regarding the adoption of the law and had taken measures accordingly. "We will probably see more," Blinken noted.

In response to the adoption of the "Foreign Agents" law, the State Department announced the first package of sanctions on June 6. The sanctions involve visa restrictions affecting members of Georgian Dream, members of parliament, security forces, and private individuals. In total, up to 30 people are impacted.

Matthew Miller, a spokesperson for the State Department, did not specify individuals or names, citing immigration law restrictions that prevent the release of names.



The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Military Su-25 Plane Crashes in Bolnisi, Pilot Killed



A military Su-25 aircraft crashed in Bolnisi during planned military training exercises, resulting in the death of the pilot, Kakhaber Zurabashvili, a member of the Aviation and Air Command of the Defense Forces. The Ministry of Defense has confirmed the incident.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Defense reported, "On July 2 of the current year, during one of the planned military exercises, in which the aviation component was involved, one of the aircraft belonging to the Defense Forces experienced a disaster. As a result of the

Su-25 disaster, the pilot of the Aviation and Air Command of the Defense Forces, Kakhaber Zurabashvili, was tragically killed."

The Ministry has initiated a detailed investigation to determine the causes of the crash. "In order to determine the causes of the mentioned incident, the relevant services of the Ministry of Defense are conducting a detailed investigation," the statement added.

The Ministry of Defense expressed profound sorrow over the tragic accident and extended condolences to the family and relatives of the deceased pilot. "The Ministry of Defense expresses its sorrow over the tragic accident and offers its condolences to the family and relatives of the

deceased pilot," the statement concluded.

Georgian Citizen Illegally Detained by Russian Occupation Forces Near Balta



Representatives of the Russian occupation forces have illegally arrested a Georgian citizen near the occupied village of Balta, according to the State Security Service of Georgia.

The State Security Service immediately reported this incident to the co-chairs of the international discussions in Geneva and other international partners. "Upon receiving the information about the mentioned incident, the State Secu-

rity Service activated the hotline operated by the EU Monitoring Mission. Information about another fact of illegal detention was immediately reported to the co-chairs of the international discussions in Geneva and international partners," the

agency stated.

In response to the illegal detention, all existing mechanisms have been activated to secure the prompt release of the detained Georgian citizen. The State Security Service emphasized the gravity of the situation, stating, "Responsibility for all destructive actions committed on the occupied territories of Georgia, as well as along the occupation line, rests with the occupying power."

The European Business Association (EBA) and the Business and Technology University (BTU), Georgia, organised the first large-scale Stakeholder Meeting as part of the EU-funded 'Women Mentorship in Tech Programmes' project. The event took place in Tbilisi.

The project aims to engage 1,100 beneficiaries and 320 mentors over three seasons, promoting regional diversity by selecting at least one-third of participants from Georgian regions.

Five-month-long mentorship sessions will be organised in five key tech directions, including cybersecurity, front-end development, graphic design, digital marketing, and UX/UI design. The first session starts in July, involving 100 mentees and 70 mentors selected based on a fair

Georgia: EU-funded project on women mentorship in tech programmes conducts first stakeholder meeting



and transparent selection process.

The Stakeholder Meeting covered various topics related to the project's objectives, including enhancing ICT proficiency and career prospects for women in Georgia.

"Today more than ever, we support the Georgian people's aspiration to join the European Union. One way to achieve this goal is by encouraging citizens' engagement in democratic and economic processes. In 2024, this means advancing digital inclusion, especially for women," said Nicholas Cendrowicz, the Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation to Georgia.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Wednesday, July 3

Day Mostly Cloudy High: 28°C

Night Mostly Cloudy Low: 19°C

Thursday, July 4

Day Clear High: 33°C

Night Clear Low: 21°C

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