

President Salome Zourabichvili Stresses Importance of Justice at USAID Training Project Event

By Liza Mchedlidze

At an event marking the end of a six-month training project supported by USAID's Rule of Law Program, President Salome Zourabichvili emphasized the vital role of justice in Georgian society. The project, implemented by the House of Justice, focused on equipping students from various higher education institutions with practical skills to strengthen the justice system.

Addressing the students, President Zourabichvili reiterated the significance of justice as a core value for Georgians. "For Georgians and Georgia, justice has always been the most important thing that drives us, which is the basis of our culture, our identity, our existence as a nation and as a state," she said.

The President also spoke about the ongoing reform of the justice system, the objectives of the Georgian Charter, and the current process of selecting candidates for the High Council of Justice. She highlighted the European Union's recommendations for improving the system and the need to remove those



who hinder its proper functioning.

"Our partner, the European Union, serves this when it asks us in its recommendations to manage this system, to remove from this system those who pre-

vent it from working properly," she noted. She emphasized the collective demand to eliminate undue pressure from the justice system and the bipartisan support for the Georgian Charter aimed at its improvement.

President Zourabichvili concluded by underscoring the necessity of justice for a functioning state, noting that without legal protections, a country cannot truly thrive. "If you are not protected by justice in your coun-

try, then you have nothing," she warned.

The event included a mock trial conducted by the project participants, focusing on the protection of constitutional rights.

US Ambassador Comments on Noble Partner 2024 Postponement

By Liza Mchedlidze



The US Ambassador to Georgia, Robin Dunnigan, has commented on the recent announcement by the US Department of Defense concerning the indefinite postponement of the multinational exercise Noble Partner 2024. This decision comes as part of a broader review of the United States-Georgia bilateral relationship.

Dunnigan acknowledged the gravity of the situation, stating, "It is certainly sad, but not incomprehensible. We have discussed this matter, and the Secretary of State has clearly stated that our bilateral relations were being reviewed." She noted that public statements made by certain individuals, including members of Georgia's ruling party, have prompted this reassessment of relations. "Therefore, the aforementioned exercises were canceled in this context, as there were public statements from certain individuals, including from members of the ruling party, and therefore the relations are being reviewed. That's why it's sad, but we hope that our relations will be balanced," she added.

The US government initiated a comprehensive review of its cooperation with Georgia on May 30. According to a statement from the US defense forces, this decision stems from false accusations made by the Georgian government against the United States and other Western entities. The Georgian government has alleged that the US pressured Georgia to open a second front against Russia to alleviate pressure on Ukraine and accused the US of participating in two coup attempts against the ruling party.

"As such, the United States Government has determined that this is an inappropriate time to hold a large-scale military exercise in Georgia," the statement concluded.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Prime Minister of Georgia Meets with Ukrainian National Guard Children's Summer Camp



The Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Kobakhidze, and the Minister of Education, Science, and Youth, Giorgi Amilakhvari, recently visited children of Ukrainian National Guard servicemen at a summer camp.

During the visit, the Prime Minister spoke with the children, reaffirming the government's support for them.

The government administration provided information about the activities planned for the children. Over the next two weeks, they will participate in vari-

ous cultural, cognitive, and entertainment activities. Excursions are also on the agenda, offering the children a chance to explore different parts of Georgia.

The first group of camp guests included students from the city of Kharkiv. This initiative is part of Georgia's continued support for Ukraine.

Former Defense Minister Juansher Burchuladze Responds to Postponement of Noble Partner 2024 Exercise

Juansher Burchuladze, former Minister of Defense of Georgia, has voiced his concerns following the announcement by the United States Department of Defense regarding the postponement of the mul-

military personnel have been protecting not only the countries that are NATO members today, but also world peace," he stated.

In his response, Burchuladze addressed the decision-makers, highlighting the broader implications of postponing such a significant event. "I would like to ask our partners who make decisions on such matters, it is clear that an event of this



tinational exercise Noble Partner 2024. The exercise, which was set to involve numerous NATO member countries, has been postponed indefinitely.

Burchuladze emphasized the critical role that Georgian military personnel have played over the years in safeguarding not only NATO countries but also global peace. "For dozens of years, our

scale is not only a military event, it is a military-political event," he said. Burchuladze stressed the importance of recognizing the contributions of Georgian military personnel and ensuring they are not adversely affected by political decisions. "We must always draw a red line so that our military personnel are not punished by political decisions," he added.

EU4Youth Policy Labs Training promotes youth dialogue in Armenia and Georgia

With the aim of empowering young people and fostering youth dialogues at various levels of governance, the comprehensive training programme on Youth Policy Labs was successfully conducted for fifteen facilitators from Armenia and Georgia on 2-3 July, in Yerevan.

By utilizing a balanced mix of theoretical and practical sessions, the facilitators were equipped with the essential skills and knowledge required to successfully organise and implement impactful Youth Policy Labs in their respective countries. Led by an international trainer with extensive experience in the field, the training fostered a collaborative learning environment that not only strengthened individual capabili-



solutions to the issues youth face.

Upon successful completion of the training, these facilitators will organise Youth Policy Labs in their localities, providing platforms for young people to engage in productive dialogues and fostering a culture of participation and inclusion. The Youth Policy Labs will be held in various regions of Armenia and Georgia, ensuring that young people from different socio-economic backgrounds and geographical locations have the opportunity to participate. These initiatives will foster a culture of dialogue and inclusion, where the voices of young people are not only heard but also valued.

This event was implemented within the framework of the 'EU4Youth: Youth Engagement and Empowerment' project, co-funded by the European Union and German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH as part of the Strengthening Civil Society in the Eastern Partnership Project.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Monday, July 8

Day Partly Cloudy High: 32°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: 22°C

Tuesday, July 9

Day Partly Cloudy High: 33°C

Night Mostly Cloudy Low: 23°C

ties but also promoted a spirit of regional collaboration and experience sharing.

Youth Policy Labs introduces a participatory and youth-centered approach to policy-making

processes. It provides excellent opportunities for youth to participate on equal basis with policymaker and engaged meaningfully in development, evaluation and revisions of policies in

their countries. This approach also allows decision-makers to better understand young people's needs, priorities and challenges to effectively work with them and co-develop new innovative

published by

The Messenger

43, Chovelidze st., Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia Founded by Prof.

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On the occasion of Celebration the 248th Anniversary of the Independence of The United States of America, Ambassador H.E. Robin L. Dunnigan held a Reception on July 3.









