

US Deputy Secretary of State Urges Georgia to Align with European Aspirations

By Liza Mchedlidze

US Deputy Secretary of State Uzra Zeya has called on the Georgian government to align its actions with the public's aspirations for a European future. The statement was made on social media following Zeya's meeting with the Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Kobakhidze.

Zeya emphasized the US's serious concerns about recent anti-democratic actions taken by the Georgian government, including the controversial Foreign Agents law and related rhetoric, which are perceived to undermine Georgia's path to the EU and its relations with the United States. "We call on the government of Georgia to correct the course and fulfill public aspirations regarding Georgia's European future," Zeya wrote on X.

Prime Minister Kobakhidze in his assessment of the meeting, expressed that he did not receive any specific points from Zeya regarding the alleged anti-democratic changes in Georgia. He noted that their discussion was friendly and covered all issues, but he found the criticism of the Foreign Agents law to be general and lacking specific arguments. Kobakhidze requested detailed comments on this law for future reference.

"We had a very interesting friendly meeting yesterday. We discussed all the issues. I did not hear a single specific point re-



garding what anti-democratic changes were implemented in Georgia during the recent period. I had questions about the 'Transparency Law'. Here, too, there was a general assessment, without any argumentation, without any specifics. I asked her to provide specific comments regarding this law in the future,

otherwise, we will have difficulty, of course, to respond to general comments," Kobakhidze said.

The Prime Minister reiterated Georgia's desire to deepen its relations with the United States and expressed openness to constructive dialogue. He conveyed to Zeya that Georgia is awaiting corresponding steps from the US

to improve relations.

"We wish to deepen relations with the United States of America as much as possible, which we have repeatedly stated. There is absolute openness from our side. The main thing is that we see the next steps and we are still on standby, waiting for the next steps. I shared this message

with her personally when we had a meeting. We hope that gradually everything will improve, and relations will become healthy. We are sure that sometime from the beginning of next year, the development of relations between Georgia and the United States of America will change qualitatively," Kobakhidze concluded.

CEC Chairman Meets with US Deputy Secretary of State to Discuss Upcoming Parliamentary Elections



By Liza Mchedlidze

Giorgi Kalandarishvili, Chairman of the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Georgia, met with US Deputy Secretary of State Uzra Zeya to discuss preparations for the up-

coming parliamentary elections on October 26, 2024. The meeting took place at the Central Election Commission, focusing on various aspects of the election process.

Kalandarishvili provided a detailed overview of the prepa-



rations, highlighting the large-scale implementation of new technologies for the upcoming elections. He emphasized the importance of information campaigns and the projects that have been implemented, are currently in progress, and are planned for

the future.

According to Kalandarishvili, the election administration is committed to conducting the 2024 parliamentary elections in line with European and international standards. He stressed that close cooperation with inter-

national partners and all parties involved in the election process is crucial for the successful administration of the elections.

The chairman also expressed gratitude for the longstanding support from relevant agencies and the US Embassy, underscoring the importance of their cooperation.

US Deputy Secretary of State Uzra Zeya listened to the briefing on the needs and challenges facing the election administration. The discussions included the significance of objective and neutral observation missions in ensuring the integrity of the election process. Both parties agreed on the value of having local and international observation missions, with Kalandarishvili welcoming their involvement and expressing confidence in continued fruitful cooperation.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Georgian Citizen Illegally Detained by Russian Occupation Forces Near Adzvi

time,” informed the State Security Service.

The agency emphasized that responsibility for all destructive actions committed on the occupied territories of Georgia, as well as along the occupation line,

between the two nations. “The important role of Georgia in ensuring peace and stability in the region was noted. The conversation touched upon issues of regional security and cooperation between the two countries in various directions,” stated the Ministry. Both parties highlighted the significance of the declaration on strategic partnership signed between Georgia and Armenia, noting that this strategic partnership is expected to deepen coop-

eration across various fields.

In addition to the meeting with Prime Minister Pashinyan, Irakli Chikovani also met with his Armenian counterpart, Suren Papikyan. During this meeting, the defense agencies of Georgia and Armenia signed a bilateral cooperation plan for 2024, marking a commitment to enhanced collaboration in defense and security matters.

STATE SECURITY SERVICE OF GEORGIA



The State Security Service of Georgia has reported that representatives of the Russian occupation forces have illegally detained a Georgian citizen near the village of Adzvi, located in the Gori municipality.

Upon receiving information about the incident, the State Security Service promptly activated the “hotline” operated by the EU Monitoring Mission. The case of illegal detention was immediately reported to the co-chairs of the international discussions in Geneva and other international partners.

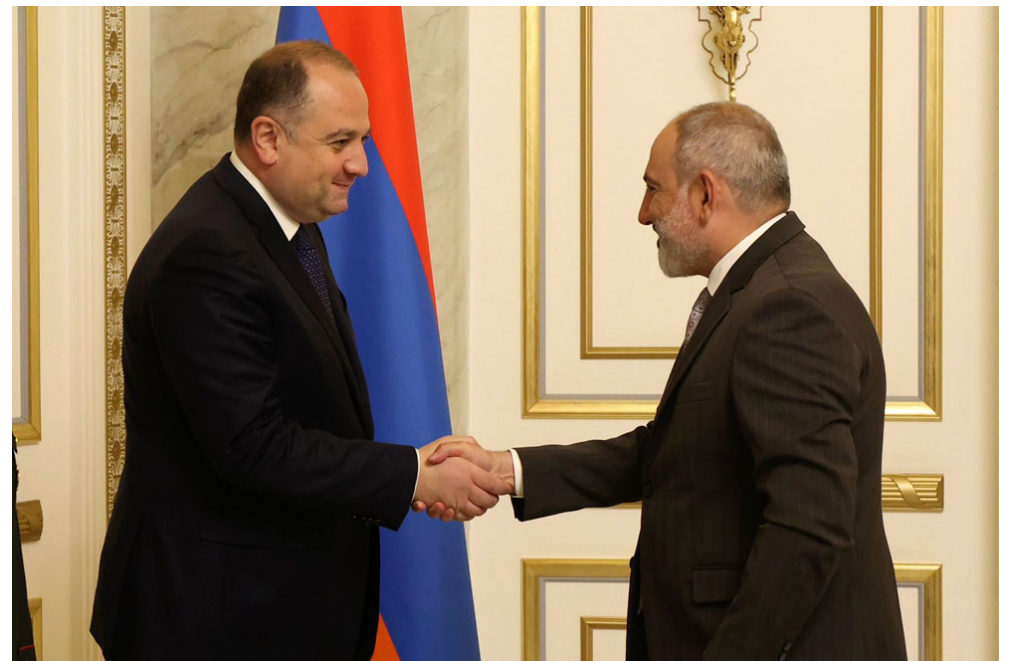
“All existing mechanisms have been activated to release the illegally detained Georgian citizen in the shortest possible

rests with the Russian occupying forces. The Georgian authorities are utilizing every available resource to ensure the swift release of the detained citizen.

Georgian Vice Prime Minister Visits Armenia, Strengthens Regional Ties

The Vice Prime Minister of Georgia and Minister of Defense, Irakli Chikovani, met with the Prime Minister of Armenia, Nikol Pashinyan, during his visit to the Republic of Armenia.

According to the Ministry of Defense of Georgia, the discussions focused on the friendly and good neighborly relations



Young European Ambassadors host meeting with EU Mission in Armenia

On 10 July, Young European Ambassadors (YEAs) in Armenia hosted Human Rights Advisor at the EU Mission in Armenia (EUMA), Nitin Sood.

The meeting took place at the YEAs office, ImpactHUB Yerevan, and gathered 15 young people.

The meeting aimed to raise awareness on the Common Security and Defence Policy and to enhance understanding of EUMA’s mandate and responsibilities.

During the meeting, Nitin Sood talked about EUMA, its mandate and its objectives. The discussion also reflected upon United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 and discussed some possible tools for YPS



The EU Mission in Armenia (EUMA) was launched by the decision of EU Foreign Affairs Council on 20 February 2023, when it also started its operational activities. EUMA is tasked with observing and reporting on the situation on the ground, contributing to human security in conflict-affected areas and supporting the confidence building, where possible, between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The Young European Ambassadors (YEAs) initiative brings together socially engaged youth from the six Eastern Partner countries, the European Union and the United Kingdom to foster dialogue and to raise

(Youth, Peace, Security) agenda implementation in the region.

“Young people should be considered as part of the solution –

not the problem,” said Tigran Israelyan, YEA from Armenia.

“It was highly important for us, Young European Ambassadors,

to interact with the EU Mission in Armenia. This will enable us to disseminate correct information about the EU.”

awareness about the EU and its cooperation with its Eastern partner countries.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Monday, July 15

Day Partly Cloudy High: 32°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: 21°C

Tuesday, July 16

Day Partly Cloudy High: 33°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: 22°C

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therefore, the opinions expressed in some articles do not necessarily coincide with those of the newspaper. We take no responsibility for any claims made in advertisements.

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On the occasion of the National Day of the French Republic, Madame Shéraz GASRI Ambassador of France to Georgia held a reception on July 11.









