

Parliament Chair Shalva Papuashvili Accuses EU of Sheltering Criminal Politicians

By Liza Mchedlidze

The Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, Shalva Papuashvili, emphasized the Georgian people's loyalty to European values while criticizing some European politicians for being misled by bureaucracy. He accused European institutions of covering for Georgian political figures such as Zurab Adeishvili, Davit Kezerashvili, and Mikheil Saakashvili, whom he referred to as part of a "criminal clan" hiding in Europe.

"Today, some European bureaucrats, diplomats, and politicians talk to us about values from moral pedestals," Papuashvili stated, accusing the European Union of allowing criminals like Adeishvili and Kezerashvili to move freely. "It is a shame when the door is open for Zurab Adeishvili in various institutions of the European Union. What prevents the European Union from handing over the criminal Adeishvili to us, what prevents the European Union from handing over the criminal Kezerashvili, and why did Mikheil Saakashvili have the freedom to move freely on the territory of the European Union and from there to get involved in the politics of Georgia as a citizen of Ukraine?"

Papuashvili also addressed the election of Giorgi Gabitashvili as the General Prosecutor of Georgia, expressing the ruling team's positive attitude towards him. "The prosecutor's system and prosecu-



tors of Georgia deserve only praise and thanks from the Georgian people and the Parliament of Georgia. Of course, when we are talking about the candidate who was the deputy general prosecutor in this sys-

tem, these successes were achieved with his participation, and it is natural that we have a positive attitude towards this candidate," he said.

Regarding allegations linking Gabitashvili to former prosecu-

tor Otar Partskhaladze, Papuashvili dismissed the connection, stating, "I don't understand what this person has to do with this issue."

Giorgi Gabitashvili's candidacy for General Prosecutor has

been submitted to the Parliament and referred to the Legal Affairs Committee for consideration. The election is scheduled for an extraordinary session on July 18-19.

Democracy Research Institute Report Accuses Georgian Government of Using Physical Retribution Against Protesters



REPORTS



Physical retaliation against civilians and civil activists becomes authorities' political strategy

15.07.2024



On July 15, at 11:00, at Tbilisi Marriott Hotel (13 Shota Rustaveli Avenue), the Democracy Research Institute will hold a presentation of the report "Protests under Observation". The report reflects the results of observation of protests organized by political parties, civil movements and activists from November 6, 2023 to May 30, 2024. The document also analyzes the results of observation of trials of those who were arrested during the protests or in connection with the protests. The document provides a brief overview of the legislative framework governing freedom of assembly. It also reviews the legislative initiatives, adoption of which has a negative impact on the right to assembly and demonstration. The second part of the document presents the results of observation of the protests held from November 6 to April 15, 2023. The third part of the report is devoted to the events developed from the introduction of the so-called Russian Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence till 30 May 2024.

By Liza Mchedlidze

A report by the Democracy Research Institute titled "Protests under Observation" has accused the Georgian government of employing physical retribution against civilians and civil activists as a political strategy. The report covers observations from protests held between November 6, 2023, and May 30, 2024, organized by political parties, civil movements, and activists.

According to the institute's assessment, the protests witnessed gross violations of international standards, the constitution, and current legislation. These include incidents of incitement to violence, inaction by the Special Investigation Service and Ministry of Internal Affairs, and attempts to intimidate and influence protest participants.

The DRI's report highlighted that demonstrators generally

acted within the law during protests against the "Foreign Agents" law (or "Russian law") with no major violations that would justify forceful dispersals. However, it criticized law enforcement's disproportionate use of force, resulting in injuries to peaceful rally participants.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Internal Affairs was accused of failing to warn demonstrators before dispersing protests and obstructing media coverage. Over 200 individuals were reportedly arrested during these protests, often without proper explanation of their detention or adequate procedural rights.

The report also pointed out instances where law enforcement physically assaulted detainees, causing injuries such as facial injuries and broken teeth, which were seen as reprisals against political opponents

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7117; Euro - 2.9582; GBP - 3.5182; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.0866; Swiss Franc - 3.0329

Democracy Research Institute Report Accuses Georgian Government of Using Physical Retribution Against Protesters

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rather than legitimate policing measures.

Moreover, the institute criticized the low standard of evidence in court cases related to administrative offenses during protests. It highlighted a coordinated campaign of intimidation against protesters, including

telephone threats and vandalism targeting leaders of non-governmental organizations.

The report concluded with allegations that the ruling party, Georgian Dream, not only condones police violence but also supports attacks on leaders of public organizations, civil activists, and politicians, as evidenced by public statements and videos.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

President of Georgia Takes Legal Action Against 'Foreign Agents' law



The President of Georgia has filed a lawsuit with the Constitutional Court challenging the legality of the controversial "Foreign Agents" law. The announcement was made by Giorgi Mskhiladze, Parliamentary Secretary to the President, during a briefing where he emphasized the President's firm stance on the law's constitutionality.

Mskhiladze highlighted that this legal action is unprecedented in Georgia's political history, marking the first time a sitting President has directly engaged the Constitutional Court in this manner.

"For the first time, the President of Georgia applies to the Constitutional Court with a lawsuit. The lawsuit concerns the Foreign Influence Transparency Act, the so-called Russian law. The mentioned law is unconstitutional. It contradicts Article 78 of the Constitution of Georgia. A number of norms of the

law, which violate a number of basic rights guaranteed by the constitution, are also challenged in the lawsuit. With this lawsuit, the President demands suspension of the mentioned law and its final cancellation," Mskhiladze said.

US State Department Urges Caution After Georgian PM's Comments on Trump Assassination Attempt

Matthew Miller, the spokes-

person of the US State Department, urged both the American public and foreign countries to refrain from speculation regarding the assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump. This statement came in response to comments from the Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Kobakhidze, who referred to the "Global War Party" in connection with the attack.

In a Facebook post, Kobakhidze stated, "The Global War Party does not change its methods. In the 21st century, liberal fascism, radicalism, polarization, hatred, and bloody attacks on politicians have become commonplace in America and Europe. I express solidarity and wish Donald Trump good health."

"I don't even know what that means," responded Miller. "Law enforcement officials spoke about the investigation, what they know and what they don't know. As I understand it, they will continue to publish the results of this investigation as long as it lasts. Just as the President, in his Oval Office speech, asked the American public to refrain from

speculation, from making irresponsible statements before knowing the facts. I think I would extend the same appeal to foreign countries as well."

NATO Urges Georgia to Accelerate Reforms for Democratic Strengthening and Euro-Atlantic Integration

Javier Colomina @JavierColominaP

#NATO supports Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, is committed to our long-standing partnership with 🇬🇪 and calls on its government to accelerate reforms to strengthen democratic institutions and advance 🇬🇪 people's aspirations towards Euro-Atlantic integration



Javier Colomina, the special representative of the NATO Secretary General for South Caucasus and Central Asia, has called on the government of Georgia to expedite reforms

ment to accelerate reforms in order to strengthen democratic institutions and Euro-Atlantic integration, to support the aspirations of the Georgian people," writes Javier Colomina on X.

ირაკლი კობახიძე / Irakli Kobakhidze a day ago

გლობალური ომის პარტია მეთოდებს არ ცვლის. XXI საუკუნეში ლიბერალური ფაშიზმი, რადიკალიზმი, პოლარიზაცია, სიბუღვილი და პოლიტიკოსებზე სისხლიანი თავდასხმები ამერიკაში თუ ევროპაში ჩვეულებრივ მოვლენად აქციეს. სოლიდარობას ვუცხადებ და ჯანმრთელობას ვუსურვებ დონალდ ტრამპს.



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World Youth Skills Day: EU-funded initiative in Georgia presents interim results

On the occasion of World Youth Skills Day, the EU-funded programme Skills4Jobs presented the results of its activities in Georgia.

Launched in its second phase in Georgia in 2019, this programme has funded nine projects with a total of 7 million. The aim of these projects is to help thousands of Georgian citizens find jobs by matching their skills with the requirements of the labour market, thus contributing to Georgia's competitiveness and economic growth.

To date, 1,741 jobseekers have been employed, 6,505 have been trained in basic skills, entrepreneurship and information technology, 9,236 have received individual assistance, 1,108 have received internships, and 26 new vocational programmes have been launched. In addition, youth coding and technology entrepreneurship clubs were established in 90 public schools and 10 vocational education and training institutions. (euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather Tuesday, July 16 Day Partly Cloudy High: 33°C Night Partly Cloudy Low: 21°C Wednesday, July 17 Day Clear High: 34°C Night Mostly Cloudy Low: 22°C

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