

Court's Decision Sets Dangerous Precedent, Says Justice Selection Commission Chair

By Liza Mchedlidze

A recent ruling by the Tbilisi City Court suspending President Salome Zourabichvili's appointment of Kakha Tsikarishvili to the Supreme Council of Justice has sparked controversy. Guram Imnadze, chair of the candidate selection commission for the council, condemned the decision as a "dangerous and damaging precedent."

Imnadze argued that the court's decision contradicts existing legislation and undermines the accountability and transparency of the Supreme Council of Justice. He expressed concerns that this ruling damages both the effectiveness of the presidency and the already fragile trust in the justice system.

Imnadze highlighted the broader implications of the court's decision, stating that it effectively allows the judiciary to control presidential appointments to the Supreme Council of Justice, which he believes violates the separation of powers enshrined in the Georgian Constitution. According to Imnadze, Article 52 of the Constitution guarantees the President's exclusive authority to appoint a non-judge member to the council, a power that should not be subject to judicial interference.

"The judge grossly violated the principle of separation of powers guaranteed by the Constitution of Georgia and invaded the exclusive authority of the President," Imnadze said. He also noted that the General Admin-



istrative Code of Georgia does not apply to the activities of the President, further questioning the legal basis of the court's decision.

Imnadze warned that the court's ruling not only interferes with the President's constitutional powers but also prolongs the legal uncertainty surround-

ing the appointment. The judge's extension of the case review period from two months to five months exacerbates the issue, potentially paralyzing the President's constitutional authority.

"The decision harms not only the institution of the president and its effectiveness but also fur-

ther erodes the already deficient trust in the justice system as a whole," Imnadze added.

The controversy began on July 15, 2024, when the Tbilisi City Court suspended President Zourabichvili's decree appointing Tsikarishvili to the Supreme Council of Justice. The court also prohibited the President from

holding a new competition or appointing another member to the council until the legal proceedings are concluded.

This ruling has raised serious concerns about the future of judicial appointments in Georgia and the balance of power between the judiciary and the executive branch.

IPRM Meeting in Ergneti Highlights Eight New Cases of Illegal Borderization Since May 16

By Liza Mchedlidze



The 120th Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM) meeting, held in Ergneti village, Gori, near the Tskhinvali region, focused on urgent issues related to illegal detentions and borderization activities. This forum included representatives from the Georgian government, the de facto Tskhinvali authorities, Russian occupation forces, and international organizations such as the European Union, OSCE, and the United Nations.

Irakli Antadze, Deputy Director of the Analytical Department of the State Security Service of Georgia, reported that eight Georgian citizens are currently detained illegally in the

Tskhinvali region. He stressed the need for their immediate release and outlined ongoing humanitarian efforts to reunite them with their families. Antadze also addressed the case of Ramaz Begheluri, who was sentenced to eight months in prison by the de facto court for "border violations". He criticized the sentence as unlawful and noted that international partners are closely monitoring the situation.

Antadze also highlighted eight new instances of illegal "borderization" activities since May 16, 2024. These activities involve both the installation and repair of unauthorized border structures in the Gori, Kareli, and Dusheti municipalities.

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7242; Euro - 2.9579; GBP - 3.5118; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.1313; Swiss Franc - 3.0575

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New installations and repairs were particularly observed near the village of Kodi and the occupied area of Tsnelisi. The Georgian delegation condemned these actions as serious violations.

“Of the eight cases, five occurred in May and three in June. These incidents affected the municipalities of Gori, Kareli, and Dusheti, including the Gremishkevi area. The activities involved both the reinforcement and repair of existing illegal border structures, as well as the installation of new ones. New installations were observed in the Gori and Kareli municipalities, primarily towards the village of Kodi, and similar activities were seen near the occupied area of Tsnelisi. While the scale of these activities varies, our position, shared with international partners, is that even a single instance of illegal borderization is a serious issue,” said Antadze.

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of these activities varies, our position, shared with international partners, is that even a single instance of illegal borderization is a serious issue,” said Antadze.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Tbilisi Court Orders Compensation for ‘Gavrilov’s Night’ Victim



The Tbilisi City Court has ruled that the Ministry of Internal Affairs must compensate a victim of the 2019 ‘Gavrilov’s Night’ protest, as reported by the Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA).

During the June 20-21, 2019 rally near the Parliament, the plaintiff, who was peacefully protesting, was hit in the right eye by a rubber bullet while trying to help another protester surrounded by tear gas.

This resulted in partial vision loss and numerous medical procedures.

The court found that law enforcement used excessive force. The plaintiff, now recognized as a victim in the criminal

case, experienced a 15% to 25% reduction in overall working capacity.

After a four-year review, the court ordered the Ministry to pay the plaintiff 50,000 GEL for moral damages and 1,440 GEL monthly from June 21, 2019, for life.

GYLA emphasized the importance of this ruling, noting it not only confirmed the state’s use of illegal and excessive force but also marked a rare instance of significant moral damages being awarded in Georgian courts. They hope for a swift

enforcement of the decision, considering the plaintiff’s health and the details of the case.

Georgia in Talks with British Airlines for Direct Flights



Mariam Kvrivishvili, Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, has concluded final meetings with leading British airlines to discuss initiating direct flights between Georgia and the UK.

The Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development stated, “Our priority is to establish direct flights with Great Britain. We are actively negotiating with

airlines to start these flights. Diversifying markets is key to our aviation and tourism strategy. Direct flights will attract high-spending tourists from Britain.”

If successful, Kvrivishvili noted, mass

marketing campaigns will be launched in the UK to boost awareness of Georgia’s tourism offerings, enhancing tourism results swiftly. She emphasized the positive impact on the local tourism sector, which can cater to affluent British travelers.

Representatives from the Association of Georgian Airports and the Georgian Embassy in Great Britain also participated in these discussions.

You Are What You Eat: Young European Ambassadors in Azerbaijan hold workshop on dietary habits

On 22 July, Young European Ambassadors (YEAs) in Azerbaijan hosted a workshop titled “You Are What You Eat”, focusing on the importance of healthy nutrition and its impact on various aspects of life.



The event attracted 21 participants, including medical students, health enthusiasts, and other young individuals keen on enhancing their understanding

of nutrition. The workshop was structured into two informative parts.

The first part, led by a professor from the pharmacognosy de-

partment of the Medical University, Khuraman Mustafayeva, allowed participants to explore the medical aspects of healthy nutrition, focusing on how the body absorbs different nutrients and what to focus on.

The second part, led by YEAs Nazrin Jabbarli and Sevinj Abbasova, featured a comparative evaluation of nutrition practices across different EU countries, illustrating how dietary habits influence the health and lifestyle of people in those regions.

A key highlight of the event was the interactive discussion on potential legal solutions to promote healthy eating within society. Participants explored ideas such as implementing additional taxes on certain food items and

developing legislation to ensure the provision of healthy food and conditions in workplaces, while also offering their own solutions and views on the problem.

“This workshop successfully raised awareness about the critical role of nutrition in maintaining health and inspired attendees to adopt healthier eating habits,” said one of the participants.

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

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Wednesday, July 24

Day ☀️ Clear
High: 32°C

Night 🌧️ Partly Cloudy
Low: 20°C

Thursday, July 25

Day ☀️ Clear
High: 31°C

Night 🌧️ Partly Cloudy
Low: 20°C

published by

The Messenger

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