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63rd Round of Geneva International Discussions Addresses Security and Humanitarian Issues

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The 63rd round of the Geneva International Discussions (GID) was held on March 4-5, 2025, focusing on the ongoing security and humanitarian consequences of the 2008 Russia-Georgia war. Co-chaired by the OSCE, EU, and UN, the talks bring together representatives from Georgia, Russia, the U.S., and both the exiled Georgian administrations of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia and their Russian-backed authorities.

Discussions centered on the full implementation of the 2008 ceasefire agreement, the safe return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, and the humanitarian and security challenges resulting from Russia's occupation.

Georgian officials highlighted the need for Russia to uphold its obligations under the 2008 ceasefire agreement, emphasizing the return of IDPs and refugees to their homes. They also called for the restoration of the Incident Prevention and Re-



sponse Mechanism (IPRM) in Gali and Ergneti without preconditions, stressing the importance of regular operations in both areas.

The Georgian delegation raised serious concerns over the

worsening security and humanitarian situation in the occupied regions, condemning the construction of a Russian naval base in Ochamchire and the commissioning of Sukhumi airport. Additionally, they condemned the

so-called presidential elections in Abkhazia and the meeting between Russian President Putin and the region's self-proclaimed leader, calling these actions steps toward annexation and violations of Georgia's territorial

integrity.

The negotiations saw no progress on the critical issue of IDP and refugee returns, with Russia and the occupying authorities leaving the table on this key topic.

Russia Demands 'Border Delimitation' and Non-Use of Force from Georgia

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Following the latest round of Geneva International Nego-

tiations on March 4-5, Russia has reiterated its demands for Georgia to "delimit the border" with the occupied regions and

commit to an agreement of non-use of force.

The Russian Foreign Ministry issued a statement after the

talks, calling for the earliest possible start to the process of delimiting the Georgian-Abkhazian and Georgian-South

Ossetian state "borders," with the subsequent demarcation of these "borders." According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, this process would "facilitate the further improvement of the general situation in the region."

The Russian statement, which was quoted by the state-run TASS news agency, also noted that Russia had taken note of the "conciliatory statements" made by Georgia's top leadership during the previous year's election campaign concerning Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

In the statement, Russia emphasized the need for Georgia to reaffirm its intentions and turn these intentions into practical steps. Specifically, Russia called for Georgia to legally commit to non-use of force against the so-called Republic of Abkhazia and South Ossetia through an appropriate agreement.

Additionally, the Russian Foreign Ministry expressed ongoing frustration over the annual resolution submitted by Georgia to the United Nations General Assembly, which focuses on the situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees from the occupied regions. Russia labeled this resolution as a "serious irritant."

О КОНСУЛЬТАЦИЯХ
ПО БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ И СТАБИЛЬНОСТИ
В ЗАКАВКАЗЬЕ

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Eight Protesters Remain in Custody as Court Upholds Preventive Measures



Tbilisi City Court has ruled to keep eight individuals in custody on charges of organizing and participating in group violence during recent protests. Judge Davit Mgeliashvili upheld the preventive measures against the detainees, rejecting the defense's requests for their release.

Prosecutor Vakhtang Tsalugelashvili argued that the risk of the detainees fleeing or committing new offenses remained high. The defense, however, opposed the prosecution's motion and proposed alter-

native measures, including bail amounts ranging from 5,000 to 30,000 GEL and electronic monitoring.

Following the court's decision, the trial proceeded to the stage of reviewing the admissibility of evidence. The defense filed

a motion to declare the prosecution's evidence inadmissible, while the prosecution requested additional time to respond — a request the defense contested, stating that their position had not been newly introduced.

Among the detainees, Zviad Tsetskhladze, Vepkhia Kasradze, and Vasil Kadzlashvili face charges of organizing and leading group violence, which carry potential sentences of six to nine years in prison. The remaining five—Giorgi Gorgadze, Irakli Miminoshvili, Insaf Aliyev, Tornike Goshadze, and

Nikoloz Javakhishvili—are accused of participating in gang violence and could face four to six years behind bars.

Prosecutor Confirms Interpol Search for Giorgi Bachiasvili Under Red Circular



According to Prosecutor Mikheil Sadradze, the relevant department has formally applied to Interpol to locate Giorgi Bachiasvili under the Red Circular, a move that aims to track down the accused.

"As far as I know, the relevant department, the structural unit, has already applied to search for Bachiasvili under the Red Circular," said Prosecutor Sadradze in a statement.

Bachiasvili faces serious charges stemming from an alleged incident in 2017. The prosecutor's office claims that Bachiasvili transferred only \$536,900 to an investor in exchange for the full profit from their investment. However, the remaining 8,986 Bitcoins, valued at up to \$43 million at the time, were misappropriated by Bachiasvili.

Despite the charges, Giorgi Bachiasvili denies any wrongdoing and pleads not guilty.

Initially granted bail of 2,500,000 GEL as a preventive measure, Bachiasvili's bail was later replaced by imprisonment after further developments in the case. The charges he faces carry a prison sentence of 9 to 12 years.

EU brings the Bookshelf European Edition to Georgia's regions, engaging youth in interactive learning

The European Union has launched Bookshelf European Edition in Georgia, an interactive educational initiative designed to bring European culture, history, and values closer to young people. The initiative was introduced in Kakheti and will travel across various regions of Georgia, engaging youth through innovative and dynamic learning experiences.

Bookshelf European Edition offers a unique approach to education, encouraging young people to explore European lit-



erate new opportunities for youth across Georgia. We want to connect young people with knowledge and encourage them to see themselves as part of a wider European community," said EU Ambassador Pawel Herczynski.

The initiative's host, Alexandre Lortkipanidze, emphasised the importance of engaging young people through interactive learning: "This game is not just about knowledge—it's about sparking discussions, challenging perspectives, and making learning an enjoyable experience. We want young people to actively participate, think critically, and see the richness of European and Georgian connections."

The initiative will travel to different cities of Georgia, reaching young people and creating

spaces for discussion, learning, and exchange. By bringing European knowledge and perspectives directly to local communities across Georgia, the Bookshelf aims to equip youth with new skills, broaden their horizons, and encourage active engagement in shaping their own future.

Bookshelf European Edition reflects the EU's commitment to supporting education, youth engagement, and knowledge-sharing across Georgia. By providing free and interactive access to European literature and educational content, the initiative empowers young people with the tools they need to grow, learn, and contribute to their communities.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Friday, March 7

Day Clear
High: 16°C

Night Clear
Low: 4°C

Saturday, March 8

Day Clear
High: 19°C

Night Clear
Low: 4°C

erature, history, and ideas in an engaging and accessible way. Through interactive games and discussions, the initiative fosters critical thinking, curiosity, and a deeper understanding of Eu-

rope and Georgia's connections to it.

"Bookshelf European Edition is more than just a learning tool—it is a way to inspire young minds, spark curiosity, and cre-

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