Natural Disaster in Tbilisi and Its Tragic Consequences: Who is to be blamed?

Islamic Caliphate Establishes Geopolitical Power Centre in the Caucasus

On June 24 the Islamic Caliphate (IC) leadership, through press spokesman Sheikh Muhammad al-Adnani, confirmed that it had created a new directly subordinate administrative entity called the Caucasus Wilayat. This includes Chechnya, Dagestan, Kabardo-Balkaria and parts of Karachay-Cherkessia and will presumably be extended to the South Caucasus too. The IC leadership has appointed “Amir Abu Mohammad al-Qadari” – presumably the ex-commander and warlord of the Dagestani Sharia Jamaat Rustam Asilderov, as the ruler of this new entity.

US-Russia Stalemate – from Cold War to Conventional Warfare

Russian policymakers are seriously considering the possibility of face-to-face combat with US forces and are preparing the grounds for further escalation of existing tensions. Some days ago President of Russian Federation Vladimir Putin attended special exhibition of military hardware called “The Army 2015” in Moscow, in which the equipment on display was worth about $360 million. This was clearly designed as a means of flexing his military muscles against the West, as he directly threatened to aim Russia’s armaments at the “territories from where the threat comes”.

President’s Office Starts Selecting C.Bank Chief Candidate

U.S. Human Rights Report on Georgia

Defense Minister Visits NATO HQ

MPs Start Discussion of Controversial Bill on Banking Supervisory Agency
Natural Disaster in Tbilisi and Its Tragic Consequences: Who is to be blamed?

By DR. VAKHTANG MAISAIA

The national tragedy which took place in Tbilisi on the night of 13-14 June has taken away more than 19 lives. More than 200 people have lost their homes and 3 people are still missing.

Intense rain created a flash flood from both sides of the Vera River which then developed into a torrent which flooded Tbilisi Zoo. This forced open the cages and wild animals, including several tigers, lions and jackals and a hippopotamus, escaped. The government did not see this coming, and only a brave and enthusiastic army of volunteers, mostly local teenagers, saved its face and also many lives.

The flood ruined the highway between Tbilisi and Tskneti and caused a massive landslide. The population panicked, afraid of being attacked by the escaped animals, and three workers were indeed mauled by a tiger not far from the Zoo, one of them subsequently dying. The General Prosecutor’s Office of Georgian has already launched a preliminary investigation into the disaster and opened a criminal case. The government has only been interested in the third element - mitigation of consequences. The two previous ones, prevention and preparedness, have never been on the agenda. Consequently provision was lacking, and the measures which were in place were not implemented effectively. The National Security Council did not appear at the crisis scene and did absolutely nothing to manage the crisis at any level, though it is obliged to by the Constitution of Georgia.

It is already clear that improper construction of the highway and a careless attitude towards project realisation could have played a part in the flood, as the builders have criticized for these things before. However, questions will also be asked about how the authorities reacted, have never been on the agenda. Consequently provision was lacking, and the measures which were in place were not implemented effectively. The National Security Council did not appear at the crisis scene and did absolutely nothing to manage the crisis at any level, though it is obliged to by the Constitution of Georgia.

It was unable to exploit civil and military aviation means, such as helicopters, usually used when disasters strike. The previous Georgian government closed various preventive signaling facilities, such as hydrological and meteorological stations and research institutions, which might have predicted the disaster. Competition between two similar structures - operational governance and National Security Council - have only been interested in the third element - mitigation of consequences. The two previous ones, prevention and preparedness, have never been on the agenda. Consequently provision was lacking, and the measures which were in place were not implemented effectively. The National Security Council did not appear at the crisis scene and did absolutely nothing to manage the crisis at any level, though it is obliged to by the Constitution of Georgia.

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"Consultations will be held with international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, relevant expert community, business associations, banking sector, government ministries with economic portfolio and with the National Bank itself," Abashishvili added.

Speaking at a news conference, Abashishvili also reiterated the President's strong opposition to the bill that would strip the Georgian National Bank of supervisory functions of financial institutions and transfer them to a separate agency. The bill sponsored by two lawmakers from the Georgian Dream ruling coalition has also been criticized by business associations, as well as by the International Monetary Fund.

"Neither sponsors nor supporters of this bill have yet presented even a small professional argument why this change should be introduced, except of one that Mr. Kadagidze is unacceptable for them," the President's economic adviser said.

"We deem such process of destroying institutions because of individual persons categorically unacceptable," Abashishvili said. "The proposed changes pose threat to macroeconomic stability and efficient monetary policy; supporters of this bill will have to bear responsibility for the consequences."
Customers’ idea about ideal lottery

❤️ There must be a wide variety of prizes;
❤️ It would be good to win several times;
❤️ Receive the prize the moment you win;
❤️ The rules must be easy;
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The lottery will be held on the 20th of November 2015 in the broadcast of “Rustavi-2”, after “Kurieri” 18:00.
Islamic Caliphate Establishes Geopolitical Power Centre in the Caucasus

By DR. VAKHTANG MAISAIA

On June 24 the Islamic Caliphate (IC) leadership, through press spokesmen, announced that Muhammad al-Adnani, confirmed that it had created a new directly subordinate administrative entity, which is not part of the IC but is al-Qaeda-affiliated. CIE militants have conducted frequent, unauthorized attacks in support of its stated goals of establishing a Caliphate in the Caucasus and elsewhere and have not formally changed allegiance. The most dangerous and well-known of these is the British militant Vehbi Al-Shishani, who has now been the leader of this new entity.

Sheikh Adnani’s statement followed the dissemination of a Russian-language audio statement on Twitter on June 21, in which a group of former Cau- casus Islamic Emirate (CIE) commanders confirmed that they had created a new Caliphate territory called Cherkessia and Nogay steppe, which a group of former CIE fighters had announced their intention to establish a governorate in support of the IC. In addition, on June 21 the IC leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, declared his willingness to extend to the IC’s territory to the South Caucasus too. The IC leadership has appointed “Amir Abu Muhammad al-Qurafi” – presumably the ex-commander and warlord of the Dagestani Sharia Jamaat Rustam Aisildarov, as the ruler of this new entity.

The IC’s statements and actions over the next few weeks will indicate whether it intends to extend its control over these areas. The IC declared its new Caliphate to be a parallel to the Caliphate of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in Iraq and Syria. The IC has managed to extend its control in the other border areas, and more violent Islamist extremists are ready to transit these border areas, and more violent Islamist extremists are ready to transit between 50 and 100 Georgian nationals from the Muslim-majority regions of Adjara and the Pankisi Gorge were fighting in Syria and Iraq for either the Islamic State or al-Qaeda affiliates.

The inability of the Georgian law enforcement agencies to fully investigate the so-called “Lapanski Special Operation” which took place on August 28 2012 in Lopota Gorge and uncover the true motives and reasons for the massacre. This case was connected with the state sponsorship of terrorism conducted by the previous Georgian government.

The inability of both the previous and present Georgian governments to prevent trans-border transit of terrorists crossing from the North Caucasus to Syria and Iraq and vice versa. More than 700 Is- lamists and supporters have used this route.

The inability of the special services to properly predict, analyze and act and the challenges emanating from the IC and its influence at regional level.

The IC threat has already entered the South Caucasus. It could have very negative con- sequences for Georgia’s national security in the near future.
U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON GEORGIA

Domestic and politically motivated violence; increased sociocultural intolerance against minority groups, including hate speech and interference with religious worship; shortcomings in the legal system and the use of pretrial detention have been identified as the most important human rights problems in Georgia last year, according to the U.S. Department of State's annual report.

In other problems the annual human rights report, released on June 25 and covering developments of 2014, notes "abuse by law enforcement officials; substandard prison conditions; allegations of political influence in the administration of justice; allegations of improper or excessive surveillance; pressure on opposition figures to withdraw from local elections; and substandard living conditions for internally displaced persons (IDPs)."

The budget is – 1 531 500 EURO (including all applicable taxes).

To present their offers within 60 days from the announcement of the contest, no later 15 August 18 pm, 2015, at the following address: Tbilisi, Marshall Gelovani Alley km 6, 2nd floor.

Invitation to the Contest for Services Procurement for Detailed Engineering Design and BoQ for Zemo Samgori Irrigation System

Recipient of the Grant: Georgia

Implementor Agency: Georgian Amelioration LTD

Project #: ORIO13/GE/01

Summary of the Project

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in Tbilisi, Georgia has applied for a grant from the Dutch ORIO programme administered by Netherlands Enterprise Agency RVO, on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, concerning a project entitled “Rehabilitation of Zemo Samgori Irrigation System” (ref. ORIO13/GE/01). The project entails the rehabilitation of Georgia’s largest irrigation and drainage system with a total gravity irrigation network of more than 30,000 ha.

Abovementioned development phase provides with the Detailed Engineering Design and BoQ:

1. Site Investigation (deliverable 1)
2. Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Environmental and Social Management Plan (deliverable 2)
3. Financial Plan and Economic Study (deliverable 3)
4. Detailed rehabilitation engineering design (deliverable 4)

LTD Georgian Amelioration invites all interested companies/consortiums to participate in the contest. Interested companies/consortiums are obliged to present their offers within 60 days from the announcement of the contest, no later 15 August 18 pm, 2015, at the following address: Tbilisi, Marshall Avenue, N6, 2nd Floor procurement service.

The bid evaluation and winner identification will be carried by two-envelope method, evaluating technical and financial proposals

The budget is – 1 531 500 EURO (including all applicable taxes).

For additional information please contact ORIO Grant Project Manager Mr. George Kalandadze, email: gkalandadze@hotmail.com; Tbilisi, Marshal Gelovani Alley km 6, 2nd floor.

For detail information regarding the Contest please visit the state procurement agencies webpage http://contest.procurement.gov.ge/ Contest N-1694.
US-Russia Stalemate – from Cold War to Conventional Warfare

By DR. VAKHTANG MAISAIA

Russian policymakers are seriously considering the possibility of face-to-face combat with US forces and are preparing the grounds for further escalation of existing tensions. Some days ago President of Russian Federation Vladimir Putin attended special exhibition of military hardware called “The Army 2015” in Moscow, in which the equipment on display was worth about $360 million. This was clearly designed as a means of flexing his military muscles against the West, as he directly threatened to aim Russia’s armaments at the “territories from where the threat comes”.

The exhibition was held despite the fact that Russia had lost more than $200 billion due to Western sanctions, the West losing more than $100 billion from these in its turn. Russia is seeking to compensate these losses in future by improving trade ties with another geopolitical actor, China, but it continues to spend big on its military modernization programme regardless of the present situation, having committed about $400 billion to it for the next decade.

Putin announced that Russia will add 40 new intercontinental ballistic missiles to its nuclear arsenal in 2015 - presumably these will be 20 TO-POL-M and 20 YARS missiles (NATO classification SS-27 Mod2). These could help Russia achieve one of its most important geostrategic missions – countering the technically advanced anti-missile defense systems (like the Aegis system) the US has at its disposal. The Russians have developed many new armaments which are keeping pace with relevant Western-American armaments, thus nullifying the West’s long-held technological advantage in this area.

Among the new hardware Russia has developed we can highlight the following:

- ARMATA-14 fifth generation combat tanks - $7 million apiece
- Yak-130 fourth generation military fighter jets capable of delivering tactical nuclear warheads
- URAN-6Minesweepers
- The Pochila, Chirok or Shmell drones, which are able to carry bombs
- AVATAR anthropomorphic robots
- An ultra-high frequency ‘microwave gun’ capable of deactivating aerial drones and high-precision warheads
- The GAZ-3344 easy-riding all-terrain vehicle
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Producing these weapons means Russia is preparing seriously for a possible war. It is also reinforcing in the Kaliningrad Oblast, where the 11

250 combat vehicles and tanks, in the Baltic states and Poland in order to transport 5,000 troops rapidly if needed and NATO is likewise considering increasing its Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) to a complement of 40,000. The VJTF was one of the many measures agreed at the Wales Summit in 2014 in order to enhance the capability to respond to emerging security challenges, and consists of a land component with appropriate air, maritime and special operations components as needed, which can deploy within a few days to respond to any challenges which may arise on NATO’s flanks. The Ministry also decided to call an urgent meeting of the Special Nuclear Planning Group to revise the alliance nuclear doctrine and get a new plan adopted by the end of this year. This will be the first such meeting since 1990.

A Russia-USA confrontation on the scale being postulated would be very detrimental not only for Russian and US strategic interests but the world as a whole, as it includes nuclear deterrence components. However, with plans clearly so well advanced, it may soon take a lot to prevent.
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DEFENSE MINISTER VISITS NATO HQ

Georgian Defense Minister, Tina Khidasheli, has left for Brussels to visit NATO headquarters for a meeting of defense ministers from the alliance members and Afghanistan mission contributors on June 25. With 885 soldiers it is the second largest troop presence of NATO in Afghanistan.

Khidasheli told journalists before leaving early on Wednesday that the talks with the NATO defense ministers will focus on the military preparations for his departure from Georgia this summer,” it said.

"It is no less important that Russia or any other country has a veto on Georgia’s accession to the EU,” she said.

"I do not think that Russia has any other country has a veto on Georgia’s accession to the EU,” she said.

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