The Georgian Court system is the most independent it has ever been

“I cannot remember any case in the last few months in which anybody has interfered in the activities of the Court. Not since February, if we exclude, of course the statements of politicians, which are a type of interference but do not affect anything.”

Our businessmen are coming here and continuing to invest

Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary of Israel Yuval Fuchs says that economic relations between Israel and Georgia are not very strong right now but both countries are putting new mechanisms together to achieve better results. Here in an interview with The Georgian Times the Ambassador talks about general relations between the two countries and the regional security of the Caucasus and the Middle East.

United National Examinations Concluded

The United National Examinations of 2013 have come to an end. Here The Georgian Times discusses them with the head of the National Examinations Centre Maia Miminoshvili.

Presidential Candidates and their Chances

Russia Flexes its Muscles Towards the East: China or Japan???

Eduard Kokoity and Mikheil Saakashvili – Separated at Birth?

Euro MPs Concerned After Meeting with Vano Merabishvili

Fire destroys the only Aqua Park in Tbilisi
Four months are left until implementation of the function of mobile ballots. On October 27, the country is electing the fourth president though with little bit different responsibilities.

The number of presidential candidates is increasing day by day. However, none of candidates has started an active election campaign yet.

In the condition of the pre-election boom, political parties, initiative groups and independent candidates are involved in discussion and revelation of the presidential candidates.

It was unexpected nomination of Giorgi Margvelashvili, the Education Minister as a presidential candidate for society. The favorite of the Prime Minister, 43 years old minister was a GIPA rector in 2006-2006 and later in 2010-2012. After great political change in Georgian politics, Margvelashvili hold the position of the Education Minister in February 2013, he got the portfolio of vice-Premier Minister to get with Education Minister. Informally, after coming of Giorgi Margvelashvili the leader of the opposition, Irakli Alasania, current Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport was dismissed from the vice-Prime Minister position. He is the leader of the political party “Georgian Dream”. The third category of independent candidates having political programs, author and editor of “Babu” magazine “the Droeba”. After leaving journalism, he established the political party “Christian Democrats”.

One more independent candidate is Nestan Kirtadze, the former foreign minister of Georgia in 1996-2002. He was a head of election office of Mikhail Saakashvili during early election in 2008. In January 2008, he was appointed in Foreign Ministry of Georgia. In 2008-2012 he was a Parliament Speaker. He is the leader of UNM and parliamentary minority, member of the Democratic movement. Salome Zurabishvili is participating as an independent candidate in presidential election. Vakhtang Khmaladze suspects her legal right to participate in the election as born and brought up in France. The offspring of Niko Nikoladze, the great Georgian public and political figure was foreign minister of Georgia from 2004-2005. She became the leader of a political party “Georgian Way” in 2006. She is the head of loyal expert group of UN Security Council sanction committee since 2010. According to Article 70, the Constitution of Georgia, any Georgian citizen above 35, being resident of Georgia in general for 5 years, but mainly live fully in Georgia for 3 years. “The dual citizens may use passive election right. There are several factors, the first, Ms. Salome has a dual citizenship, if the constitutional changes will be initiated timely, and the latest provision will be cancelled. In fact only in this case, the issue of citizenship will not prevent her participation in the election. As for her residence in Georgia for the last three years. She works for international organization and it will be interesting approach of CEC, how it will assess this. If she will be able to participate in the presidential election. Though I think artificial obstacles should not be made and she has to give the chance of participation in the election. But still CEC approach to the issue is very interesting,” says Kakhi Kakhishvili. It seems that nostalgia towards the presidency of two months in 2003-2004 was awakened to Nino Burjanadze. The representative of the real political part, the representatives “Citizens’ Union” and “UNM” (though she never been the official member of the executive) the united the political party “Democratic Movement-United Georgia” since movement to opposition in 2008. According to statement of public assembly executory board, the country needs experience politician, principle and having international authority as a president and they think that Nino Burjanadze has all those features. Nino Burjanadze does not exclude to have the second tour in the presidential elections, though she is sure in victory. Shalva Natashashvili, the leader of Labour Party is going to taking of the country out of deadlock. The leader having the famous sense of humor and political sympathy is not trying him in the election for the first time. He is always in the opposition and in case of victory does not participate in the operation of the Parliament. He is impressive, he gets political scores by the opposing-satiric speeches. It is paradox, but Natashashvili struggling against the riches is not so poor according to 2012. Giorgi Targamadze, the leader of Christian democratic Movement demonstrated his ambition to become a president. The presidential candidate having political journalist background predicts appointment of the second tour. Giorgi Targamadze was the director TV companykhuni, public-political programs, author and the presenter of analytical program “the Droeba”. After leaving journalism, he established the political party “Christian Democrats”.

On Monday, July 22, 2013

The Georgian Times

POLITICAL

Presidential Candidates and their Chances

By Tatia Gagua, GT

The Georgian Times Media Holding.
E-mail: office@geotimes.ge; http://www.geotimes.ge

The Georgian Times

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Kote Kabadishvili: The Georgian Court system is the most independent it has ever been

BY DZALI REZALAVA, GT

“I cannot remember any case in the last few months in which anybody has interfered in the activities of the Court. Not since February, if we exclude, of course the statements of politicians, which are a type of what old judges do not do anything.”

Here Kote Kabadishvili, Chair of the Supreme Court, talks about planned changes, well known cases of executive interference and the situation in the court system and Prosecutors’ Office since the last election with the Georgian Times.

Following the parliamentary election of October 1, the Georgian public expected to see changes in the Court system as well as the executive. In the 9 months since then, what has changed?

Both the Court and I personally would like to establish the standards which apply in all democratic countries. Under these, a change of government should not be followed by changes in the Court. We do not think it right that when a government is interfered with by decisions, in the first time for Georgia, a change of judges should also be expected.

Did the new government try to change the Court?

This was noticeable to everybody in Georgia during the 4-5 months after the election. It was a great desire for this, but we nevertheless tried to set a precedent that the Georgian Courts should not be changed when the government changes. The Georgian Court is an independent branch of the government and no political changes should influence it or the judges.

In fact, for the last 9 months the Court system has worked well. The judges corps has not been changed, though it is possible to assign new ones next week.

Therefore, the system is functioning in accordance with its main principle, that the judicial corps remains the same. The key achievement since the election has been to establish the Court’s independence.

During the former government’s rule there were frequent accusations by attorneys and people in touch with the system that the Court was influenced by the government. We endeavored by the Prosecutors’ Office to make this not true today.

I would rather say that the Georgian Court system is the most independent it has ever been. I cannot remember any incident during the last few months in which anybody interfered in the activities of the Court. Not because we are any unless we include the statements of politicians, but actually these have no effect. Politicians should not abuse the Court, and it does not achieve the result desired by the politicians who do it. Therefore I insist that the Court is more independent than ever.

But this not some kind of acknowledgment that the former government had an influence on the Court.

No, I am not saying that, since 2005 everything we have done has been designed to create an independent court, but we started from a very small position, in which the corruption level was very deep, interference from outside very strong, etc.

Gradually we decreased this interference and finally we have been able to eliminate it. Now the government has come, the court should take advantage of this and has. I mean, there was a certain conceptual cohesion during the former government, as a key approach was set at that time, a struggle against crime, corruption, and drugs, and everybody was involved in this, including the court.

Let us say that, all three branches of the government implemented it. Of course this stimulated certain cohesion, but the coming of the new government has changed the situation. Does this mean that the new government sought to make the court independent?

The governments of all countries have to wish a certain influence over the Court. But I said that only, in a way, we did not wish given us by the government the council of 10 persons to whom we were all appointed. We were all appointed legitimately, there is no corruption in the system, the judges are very motivated and qualified, and we have to use this position to continue with our work in a more appropriate manner. In other parts of Eastern Europe these governments have been changed peacefully through elections several times, and I have had conversations with the heads of the supreme courts of such states. Of course, the situation was not easy in all these countries either, but mainly they told me that through changes of governments, at such cohesion, the judges become more independent as they were not appointed by the new government and are there for life or until they retire. Consequently they can try and maintain independence and now we have achieved that. One of the most important issues is the appointment of the judges for unlimited terms, and my idea is that not only judges appointed in future, in November, but those already serving should be allowed to continue as judges without time limits.

Would you apply to all judges?

Neither the first and second court judges nor supreme justices are appointed for life. It is prohibited in the Constitution.

Reappointment of the acting judges for life or until they choose to retire is crucial, in order to give the public a perception that there is stability and non-changeability in the court system. We should also increase salaries, as increases have been stopped and what was enough in 2006-2008 is not sufficient now. This will facilitate the solution of many problems, about 90% of problems in fact.

At your meeting with the PM you raised the issue of salary increases, and the public saw this as an ultimatum from your side. Was it?

It was not an ultimatum, and we also talked about other issues. We had a conversation about eliminating interference. I would like to commend the attitude of the Prime Minister, who thinks similarly to us. Not only politicians but the courts too are influenced by PR statements, as are such institutions which officially collaborate with us like the police, Prosecutor’s Office, etc.

We talked about this first of all, and it is absolutely clear that such interference should not occur and if it does the response should be very strict.

The new Minister of Justice has made various statements about you, saying for example that the greatest number of times made against Georgia to the Strasbourg Human Rights Court have been made during your term of office. Is this why she does not want you in the Supreme Court?

I do not know what she would like, but her approach failed and it was not right for the new government to come to power and then criticise and aggressively oppose both the court and the first citizens of the country. They consider you a member of Saakashvili’s team, do they not?

I was appointed during the time of the Saakashvili government and this is a fact. But even in the US the Chair of the Supreme Court is appointed. The term of a office of a Supreme Court Chair in Georgia is ten years. But this does not mean that if a new government comes in it will automatically remain a follower of the previous government and express this through my actions and decisions. I abide by our principles to the letter. It may be very hard, but we have been working since 2005 to achieve a high level of independence in the courts.

There is great public interest in the cases of former ministers who have been charged with various offences. The feeling is that the court is not strong. In the case of Egulava for example there was a view that the Prosecutor’s Office’s Office had evidence to see him imprisoned, but the court released him and many others, whereas Vano Merabishvili is imprisoned. Can you comment on this?

The court demonstrated the ultimate level of independence and said, that in this specific case, it was not necessary to sentence the Thitio. Mayor to pre-trial imprisonment, but in the case of the former Prime Minister it was.

Our goal is that nobody interferes in the legal process. It is possible that one decision or another may turn out not to be right, but the only thing we can do is to fill the gaps not by interference but by analysis and later on by training and increasing the professional skills of the judges. This is the only right thing we can do to improve the decision making process, although many people will still be dissatisfied.

Last year, when I asked you why the Prosecutor’s Office was so strong and why the defence always lost you told me that Georgia had strong prosecutors. Today the picture is different, so what has happened to these educated and strong prosecutors, some of whom still work there?

Most of them are not the same prosecutors and those who have come in since last year are weak and have no training or not such good training. I know this because my judges were there, when the prosecutors were trained and introduced new practices the new prosecutors have not been exposed to. There has been a huge transformation. For example, in one case a man was detainted with several kg of drugs. The entire arraignment and trial process should be conducted in the presence of a lawyer for the accused, but documents were submitted to the court when no lawyer had been appointed. Therefore the case had to be dismissed and all the work done by the prosecutor was rendered null and void.

The judge said that this was such a crude and clear violation, that even a poorly educated privatist could not commit. I indicated he had a very low level of qualification. Moreover, this was in a very serious case. Are the judges united, as during the last meeting where you elected the members of the Justice Council there was opposition to certain candidates from the judges?

This is as was normal. They wanted to put forward their own candidates, and did so, but 23 of them were not selected. Everything was done transparently, and everybody saw that the council members were elected by the judges.

Though there was some dissatisfaction with the process, the majority said that everything it had been done correctly.

The names of individual judges were mentioned, were they not dissatisfied?

Those elected were accepted as correct majorities. I repeat, the judges must decide for themselves by transparent and open process who will defend their rights in the Justice Council, and there is no interference. I would like to elect judges to the council, who oppose the will of the government, it is thus of them.

Do you agree with court hearings being open?

The attendance of journalists is prohibited in the Constitution. It was not before. Hearings have always been open. The only thing which has been added is cameras.

The limitation regarding cameras is the same one applied in the majority of European countries, i.e. they can shoot for two minutes and then stop. But now the camaras are shooting not only for two minutes but throughout the process and personally I am against this, that the court should be playing a crucial role at this stage of the country’s development, and finally they can begin to conclude that Georgia is a democratic state. Entourage to any European Association is directly associated with the independence of the court and they are focusing on it. This is the greatest support for us.

Over the last nine years, what has been the rate of acquittal?

One of the biggest problems is that it has not increased, therefore it is understood incorrectly, mainly by journalists, that as the government has changed the acquittal and acquittal rate has increased.

It is not like that and should not be like that. It is impossible to have a 30-50% acquittal, as this would mean that the Prosecutor’s Office and police were not working well and everything was being done wrong.

For one, Norway, a very stable country, for more than 50 years the rate of acquittal has been 4-5%, and this rate is lower in other countries.
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One, named after the 21st century and NATO and the EU, but I believe that is one of the challenges that should be confronted only by Georgia itself.

Another challenge, which also comes from not far from the beginning of our conversation today, is the nuclear problem. There has been much talk about the newly elected Prime Minister of the Middle East and security. What do you think about Georgia's importance in the regional security of the Middle East?

In my conversations with the Minister of the Middle East, I believe this is a job for the three countries. We do not have anything in common, I think.

We do not have anything in common with the Middle East. We do not have anything in common with Iran. We are monitoring political developments and talking to our government about political developments and talking to our government about the situation with the Ministry of the Ministry of the...
The United National Examinations of 2013 have come to an end. Here The Georgian Times discusses them with the head of the National Examinations Centre Maia Minimishvili.

By Lika Moshhashvili

How successful were the Unified National Examinations of 2013? How many students were registered for the exams? How many actually took part?

Approximately 42,000 students were registered in total, quite a better condition than previous years. However, of those took the examinations, again a good figure. In general I am satisfied with the progress of this year’s exams. They started off very well. The percent of students before the exams were very low at the beginning, but unexpectedly it increased. I am very concerned by the instances of people misunderstanding the students on their examinations and coming the next day. I find them very strange, as the exact dates of each exam are indicated on their exam cards and students only have to remember them. But the number of such cases is not worrying.

How many examination centres were used this year? How do you experience any complications in any region?

We used 18 examination centres. We added an extra one in Tbilisi due to the increased number of entrants. We had centres in 12 different regions: Telavi, Rustavi, Gori, Akhaltsikhe, Ordugeti, Zugdidi, Pto, Sighnaghi, Barami, Khulo, Kutaisi and Tbilisi. Yesterday I visited some of the regional centres and I am very satisfied with how the process was conducted there. Everything is on schedule. In one particular exam no more than 800 students were registered. It’s easier to control this number than the 3,000 you have in the examination centres in Tbilisi.

Was there anything new in the Unified National Examinations of 2013?

We did not change anything in the tests, as we did not have much time before the exams began. Students start preparing for these exams from October. November is the best time, but students would not have been fair to them to make any changes just a few months prior.

We did change a few aspects of the process though. This year all students are allowed to choose which university they wish to go to after they register, or even when they have already received their results. This was not possible in previous years, the student could not change anything after registering. Funding has also been increased this year.

The government allocated 18 million instead of 10 million for educational support, so more students will now be getting grants from the state. In two previous years all university faculties will be considered equal for funding purposes and none will be given a priority. For instance, last year if a student wanted to study law he/she would only have been able to get 100 grant or nothing, while a student with the same scores wanting to study engineering or another lower priority subject would have to explore other options. This year it’s the common rule of financing for all the faculties, and regardless of which one the student enters they will receive a 30%, 50% or 70% grant. In 17 subjects all students will receive state grants.

Which faculties are the most popular among students this year?

We can’t tell at the moment. Many students did not express a preference for any particular faculty or university when they registered as they were not obliged to. They knew the new rules, they knew that they had some extra time to think before making a final decision. We can talk about this only when all the students have indicated which university and faculty they will apply to.

Are the rights of the ethnic minorities respected in the United National Examinations?

The general ability tests are available in Georgian, Azerbaijani, Armenian and Russian languages for several years. So students for the ethnic minorities can pass these exams in their mother tongue. As for the subject specific exams, these are offered in either Georgian or Russian. A Georgian language programme has been developed for non-Georgian speaking students, which they are enrolled in and they achieve the general ability tests. If such a student enters a university she/he takes intensive classes in Georgian; if they gain appropriate scores at these they join the other students and continue studying with them in the same classes. We also offer this option to students from Abkhazia. About 300 Abkhazian students have registered for the United National Examinations since they were introduced.

Did any students who were in detention take the exams this year?

Eight students were in detention when they registered, and one Graduate Record Examination applicant was arrested after registration. This caused a great deal of concern to the Ministry of Education and Law Enforcement. Since the last year a student was able to attend the examinations, they were expected to fulfill some conditions as if they pass these exams and qualify to enter university this would be a good reason for them to apply to the mercy commission.

Did students with disabilities have the chance of participating in the exams? What kind of challenges did you face in enabling them to do so and could all of them take part?

This year we had around 800 students who said they required special conditions to be able to attend the exams. We satisfied over 100 of these requests. A special commission, together with the Ministry of Health, discussed these cases and gave us recommendations. This issue is very difficult to deal with, as all these students need special care: some need to be taken care of, some need to be lay down during the exams, we have to allow students with disabilities to bring sweets with them, invigilators need to know what kind of first aid to provide to each of these entrants, etcetera.

What happened in the Graduate Record Examinations?

The number of those wishing to pass Graduate Record Examinations was approximately 10,000, higher than in previous years. The absence rate was quite high in case too, about 2%. I think we gave a pleasant surprise for future masters students as the number was lower when we changed the content of the tests. This year the students were given tests relevant to their subject area. The people running the Graduate Record Examinations had often complained that every student had to do a maths test despite the fact that they were intending to take physics or history. Now this has changed, and tests are provided in the field the student wishes to obtain a masters degree in. Some students have already indicated that the Graduate Record Examination process was quiet and calm in general. For instance, last year I have one difficult day. As you know our tests are printed in Great Britain and we receive them the second day. These passages are re-read and checked only on the day of the examination. So during the actual writing students discovered that the tests had missing points in them which made it impossible to read one sentence. So we quickly decided to write this task on a separate piece of paper and add it to the tests. It was very hard to sort this out in such a short period of time.

How many teachers were registered for the Teacher Certification Examinations and how many did not come? How many certified teachers do we have at present? Why are these exams important for teachers and what will happen to those who refuse to participate in them?

About 26,000 teachers were registered for these examinations. 18% of the registered teachers did not appear for their exams, a much higher rate than amongst students. I do not know what is happening with them.

Many teachers were found with crib, and I must say that I am not really burred by this. Teaching is one of the most important professions, so it affects our children. These people are responsible for the education of future generations. I am sure these people would put against their students using cribs, and they all know that there are other processes and exam rules very well. A lot of people, including representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, policemen, registrars, doctors, journalists and others were standing at the registration desk and they saw everything that happened. That is how the information spread. These kinds of things had happened in previous years too, but we kept it secret from the outside world. But they happen every year, and I do not know what to say. Other teachers are offended by the behavior of some of their colleagues and have asked us to announce the names of those found cheating. But we do not want to do this. We do not have these kinds of problems with students.

In general there are many difficulties relating to teachers. The state should do a lot to ensure that we have qualified stuff in the schools. The Ministry of Education should make sure that if a teacher enters a class she/he is a real professional. Teachers also have to work on this themselves.

The Teacher Certification Examination is very important, but it has a lot of weak points at the moment. I think it’s impossible to assess a teacher only on the basis of these tests, as we do today. Theoretical knowledge is one thing, how the teacher uses it in practice is another.

We have obtained a grant from the World Bank and are currently working on a new Teacher Certification project. We will need some time to prepare a new and perfect model. I think it’s just an illusion to say that in 2014 we will have only certified teachers. The law should be changed, for the next few years we will still have many teachers who will not have certificates, and they should still be allowed to teach.

We should protect our teachers and help their development. When will the results of the exams be released? What are the gaps in all these examinations you are seeking to plug next year?

A: It’s too early to talk about this after the exams. The law says we will discuss this and decide what to change and improve next year. I think one topic we will discuss will be adding some more exam centres in Tbilisi, because it’s not good for so many students together. I think by August 10 the first results in all subjects will be released.

You were head of the National Examinations Centre under the United National Movement government too. What has changed since the Georgian Dream came to power?

After the Rose Revolution the ruling UNM wanted to introduce United National Examinations. In 2005 they supported this project very much and it was a great success. But they destroyed everything last year by their actions. NAEC is an independent institution and the state should not intervene in its work. Nowadays our organisation once again has full independence from government. We have got everything back and are working in comfortable conditions. I can’t compare these two political parties.

NEWS

Deputy Ministers of Education Dismissed

Deputy Ministers of Education Dismissed Deputy Ministers of Education and Science Davit Zurabishvili and Ketevan Natashvili and Alaha Gogidze have been dismissed, according to the order of Prime Minister.

Law on authority of governmental structure and regulations, when the members of government resign or Minister’s authority ends, the Deputy Ministers are dismissed upon the appointment of the new government or Minister.

According to the 24th article of the law, Prime Minister appoints and dismisses deputy Ministers after consultations with the President of Georgia.

The statement was published by the Cabinet of Minister of Education and Science by Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili’s order on 18 July.
Russia Flexes its Muscles Towards the East: China or Japan???

By: DR. VAKHTANG MAISAIA, GT

Russia’s current military strategy appears vividly displayed at its southern borders. One example of this was the moving of the internal boundary between Georgia and South Ossetia 300 meters deeper into Georgia proper, thus increasing the de facto Tskhinvali region regime’s territory and once again (how many times is it now?) trampling on Georgia’s sovereignty over the region. The Georgian side has accepted this quite calmly, even though such an action gives it legal grounds to launch combat operations against the occupiers.

However, it should not appear strange that Russia has violated the sovereign rights of a foreign country with whom it is in a de facto state of war. What is more difficult to understand is why official Moscow behaves equally aggressively towards its oriental neighbours, notably China and Japan, with which it is in various forms of partnership (although the Russian Federation is the same nation-state as the de facto war party with Japan as it is with Georgia).

On July 8 a session of Russia’s National Security Council enacted a decree by President Putin and suddenly launched military drills for the East Central Military District units.

The drills were supposed to help evaluate these units’ readiness levels and their ability to respond adequately to swiftly emerging challenges and risks. The drills were very large in scale, due to the participation of two Army HQs housing 160,000 servicemen, 20 IL-76 heavy transport aircrafts, 6 Pacific Fleet special naval groupings, 16 troop transportation units, TY-95MC strategic destination jets capable of delivering nuclear warheads and several IL-38 and TY-142Na val jets. Moreover, the drills were supervised from the Central Command Simulation Centre of the General Staff of the Russian Federation by General Valery Makarov, the Army Chief of Staff, and attended by Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu and President Vladimir Putin himself.

The importance of these drills is further exemplified by the fact that, for the first time in Russia’s history since its declaration of independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, special Chemical and Biological Defence troops were involved in them.

From a Georgian national defence perspective, a disturbing feature of these drills is that the Russian high command used them to probe the operational capabilities of new types of drones (Unmanned Flight Vehicles) capable of delivering information not only to the local high command HQ but also to the Central Command HQ of the General Staff in Moscow. These make it possible to conduct localised warfare in a more efficient manner and strike down enemy forces in a short- or per-iod of time. Hence the Russian Armed Forces demonstrated that they are adopting new tactics, involving the use of modern military technology elements which have cost the

Kremlin more than 20 trillion rubles since 2008. The strategic goal of the drills was thus to assess how the Russian forces would wage a “local war” (the term used in the national military doctrine adopted and renewed in 2012). ‘Local war’ means a regional level conflict with at least one nation or coalition of nations which takes places on two fronts simultaneously. The drills conducted in the Far East District, on Sakhalin Island and in the Okhoten Sea were designed to assess Russia’s readiness to attack two obvious targets: China and a Japan-U.S. coalition.

This level of military exercise is unprecedented and demonstrates that Russia’s leadership still has a hostile view of NATO and its enlargement policy. The exercise specifically sought to counter an equivalent of the NATO air operation in Yugoslavia in 1999. The Russian Federation forces defended make-believe strategic chemical and industrial objects such as factories from raids equivalent to those on NATO planes made against the same objects during the “local war” against Yugoslavia over Kosovo.

Hence, the Kremlin seriously expects that a scenario will develop in which the Russian Armed Forces will encounter NATO forces during a local war.

In the light of this, the Kremlin’s tactics and aggressive policy in the conflict zone in the Tskhinvali region are clear and logical. If the Kremlin is prepared to so openly flex its muscles against more powerful geopolitical actors (NATO, the USA, China, etc.) we should not be surprised that it thinks nothing of abusing Georgia once more.

Eduard Kokoity and Mikheil Saakashvili – Separated at Birth?

By: DR. VAKHTANG MAISAIA, GT

On the verge of 21st century, the main political entities in the South Caucasus region, including self-proclaimed ones like Alkhazaria and South Ossetia, have been creating a new form of autocratic-type governance, despite the de-Sovietisation of 1991. The “liberal” colour of these regimes does not camouflage their domination by dangerous low quality politicians. The examples of two Georgian regimes, which may be termed either “non-democratic” (by a cautious political analyst) or ‘bloody dictatorship’ (by people living in the real world) convey clearly how terrible Soviet-style purges are still being conducted in the post-modern world.

Mikheil Saakashvili and Eduard Kokoity, who are politicians chosen to their political forgeries and mass abuses of their own people, are the best case studies of what the true content of authoritarianism and dictatorship is in the supposedly mild, democrat-ic 21st century epoch.

The similarities between these two political “camouflages” are very evident and disturbingly close. Eduard Kokoity and Mikheil Saakashvili are both products of the 1960s. Both were infected with a pathological maliciousness and diseased inferiority complex in childhood. Both also served in the Soviet Army (Kokoity in 1983-85 and Saakashvili in 1989, 1990) and graduated from universities. Kokoity and Saakashvili began to develop their political careers in the 90s, Eduard Kokoity in 1990-93 as a member of the Parliament of so-called South Ossetia and as its ‘Minister of Foreign Trade’ in 1997 and Mikheil Saakashvili in 1995-2000 as a member of Parliament and then Minis-ter of Justice until 2001. Both also used to be ‘footmen’ of more powerful figures. Kokoity for Soviet period Communist boss Anato-ly Chkheho and Saakashvili for Potburho member Eduard Shevardnadze. With the direct in-volvement of The Kremlin adminis-tration (in the case of Kokoity) and indirect (via the official visit to Tbilisi of senior Kremlin man Igor Ivanov in Saakashvili’s case) they seized power, Kokoity in November 2001 and Saakashvili in Decem-ber 2003. Given this shared history, it was not surprising that the two leaders provoked the August 2008 war to serve their own financial interests, de-spite the fact this war caused devastating damage to both the Georgian and Ossetian peoples and gave Russia a geopolitical monopoly in the South Caucu-sus.

Amid the political turbu-lence and fraudulent elections under which both self-pro-claimed Presidents were re-elected the dominant features of the politics of Georgia and South Ossetia were exactly alike – massive repression, with more than 30,000 non-crimi-nals being incarcerated in Geor-gia and up to 8,000 in South Ossetia, the dispersion of pro-

test rallies, the physical perse-cution of political opponents and their flight into exile (the brothers Tederi and Analoy Baranakshvili in South Ossetia and Badri Gogobiani, Bado Bitadze and Irakli Okruashvili in Georgia), the killings of po- litical competitors (Prime Min-is ter Zurab Zhvania in Georgia in 2005 and Secretary to the South Ossetian Security Coun-cil Glig Algovirov in 2006), the enactment of elite contro-l, regime-run narcotics tran-sit routes and illegal arms trad-ing, etc. Both in Georgia and so-called South Ossetia there are large numbers of systematic-ally rounded up political pris-oners. An interesting case-

study is that of the young per-son, Alexander Tederi, a South Ossetian resident who is a politi-cian of both Kokoity and Saakashvili and will proba-ly remain in this category un-der Mikheil Saakashvili’s term ends in October 2013. Alex-ander Tederi is a personal-friend of Eduard Kokoity due to his principles and civil posi-tion and was forced to flee to Georgia in order to save his life. Despite this he was however in August 2008, just a day before of combat operations be-gan in Tskhinvali, he was arrested by the Counter-Intelligence and Counter-Terrorism Department of the MIA, the political police of Mikheil Saakashvili, on false charges and sentenced to 13 years in jail.

Hence, Kokoity and Saakashvili are in fact true friends and supporters of their political opposition.

Based on the so-called Her-mans Code of comparative anal-ysis we can create the follow-ing “psychological psychobiogra-phy” chart for Mikheil Saaka-shvili and Eduard Kokoity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Mikheil Saakashvili</th>
<th>Eduard Kokoity</th>
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<tr>
<td>high</td>
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<tr>
<td>supreme</td>
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<td>conceptual complexity</td>
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<tr>
<td>self-confidence</td>
<td>high</td>
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<td>task/issue orientation</td>
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<td>problem focused</td>
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<tr>
<td>relationship focused</td>
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<td>distinct of others</td>
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<td>political leader most resembled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pol Pot</td>
<td>Benito Mussolini</td>
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Dr. Vakhtang Maasia, Military expert, Associate Professor at Sukhishvili Teaching University, Director, the GT Azri Strategic Studies Centre
Margvelashvili said that Sankidze has helped him begin depoliticizing the education system, a very important endeavour. “We have worked together for a long time. Tamar Sankidze studied at the university I ran. She has also studied at various universities in the USA. She has worked at GIPs and the Urban Institute and we have been planning and implementing changes together for the last 8 months,” said Margvelashvili. He added that the new Minister has very serious achievements in management to her name, and has submitted laws to Parliament and proved able to work very effectively with representatives of the Parliamentary minority as well as the majority.

Sankidze said that reforms to the education system have been planned and are about to be put into effect. Consequently she will not adopt a new course, but on the contrary the reform process will be enhanced and the system and what the Ministry is doing will become more accessible to the public. Summarising his own work as Education Minister, Margvelashvili mentioned that it was very important to return political elements from the educational system in a democratic manner. “I believe there were some management failures in the system previously, and these were expected during the transitional period too, but it now works both freely and efficiently about the severe hand of management. About 70,000 teachers have seen their salaries increased by between 25 and 60%, depending on the case. Educational administrators have also seen salary increases of between 40 and 45%. An important change affects state higher educational institutions to Parliament and proved able to work very effectively with representatives of the Parliamentary minority as well as the majority. Sankidze said that reforms to the education system have been planned and are about to be put into effect. Consequently she will not adopt a new course, but on the contrary the reform process will be enhanced and the system and what the Ministry is doing will become more accessible to the public. Summarising his own work as Education Minister, Margvelashvili mentioned that it was very important to return political elements from the educational system in a democratic manner. “I believe there were some management failures in the system previously, and these were expected during the transitional period too, but it now works both freely and efficiently about the severe hand of management. About 70,000 teachers have seen their salaries increased by between 25 and 60%, depending on the case. Educational administrators have also seen salary increases of between 40 and 45%. An important change affects state higher educational institutions to the public. Summarising his own work as Education Minister, Margvelashvili mentioned that it was very important to return political elements from the educational system in a democratic manner. “I believe there were some management failures in the system previously, and these were expected during the transitional period too, but it now works both freely and efficiently about the severe hand of management. About 70,000 teachers have seen their salaries increased by between 25 and 60%, depending on the case. Educational administrators have also seen salary increases of between 40 and 45%. An important change affects state higher educational institutions to the public. Summarising his own work as Education Minister, Margvelashvili mentioned that it was very important to return political elements from the educational system in a democratic manner. “I believe there were some management failures in the system previously, and these were expected during the transitional period too, but it now works both freely and efficiently about the severe hand of management. About 70,000 teachers have seen their salaries increased by between 25 and 60%, depending on the case. Educational administrators have also seen salary increases of between 40 and 45%. An important change affects state higher educational institutions to the public. Summarising his own work as Education Minister, Margvelashvili mentioned that it was very important to return political elements from the educational system in a democratic manner. “I believe there were some management failures in the system previously, and these were expected during the transitional period too, but it now works both freely and efficiently about the severe hand of management. About 70,000 teachers have seen their salaries increased by between 25 and 60%, depending on the case. Educational administrators have also seen salary increases of between 40 and 45%. An important change affects state higher educational institutions.
Number of Inmates Decreases by 60%

By MAKAY DEKANDZIE, GT

By July 15, 2013 a total of 9,279 prisoners had been released from penitentiary institutions. This is a 60.2% reduction in numbers since July 15, 2012. Minister of Correction, Probation and Legal Assistance Sozar Subari answered questions about the radical decrease in inmate numbers and other issues at the Georgian Times Press Club of the Georgian Times.

"Today, there are many more inmates than European standards would consider ac-
ceptable. The standard is 100-200 per 100,000 people, while it is 250 in Georgia. Only Geor-
gia, Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania and Belarus among European countries have over 200 in-
mates per 100,000 head of pop-
ulation," Sozar Subari said.

The Minister promised that the number of the inmates will be regulated and they will be correctly distributed to the dif-
cident penitentiary institutions. Neither inmates nor their visi-
tors will be put in unbearable conditions any longer.

"We have opened a new public reception for prisoners number 5 and 6. This is where people will get legal and psy-
chological assistance. They will not need to wait in an awful desired place in the heat. It is also obvious that there is no longer such overcrowding as we had before," Subari said.

The Minister spoke about the infrastructural problems in the prisons and presented re-
sults of his nine months in of-
fice.

"We are examining all the existing infrastructure. Most of the jails had no architectural plan, no maintenance plan, no certificate of land ownership. This needs to be not addressed, and we are working on this so that we can have an absolutely well-functioning infrastruc-
ture," said Sozar Subari.

The Minister cited the re-
sults of a recent NDI survey as proof of the success of the changes in the penitentiary sys-
tem. According to the survey, since October last year 33% of inmates think that the situ-
ation in the prisons has im-
proved. In a survey of the most important problems in Georgia from November last year, pris-
on reform was mentioned as a high priority.

"It was a high index, but in the analogous March and July 2013 surveys this index de-
creased to 1%. The people of Georgia believe that the situa-
tion has changed in the prisons, as many changes have been made in the penitentiary sys-
tem," said Subari.

In addition, the Minister highlighted the article published on the Open Society New York website about the dissemination of the Hepatitis C in the peni-
tentiary system, which will soon affect the general public. He said, that unfortunately Geor-
gia was mentioned as one of the poor countries, where the treat-
ment of Hepatitis C costs 18,000 USD. Sozar Subari hopes that the cost of this treatment will decrease through the support of a Hepatitis C programme.

The Minister also reviewed other inmate health pro-
grammes and their successes. The fight against tuberculosis was proceeding well, and dele-
gations were visiting Georgia to share the experience of other countries, like China.

"In these 9 months, during which we also began our fight against Hepatitis C, we can consider we have taken histor-
ic steps," said Subari.

The Minister said that in-
mates who had committed tech-
nical crimes and those who are habitual criminals will be sepa-
rated.

"At the end of October we intend to open a new establish-
ment for around 3,000 men. This will be a vocational edu-
cational institution where people will work, study and be free from any kind of criminal in-
fluence. This establishment will help those inmates who value study and labour," said Sozar Subari.

The Minister responded to a Georgian Times question con-
cerning whether electronic tag-
ning by means of bracelets is being planned as an alternative to imprisonment by saying that work in this direction has al-
ready started and a commission is investigating this option.

"There is a commission working on criminal law reform which is discussing the electric armlent issue, which may be put on agenda as an alternative to imprisonment. Currently we have three types of measure, imprisonment, guardianship and guarantee. Before Saakash-

vili came to power there were more many alternatives, such as residing in set places and house arrest," said Sozar Sub-
ari.

The Minister also spoke about his previous threat to re-
sign, made in this newspaper, and said that he has not made a final decision on this yet but has an idea what he will do. He suggested that he will leave af-

ter the projects he has planned have been implemented.

"As I am being asked about my resignation, I am being put in a very awkward situation. If I say I am ready to leave at any minute the headlines will ap-
ppear next day saying where is he going? When is he going? Why is he going? I have not made such a decision yet, but I have an idea to go after the projects which are due to be implemented by the planned by the end of next year are com-
pleted. The certainly should be," said the Minister.

Mikheil Saakashvili – Putin Gave 2 Billion dollars to Our Prime Minister

Mikheil Saakashvili – Putin Gave 2 Billion dollars to Our Prime Minister Putin gave 2 billion dollars to our Prime Minister, the President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili said at Avlabari residence, on the meeting with students.

He says that Vladimir Putin considers Georgian government must make concessions to Russia.

"Our President did not say that our relations with Russia would change, but we have seen that Russia doesn’t change – it’s constructing barbed wife fences again, staging provocations, working against us on international arena and it is not a discovery for me. If the previous government stayed, we might have advanced more today, as Russia doesn’t consider it has to make concessions to the Georgian government. Russia gave 2 billion dollars to this government, the Prime Minister, I assume they cost. Putin gave 2 billion dollars to our Prime Minister and considers that the Prime Minister must make concessions in every direction," Mikheil Saakashvili said.

The President declares that legal, political and moral destruction of the acting president of Georgia and consent on every-
thing he didn’t agree for years are meant in the “concession”.

Irakli Gharibashvili – Everyone who Expressed Violence Against National Movement will be Punished

Irakli Gharibashvili – Everyone who Expressed Violence Against National Movement will be Punished Minister of Interior Affairs of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili comments about the recent developments in Zugdidi saying that everyone who expressed violence against National Movement members will be punished.

"Police protected national Movement members and will do so to avoid incidents and provide their safety. Unfortu-

nately, violence was showed against National Movement member by some people. I want to declare with full responsibil-
ity that these people will be revealed and punished. We must protect everyone," Gharibashvili said.

He states that MIA condemns and will not allow violence. National Movement leaders were pelted with bottles and stones before another round of primary of National Move-
mont in Zugdidi.

Mikheil Saakashvili – Changes in Russia Will Occur Faster Than We Imagine It

Mikheil Saakashvili – Changes in Russia Will Occur Faster Than We Imagine It The President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili is sure that political changes in Russia are inevitable. "The change will occur faster than we imagine it. Actually, destroying imperialism is inevitable. It will be

previously submitted by Nationalism, but nationalism may be less dangerous to us. Finally, Russia will be established as a free, democratic country and easily amicable for the neighbors. The most important is that Georgia is in shape before that. Shall we be ready and shall we endure? Georgian society must answer these two issues," Mikheil Saakashvili said at Avlabari residence on the meeting with experts and students.

He considers that we must be free from the illusions regarding Russia.

The President says that “Russia is what it is”, and Georgia must not repeat the past mistakes.

"We must not make the same mistakes as Shevardnadze did in the 90ies. All the documents we signed then were destructive to us. Russia has its specific target", Georgia’s President declared.

Irakli Gharibashvili – There are 17 500 audio-
video Files of Secret Recordings

Irakli Gharibashvili – There are 17 500 audio-video Files of Secret Recordings The Minister of Interior Affairs of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili told journalists in Batumi that there are 4 barrels in addition to 8 found in the caches and in toto there are 17 500 audio-video files of the secret record-

ings. He says that the videos contain information about the activity of politicians and journalists.

"Investigation has been launched on the footages found in the caches. Very grave video footage of torture have been discovered. We found 4 barrels in addition to 8 with 405 disks, a lot of material about hundreds of people. According to the latest data, the total number is 17 500 audio-video files, with footages depicting private lives, also including the activity of many political parties, politicians, famous people, journal-
ists," Irakli Gharibashvili said.

He states that a special commission works on the issue of destroying the footages and they are waiting for Thomas Hammarberg’s recommendation for the final decision.

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The Media Holding, the Georgian Times has been functioning since 1993 and is meant for intellectual reader and gives advice, information, analysis. Comments supports to politicians and the leaders of business sector in making decision.


This year media holding The Georgian Times together with Public Opinion and Marketing Research Company GORB identifies the best company and businesspersons in Georgia since 1995. Project is supported by the Minister of Finance of Georgia, International commerce Chamber representation in Georgia, US commerce Chamber, Georgian Business Association and Commerce and industrial Chamber. The goal of the business rating is to support dialogue between business, governance and society, creation of a new image for Georgian business, revealing new business prospective, creation a supportive business environment and finally, attraction of global focus on Georgian business. The contribution of business rating in establishment, identification and promotion of Georgian business image is acknowledged not only by business as well as by political society.

On May 30, the 14th business awarding took place. The companies awarded in responsive nominations based on research. As a result of voting, SOCAR and its General Director, Mahir Mammadov was awarded as the best company/the best businessman. He was granted with the transitional Grand-Prix. The general financial supporter was a ministry of finance.

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By LIKA MOSHERASHVILI, GT

Thilisi Aqua Park burned as fire broke out late at night on July 16. The incident ended without any casualties. The cause of the fire has not been decided; the specialists are assessing the damage.

Dozens of fire fighters were attempting to localize the fire at Thilisi Euro Park last week. Despite all efforts of the fire-fighters, the water park located on around 1, 000 square meters in the center of Georgia was totally burned down.

According to employees of the Park, that witnessed the fire, the presumable cause of the fire in the center was electricity lines, but they find it difficult to talk about the exact cause of the fire. As they said the wind helped the fire to spread, but the fire fighters managed to extinguish the fire timely.

As Temur Giorgadze, the head of the Municipal Department of Emergency Situations of Thilisi City Hall stated it was hard to deal with the fire as several objects were burning simultaneously and it was a threat that fire would have spread to adjacent buildings.

Despite the fact that the fire damaged half of the attractions and bungalows located on the territory of Aqua Park, the administration of the park claims to continue functioning from the next week.

“Although the police checked all the territory and did everything for the investigation, we do not have permission to start rehabilitation works jet. We will clean the park, pack the burnt buildings so that visitors do not feel uncomfortable and open the Aqua Park on Monday,” Tako Soselia, the marketing and PR manager of Euro park said in an interview with The Georgian Times.

Lawyer of the venue Amiran Gigaushvili commented he would not exclude the possibility of deliberate action for causing the fire, noting the inquiry worked with a number of versions for the cause of the incident but stating they would not be able to confirm any information at this time.

“We do not exclude anything, the National Bureau of Expertise is involved in the process and it will make it clear whether it was an accident or done on purpose,” Gigaushvili declared.

As Gigaushvili explained the financial loss amounted to several hundred thousand Lari and stated that the park had been insured at Aldagi Insurance Company for five years now. Several employees of the Aqua Park that were on place during the fire have been questioned, but detailed information is not known yet. Gigaushvili explained that the park is owned by a company registered in Cyprus, thus the direct owner is not in Georgia at the moment.

An investigation is under way. The official reason of fire is under investigation. According to Soselia the administration of the Euro Park will make a public statement as soon as the first results of the investigations are known.
The Georgian Times trilingual online portal offers the latest Georgian news and analysis in English, Georgian and Russian languages.

Be one of our 35,000 plus daily readers and visit Geotimes.ge today.
Every day tons of people pass through our lives. Some we know, some we see for the first and maybe last time, some we meet and some change our lives.

David Matchavariani entered my life several years ago when he was playing the tam-tam drum at the Adjara Music Hall (appearing alongside Ketato and Mamuka Burjakh). That concert was something one never forgets, as the vibrancy from the stage could fill one’s entire existence, the inspiration guiding us that stage could be enough for the entire world and the radiance of rare, adventurous, artistic, and sincere could consume whoever was there. We all concurred could change our lives. We were no longer separate from each other, we became one.

“When there were no light, no gas, no heat in Georgia, this was the time of Georgian music blossoming in the early ’90s,” said David. David Matchavariani, aka Kakha Charkviani, music producer DJ. I saw his beautiful paintings at his place on an autumn night after the war accompanied by his wonderful inspirational stories. Kakha wasn’t just one of the first people who listened to rap and hip-hop back in the day. African beat was also always close to him. He is a boy of the night. He is happy being different because there is no meaning of altering you into his life because he is an honest, giving and loving person. He speaks with the wisdom of someone who has touched his life such as Gogi Dzhadashvili, David Freyinger, Tako Agarashvili, Nino Diasamidze, Irakli Charkviani, and many others. His energy, his attitude and his works are full of stories and dreams. They are full of stories and thoughts. He is a grateful person. He made a difference and makes the most of it.

Let me put it in other words, he is a rare Georgian. Even his family demonstrates this. Kakha and his wife Nino Babukhadia are one of those couples who enjoy their time together and are there for each other. You can sense their tender, sweet, respectful, peaceful, sunny love whenever you look at them. Most importantly, you witness the appreciation they have and show for each other.

Kakha believes in what he does. He believes that no people, events and moments can change one’s life, that one person makes a difference. He believes in the beautiful, and he is out there ready and open to embrace it. He has been doing his fair share to make the world a better place his entire life. When I could see him in almost every interview I was at first surprised that he was without his wife, but then happy that I could thus interview him and present his interesting, captivating personality to EAT readers.

Were you “born on Sunday morning” and was there a trip to India?” I lived in Soviet Georgia on the longest night of the year, December 21 1976. Night is something mystical for me. I am a night person.

Did Soviet Georgia affect you?

In the ’90s it took it seriously, thought of it as a profession and took classes. I met a lot of very interesting people there, people who were like me and shared the same points of view and interests.

What was the best outcome of this for you?

We found a band called “Out Of Need”. It didn’t last long. We only gave one concert. We played punk.

Why punk? What instrument did you play?

It was the influence of the time. We all listened to heavy music; therefore we were a punk band. I was a drummer. When I was a kid I saw drums for the first time at my neighbor’s. It was an amazing and exhilarating moment. I was hooked.

It looks like you adapted well to the collapse of the Soviet Union, is this so?

I did, it was a fascinating period. We switched from being in love in my universe and in the streets. Most of my generation back in the day wanted to become musicians, but even the word ‘thief’, let alone the concept was unacceptable to me. It was something low and indecent in my universe. I grew up in a world where there were many religions and people of different nations around and then all of them with the sudden fall of the Soviet Union Russian and Armenians became sad and Georgians wanted to be same nation. It didn’t make sense to me. I protested against all this nonsense.

Almost the whole of Tsitsia was built by Armenians and Germans. The first time I met Irakli Charkviani was just 16 years old. He listened to me and picked me. It was a very intense, interesting time of my life. I learned a lot from Irak. We shared the same attitude, we were against the same things, we fought for the same cause – he was my spiritual brother. His music was powerful because he was honest in every chord, every beat and every word. He was a leader: he led us into a higher world of better attitude and music which came from the heart. I would just sit back and listen to him while he was thinking out loud, discerning particular make up. Meanwhile we found a new band, Energy Resource. We played industrial punk. It was a strong band. There is just one recording left from it, made after some festival. It was a time of musical madness and madness in general. Finally I entered the State Academy of Arts and met my future long-term girlfriend Irma Lezhava who said that Irakli Charkviani was looking for a drummer. I went for all of it. I played reggae, funk, bongos. Meanwhile I played drums with Irakli, Nino Babukhadia and other bands. I published my first comic strips in 1997 in the magazine Studio. I picked the ‘Natsarkekia’ (the ‘Idler’) theme and did strips. There was no advertising at the time, so I drew Natsarke with a huge picker on the hill which had Coca-Cola written on it. It looked like an ad, but it was from my imagination. I kept on publishing my comic strips, it was fun. Meanwhile played wherever I could play. I didn’t limit myself to just one type of music; I went for all of it. I played reggae, jazz and all kinds of music. I tried different beats to enlarge my range.

How would you describe the artist?

Artists have a touch of narcissism, but they do not serve their selfishness and ego but to develop and advance. An artist can’t survive without this. I had the fairest touch of it. It was not about getting girls or fame for him; his narcissism made his career healthy and natural. I didn’t need girls either, I had one. I wish for the three times there were more women. I had a concert. I would play better in front of a crowd. I was not only wanted to learn, to advance, to be really good at what I looked doing. The most Irakli was the perfect example of someone with music and artsy touch of narcissism.

When you met an artist you were a devot-ed and romantic guy?

Actually I saw a post recently on Facebook – there is supposed to be a boy for the drum-mer, too, for the guitarist, too for the vocalist. I had a girlfriend, Irma, who was older than me and helped me advance and grow. The drums is the backbone of a band; it is in me, the drummer. It is a different manner, like a statement, he presents a certain readiness and the qualities of balance, responsibility and loyalty.

What happened after Irakli?

I met Nizzi Diasamidze, who was doing folk music. The Georgian poet Koba Kubanishvili wrote texts for him. His first al- bum, 33a, turned out quite suc- cessful. Nizzi gave me a love of the native, city sound. It was a new step for society. It didn’t fly right away, because Georgians ‘love’ everything new, it scares us.

Where you painting mean- ingfully?

Actually I don’t know how I managed to do everything. I worked hard and at the same time played drums with Irakli, Nino Babukhadia and other bands. I published my first comic strips in 1997 in the magazine Studio. I picked the ‘Natsarkekia’ (the ‘Idler’) theme and did strips. There was no advertising at the time, so I drew Natsarke with a huge picker on the hill which had Coca-Cola written on it. It looked like an ad, but it was from my imagination. I kept on publish- ing my comic strips, it was fun. Meanwhile played wherever I could play. I didn’t limit myself to just one type of music; I went for all of it. I played reggae, jazz and all kinds of music. I tried different beats to enlarge my range.

Seems like you did get to be a DJ?

I play all that music was out like a first step towards this. Miss- ing different beats got me into music, I started keeping in touch, the Irakli passed away. I deeply hurt. I quit playing, but that didn’t last long. The organic narcissism in me needed to come out. I needed people, some needed attention, needed to bring something to the forefront. Being drummer is not just a performance before these two people. I changed. I became a DJ.

Are you busy with new all?

I am doing a game for Lem- ondo Entertainment. It took me a year to relax and remodel my hand after the illustrations for the book. I am going to do books and novels, but that’s all. The small one will be scandal- ous.

Let’s come down to a few essential elements for an artist?

Inspiration, the tools to ex- press it, a charismatic, strong personality, an appealing work, noble purpose and of course LOVE.
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