

## President of Lithuania Gitanas Nauseda pays an official visit to Georgia

The visit started on June 10 and will last until June 12.



Today, President Nauseda will meet Georgian president Salome Zourabichvili

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

President of Lithuania Gitanas Nauseda visited Georgia yesterday, on June 10. The official visit of the Lithuanian president will be concluded on June 12.

President Nauseda visited the occupation line, once again showing Lithuania's support to Georgia's territorial integrity. The conference was held near the village of Khurvaleti. He also talked with locals in the village and said that decisions made by politicians have destroyed the lives of people near the occupied territories.

According to the Lithuanian

president, while talking with locals, he asked what their dreams were. "They said that their biggest dream is to go back to their homes," said Nauseda.

"We must make every effort to raise this issue at various international conferences and events to show them that the problem is not resolved, and these territories are still occupied, and we must do everything we can to change the situation and fight for these people," added the Lithuanian president.

According to him, the international community is watching Georgia and in conditions such as the occupation of Georgian territories, the country must re-

main united.

State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality Tea Akhvlediani visited the occupation line near the village of Khurvaleti with the Lithuanian president. According to her, the visit of the president to Georgia showcases that the occupation of Georgian territory by Russian forces is on the agenda of the intentional community.

According to Akhvlediani, Lithuania is an active supporter of Georgian territorial integrity as well as Georgia's integration in the EU and NATO. She also noted that the visit of the president of Lithuania to Georgia, specifically before the NATO summit, is a clear indicator of that.

"It is noteworthy that the President of Lithuania started his visit to Georgia by visiting the occupation line, getting acquainted with the difficult situation about the barbed wire fences and the challenges facing the population, after which we visited the project of a solar power plant in Georgia in the village of Khurvaleti, which is supported by Lithuania," said Akhvlediani.

Today, the President of Lithuania, Gitanas Nauseda, will meet Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili. In addition, the President of the Republic of Lithuania will also meet with the Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili and the Speaker of the Parliament Kakhaber Kuchava.



Lithuanian president visited occupation line near the village of Khurvaleti

### NEWS IN BRIEF

PREPARED BY THE MESSENGER STAFF

**Davit Zalkaliani: As a result of our active diplomatic activities, the issue of Georgia will be discussed at the NATO Brussels Summit**

"As a result of our active diplomatic activities, the issue of Georgia will be discussed at the NATO Brussels Summit," said Georgian Foreign Minister David Zalkaliani, commenting on a document published by the Alliance, which covers

the issues under discussion, including the issue of Georgia.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the issue of Georgia together with Ukraine is reflected in the fifth chapter of the Summit agenda - Support rules-based inter-

national order.

According to him, the issue of Georgia is discussed in the NATO priority agenda in all directions, in accordance with the values and values on which the current international agenda is based.

### Politics

**CoE obliges Russia to pay €10 million to Georgian deportation victims by September**

FULL STORY ON Page 2

### Politics / Economics

**Shukruti village activists end hunger strike, reach an agreement with Georgian Manganese**

FULL STORY ON Page 2

### Politics / Economics

**France to continue its support to development projects in Georgia**

FULL STORY ON Page 3

### Politics / Economics

**Italian Innovation and Research Day celebrated in Georgia**

FULL STORY ON Page 3



# CoE obliges Russia to pay €10 million to Georgian deportation victims by September

By NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe has demanded from the Russian Federation to pay €10 million including interest rates in compensation for the mass deportation of 1,500 citizens to the Georgian state, or to sign a Memorandum of Understanding so that the compensation can happen through CoE.

The decision was made at the meeting of the minister's committee in Strasbourg on 7-9 June.

According to the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, at the March and June 2021 sittings, Russia's position was no longer to refuse to pay and instead expressed readiness to transfer compensation to the CoE and sign a memorandum with the organization.

"The Committee of Ministers reiterated that the deadline for payment of compensation expired on April 30, 2019, and expressed deep concern that the Russian authorities have not yet fulfilled their unconditional obligation to pay fair compensation," the Ministry of Justice

said.

On January 31, 2019, the European Court of Human Rights Grand Chamber imposed Russian Federation to pay 10 million euros for the mass deportation of Georgian citizens from human rights violations in 2006.

The decision was upheld by 16 judges against one. Enforcement procedures are handled by the Committee of Ministers of the CoE.

The deadline for payment was set by the European Court of Human Rights on April 30, 2019, but Russia is still not fulfilling its obligation. In December 2019, the Committee of Ministers urged Russia for the second time to pay the compensation, but in vain.

Russia has been blaming Georgia for not providing the precise list of the "victims", which "hinders the refund process." Ria Novosti reported that Russian officials are expecting Georgia to provide the list of those affected by the expulsion, including the exact type of violation they faced and the amount of the compensation per person.



More than 2,300 were detained and forcibly expelled and the remaining left Russia by their own means



The ECHR judgment concerns the arrest, detention and collective expulsion of Georgian nationals from Russia in the autumn of 2006.

By VERONIKA MALINBOYM

Residents of the Shukruti village ended their hunger strike in protest of Georgian Manganese's activity after the company has agreed to compensation.

In its statement released earlier today, Georgian Manganese noted that the compensation that the residents of the village and the company has agreed on will be paid in accordance with the assessment of the damage conducted under the memorandum signed between the village and the company or the assessment of the Levan Samkharauli National Forensics Bureau, the activity of which will also be compensated by Georgian Manganese:

"As a result of constructive

## Shukruti village activists end hunger strike, reach an agreement with Georgian Manganese



negotiations, the sides have agreed to have two alternatives for the conducting of the assessment of the damage. The assessment will either be carried out based on a model which is outlined in the existing memorandum signed by the company and the village, or, upon the request of the village residents, the assessment can be carried out by Levan Samkharauli National Forensics Bureau. The agreement reached between the two sides is confirmed by a document and is legally binding. Individual contracts are also signed by the special manager of Georgian Manganese and the protesters," the company's official statement reads.

Three residents of Shukruti village in Chiatura of Imereti region of Western Georgia have previously sawn their mouths shut to protest against the environmental damage caused by the Georgian Manganese mine, which produces and exports ferroalloy and manganese ore. The activists then protested in

front of the US Embassy in Tbilisi "to have their voices heard."

Residents of the Shukruti village demanded that the company compensate for the damage it had caused, while the company's official position revolved around the claim that the damage was caused during the Soviet period and had already been compensated back then. One of the residents of the Shukruti village, Jano Labadze said in an interview with the Georgian service of Radio Liberty/ Radio Free Europe that are currently 280 families living in the village, and some of their houses have already been damaged to the uninhabitable condition.

Residents of Shukruti village also protested in September 2019 and blocked the road leading to the mines, which ended up stopping their operations.

Back then, a special commission was set up to assess the damage and process compensations to the villagers, but in vain.

### Weather

Friday, June 11

Day T-storm  
High: 26°C

Night Partly Cloudy  
Low: 16°C

Saturday, June 12

Day Light Rain  
High: 27°C

Night T-storm  
Low: 16°C

published by  
**The Messenger**

43, Chovelidze st., Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia  
Founded by Prof.

**Zaza Gachechiladze**  
**Tamar Gachechiladze**  
Publisher

Mob.: +995 599 565621; +995 577 760000  
E-mail: messenger@messenger.com.ge  
http://www.messenger.com.ge/

**Nino Metreveli**  
Commercial Director

**Mariam Mchedlidze**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Natalia Kochiashvili**  
Executive Editor

**Khatuna Gogichaishvili**  
Layout Designer, Photographer

The Messenger welcomes your contributions. If you are interested in submitting an article or news item please contact.

All contributions should be submitted by e-mail.

The Messenger Georgia's English language daily is an independent newspaper, and,

therefore, the opinions expressed in some articles do not necessarily coincide with those of the newspaper. We take no responsibility for any claims made in advertisements.

The Messenger preserves the style of a source written in English where possible.



Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 3.1613; Euro - 3.8460; GBP - 4.4568; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.3783; Swiss Franc - 3.5282

## Italian Innovation and Research Day celebrated in Georgia



June 10, the headquarters of the Innovation Agency of Georgia, GITA, hosted the celebration of the “Italian Innovation and Research Day”, initiative organised annually in memory of the Italian-universal genius Leonardo Da Vinci.

The Ambassador of Italy in Georgia, Mr. Enrico Valvo, and the Deputy Minister of Economy of Georgia, Mr. Nadareishvili, awarded two Georgian young innovators who have been selected for a “Stem Study Visit” to Italy funded by the Italian Foundation for Innovation COTEC within the MoU of cooperation with GITA. The winners will be hosted at “Spici”, an international accelerator and center for entrepreneurship within the Technological Pole of the University of Naples “Federico II”.

High-level speakers, both from Italy and Georgia, joined the event, including the Asses-

sor of Innovation within Regional Government of the Italian Region Campania, Ms. Valeria Fascione, the President of COTEC, Prof. Nicolais, and Prof. Ventre from the university of Naples Federico II. Further opportunities to winners will be provided also in the post-visit

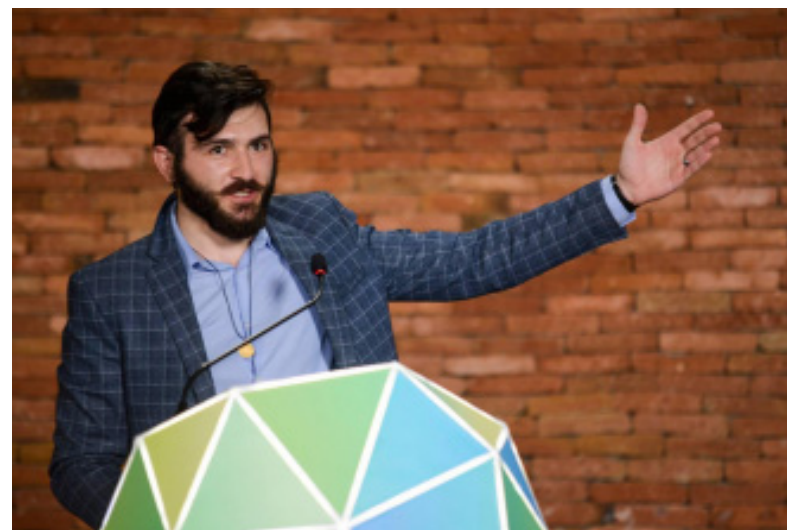
perspective, as explained by the Rector of the Business and Technology University of Georgia, Mr. Erukidze.

Following the ceremony a “Tech2Tech” session was held, providing the opportunity to an interactive discussion between Georgian and Italian innovators.

The event was streamed live on social media platforms.

As stressed by Ambassador Valvo, Italy is proud to have been one of the first EU members to establish a bilateral MoU of cooperation with Georgia in the field of innovation and technology. The Embassy supported the

formal decision by COTEC and GITA – at the end of 2020 – to extend the duration of their cooperation. The Embassy will keep working towards the aim of consolidating and expanding technological cooperation between Italy and Georgia.



## France to continue its support to development projects in Georgia



June 10, Finance Minister Mr. Lasha Khutsishvili and AFD Regional Director for Eurasia Ms. Cecile Couprie signed a Partnership Agreement on Cooperation Program for 2021-2023 in presence of Georgian Prime Minister Mr. Irakli Garibashvili and HE Mr. Diego Colas, Ambassador of France to Georgia.

Through this new Partnership Agreement, Agence Française de Développement (AFD) plans to mobilize about 483 million euros in the form of loans, technical assistance and grants by 2024,

The planned investment is oriented towards four main sectors, in congruence with the Government of Georgia priorities as well as the Team Europe Initiatives:

- Water resources management, irrigation, agriculture
- Urban development and connectivity
- Energy
- Social welfare and health

“This agreement is a strong signal of the AFD Group’s commitment in Georgia, in line with the Georgian government priorities. It witnesses our willingness

to build a trustful and long-term partnership in support to fair and resilient transitions in the country”, said Cecile Couprie, AFD Regional Director for Eurasia.

The Partnership Agreement came as a conclusion for the first annual bilateral Consultations Meeting held in Tbilisi on the same day, under the chairmanship of Mr. Lasha Khutsishvili, Minister of Finance in Georgia, and Ms. Cecile Couprie.

The consultations gave an opportunity for the parties to review together the progress in current cooperation activities, exchange on the practices and discuss in details the future projects for 2021-2023, in presence of Ministry of Finance representatives, and AFD main technical partners.

Opening the session, Mr. Remi Genevey, AFD Director for Asia-Middle East-Eastern Europe presented the AFD’s strategy in the region for the coming years, and the commitment to support sustainable develop-

ment responses to climate change, pursuing fair and inclusive transition, through a support to urban sustainability, preservation of natural resources, energy transition and sustainable and inclusive economic and political models.

On the occasion of the Annual Consultations, Ms. Cecile Couprie conducted a three-day mission to Georgia, to meet AFD Group’s current partners and counterparts in Georgia, donor agencies, line ministries and representatives from the French and European delegation to Georgia.

French Ambassador to Georgia HE Mr. Diego Colas said: “During the covid crisis, international donors, including the French AFD and team Europe, pledged support to Georgia, and delivered significant and quick support in the energy and health sectors in 2020.

The time now is to build back, to consolidate and intensify the course of reform, to invest for fair, dynamic, sustainable development in Georgia. With the signature today of a three year partnership between France and the AFD on the one hand, and the Georgian government and Ministry of Finance on the other

hand, to the tune of 150 M euros per year, France as part of Team Europe is confirming our intention to be strong partner for Georgia.

We are working so that Europe and Georgia become closer, so that strong resilient democratic institutions consolidate in Georgia, as well as a dynamic business environment and modern, values based partnerships in all fields.”

“I highly appreciate the support demonstrated by the Government of France towards political and economic agenda of Georgia. A new, 3-year-long Cooperation Program agreed with the French Development Agency once again evidences a solid cooperation existing between our nations. It is important that within the scope of this Agreement, Georgia will receive around 483 million Euros during 2021 to 2023 period. This funding will be aimed at supporting the reform agenda and finance the related investments in Georgia. Once again, I wish to express my gratitude to the Government and people of France for this truly outstanding cooperation” - stated H.E. Lasha Khutsishvili, Minister of Finance of Georgia.