

Georgia welcomes Council of Europe's 8th decision on the conflict in Georgia that uses the term 'occupation' for the first time



missions free access to the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Finally, the document urges to end the violation of the right to education in the region, as well as prevent the deterioration of the cultural monuments that belong to the cultural heritage of the regions.

In response to the CoE's decision, Foreign Minister of Georgia David Zalkaliani expressed his gratitude in a post on his official Twitter page: "Shared with media representatives the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers' unprecedented decision on The Council of Europe and Conflict Georgia," where it stresses Russia's responsibility of occupying Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali and depriving the local population of their fundamental human rights. Grateful to our partners for staunch support."

The European Court of Human Rights released its judgment on the case of Russia v Georgia on January 21, 2021. According to the ruling, Russia is found guilty of violating several charters of the European Convention on Human Rights during the active phase of the August 2008 conflict, as well as of carrying out ethnic cleansing of Georgians.

BY VERONIKA MALINBOYM

Earlier yesterday, the Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs released an official statement in which it welcomed the 8th decision of the Council of Europe on the conflict in Georgia and the fact that the document, for the first time, included the term 'occupation' when referring to the regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali.

This year's document welcomed the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights announced on January 2021, and

underscored Russia's responsibility for the dire human right situation in the occupied territories that it exercises effective control over. The document also states that the presence of Russian military forces in Abkhazia and Tskhinvali "threatens the peace and security of the region and violates international obligations, including the EU-proposed ceasefire agreement signed on August 12, 2008." The document calls on Russia to comply with the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights in the case

Georgia v. Russia and take active steps to end all forms of ethnic discrimination of the residents of the regions and create conditions for safe and dignified return of refugees and internally displaced persons as well as put an end to policies that lead to violations of human rights.

The annual CoE document also highlights the pressing need to put an end to the murdering of ethnic Georgians in the occupied regions and bring perpetrators to justice, and allow humanitarian organizations and human rights monitoring

Georgian technology startup Pulsar AI launches first successful global 'Exit'

BY NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

SpinCar, one of the leaders in digital sales systems in the automotive industry, has acquired the Georgian startup Pulsar AI. As a result of the deal, the value of the Georgian company is already several tens of millions of dollars. By combining Pulsar's virtual sales assistant technology with SpinCar's industry-leading digital merchandising offering, the company will expand its solution set to drive greater levels of online shopper engagement.



► PM met with the founders of Pulsar AI, a Georgian startup that entered the world market.

ECONOMICS / POLITICS

Defense Minister discusses ongoing reforms in the framework of Ministerial Hours



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EXCHANGE RATES: US DOLLAR - 3.4271 | EURO - 4.1656 | GBP - 4.8418 | 100 RUSSIAN RUBLE - 4.6357 | SWISS FRANC - 3.7973 |

Defense Minister discusses ongoing reforms in the framework of Ministerial Hours

By NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

In the framework of Ministerial Hour of the Parliament of Georgia, Minister of Defense Juansher Burchuladze addressed the legislative body and answered MPs' questions. While visiting the parliament, the minister discussed the ongoing reforms in the system, including the measures taken to strengthen the air defense capabilities of the country.

The minister discussed the active cooperation with the representatives of Israel's largest military industry.

According to the minister, the country will receive Rafael Advanced Defense Systems by the end of the year. "It is also planned to purchase a modern portable anti-aircraft missile system, which will be used to equip the maneuvering units," said the minister and added that it would make the tactical units of the Georgian Defense Forces more efficient.

Burchuladze also spoke about the agreement with France and the ongoing negotiations. According to him, under this contract, the Defense Forces already have French-made air



► Among others, Burchuladze talked about the cooperation with the largest military industry of Israel. Photo: RFE/RL

surveillance radars, mobile command posts, and Mistral-3 type missiles with fire engines.

"We will introduce a modern management, control and communication (C3) system, which will facilitate future integration into the integrated management and control system in NATO,"

the minister said. According to him, the second phase of the French contract will be completed this year.

He also spoke about the creation of local production of unmanned aerial vehicles. "We are in active talks with South African and Polish companies to set

up a joint venture for small and large unmanned aerial vehicles at Delta," he said. According to him, it's planned to sign a relevant agreement this year and launch products in 2022.

According to Burchuladze, important steps are planned in terms of strengthening the combat capability of the Defense Forces, both to acquire equipment and to create production opportunities. "Specifically, negotiations are underway with NATO countries to clarify the technical details in support of Defense Forces 2030," the minister said.

According to the Minister, in the light of the existing challenges, it is especially important to consolidate the society and unite around common security goals. Burchuladze noted that the aggressive actions of the Russian Federation significantly undermine "the architecture of global security."

According to Burchuladze, only coordinated action, maximum public involvement, and effective use of available resources can increase the responsiveness to military aggression and limit the possibility of intervention by the enemy.



► Defense Minister also discussed cooperation with France. Photo: RFE/RL Intro: Burchuladze also answered the questions of MPs

Georgian technology startup Pulsar AI launches first successful global 'Exit'

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The acquisition will enable SpinCar to extend its shopper data and digital content assets into additional dealer communication channels and customer touchpoints. Pulsar's automated communication technology will be integrated into the SpinCar platform and Pulsar's 30 employees will become part of SpinCar's expanded global organization.

"Pulsar's team of deep learning specialists, developers, data scientists, linguists, and operations personnel have developed some of the most powerful conversational AI capabilities available today," said Devin Daly,



► SpinCar, the global leader in digital automotive merchandising software and data, has acquired Pulsar AI, creator of the auto industry's most advanced conversational AI platform.

SpinCar Co-Founder, and CEO.

Pulsar AI works to create fully automated communication between the customer and the car dealer using artificial intelligence. Pulsar's conversational AI platform leverages proprietary Machine Learning (ML) models and Natural Language

Processing (NLP) combined with Artificial Intelligence technology to engage online shoppers in personalized two-way conversations. The company's technology increases the efficiency and effectiveness of dealership BDCs and Internet Sales operations by delivering an immediate, rel-

evant, and persistent follow-up to every online lead submission. The company's software - with instant, relevant response and constant reminder messages for each incoming online request, increases the degree of efficiency and helps the dealership sales team save time.

Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili met with the founding team of pulsars and talked to the founders of a successful startup. The meeting noted that Pulsar AI's success is a clear example of the fact that the local Georgian startups are very competitive even on the international market. Garibashvili emphasized that the precedent set by Pulsar AI is a great incentive and motivation for all those who work in this field.

"We believe that the startup ecosystem has grown rapidly in this short period of time. I congratulate the Pulsar team on

this amazing achievement. It is a clear confirmation that Georgia is rapidly becoming a country where globally growing startups can be formed and developed," Garibashvili said.

Dachi Choladze, Co-Founder and Director of Pulsar AI said that their team proved that it is possible to create a company focused on the global market in Georgia.

Choladze and Zaal Gachechiladze started creating technologies based on AI for various financial companies in Georgia in 2016. In 2019, Sopho Chkoidze also joined the team, and together they founded Pulsar, which created the world-leading Conversational AI technology. Pulsar attracted \$1.2 million investment in Silicon Valley in 2019 and in the shortest time, became the first Georgian technology startup that managed a successful global 'Exit'.

FRIDAY		MAY 14	
Day		Mostly sunny	High: 29°C
Night		Clear sky	Low: 16°C
SATURDAY		MAY 15	
Day		Sunshine	High: 29°C
Night		Partly cloudy	Low: 16°C

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