

Part of the opposition names Melia as Tbilisi mayoral candidate, Khoshtaria as chairperson of City Assembly

Some of the opposition parties have not supported the candidates

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

Part of the opposition has nominated Nika Melia, Chairman of the United National Movement, as the Tbilisi mayoral candidate. According to Melia, the United National Movement will not nominate majoritarian candidates in any of the districts in Tbilisi and will support the majoritarian candidates of the opposition.

As for the Tbilisi Sakrebulo, Elene Khoshtaria was named as the candidate for Sakrebulo chairperson. "Today, Elene and I are coming forward as representatives of a multi-party coalition. Me, as a candidate for Tbilisi Mayor, and Elene, as a candidate for the Sakrebulo chairperson," said Melia.

Elene Khoshtaria, the leader of the political movement Droa, said that it is time for everyone to stand above their party interests and show the power of unity to those who are destroying the country.

The leader of the political party Girchi - More Freedom wrote on Facebook about the agreement regarding the October 2 elections. He said that part of the opposition agreed that Girchi would have a Vice-Mayor candidate and a few majoritarian candidates, who "will hopefully receive adequate support from the opposition parties."

He also said that as of now, the main goal is for the opposition to receive over 58% of the votes. He also said that his party will try to have a representative in every single municipality for the elections, apart from Tbilisi.

Former Prime Minister and founder of the party For Georgia Giorgi Gakharia says that they are not going to ally with any of the opposition parties. He told reporters about it but did not specify when he will nominate a mayoral candidate.

Asked by a journalist whether he would be the Tbilisi mayoral candidate himself, Gakharia did not answer and said that he would not drop any names.

As of now, only Nika Melia and Kakha Kaladze have officially announced to be running as candidates for Tbilisi Mayor. In addition, it is also known that a part of the opposition will support Melia, in particular, European Georgia, Droa, and Girchi - More Freedom, will be supporting Melia.

Also, Elene Khoshtaria is named as the candidate for Sakrebulo Chairperson, and the representative of Girchi will run as a candidate for Vice-Mayor. It is also known that the UNM will not nominate any majoritarian candidates in Tbilisi, and Girchi will have at least three seats. Negotiations are still underway.

Some of the other opposition parties have not yet supported the candidates. The position of Lelo is unknown, while the Strategy Agmashenebeli is planning to have their representatives.



Koshtaria: It is time to show the power of unity



Melia said UNM will not have any majoritarian candidates in Tbilisi

Violent banners in Tbilisi against opposition, media & activists

The banners appeared in Tbilisi on July 24



The banners were put up in different parts of Tbilisi

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

On Saturday, July 24, several people put out banners in Tbilisi streets reading “No to UNM, no to the evil”. In addition, the banners displayed a homophobic narrative. In addition to politicians of the UNM, the banners also feature representatives of critical media in Georgia, as well as the founders of the Tbilisi Pride and activists of the Shame movement. The banners also featured a rainbow. Banners with the same writing first appeared in Tbilisi back in 2018, prior to the Presidential Elections.

The Tbilisi City Hall responded to the fact, calling it illegal. As the statement of the City Hall reads, the Tbiliservice Group was tasked to remove the illegal banners in the city.

According to the Tbilisi City Hall, the municipal inspection revealed persons who arbitrarily pasted posters on different streets of the capital and distorted the appearance of the city. The agency says offenders will be fined in accordance with the law.

Nika Melia, the Tbilisi mayoral candidate nominated by

part of the opposition, and Elene Khoshtaria, the Sakrebulo mayoral candidate, responded to hate posters in the streets of Tbilisi, saying it is an insult to the public.

Khoshtaria said that the hate campaign, that already caused the death of one cameraman, continues attacking journalists and activists. “Instead of punishing all the organizers of the violence that will take place on July 5, the authorities have disgusted journalists and members of the media who were attacked,” said Khoshtaria.

Nika Melia says high-ranking officials, Prime Minister, Minister of Culture, and Georgian

Dream MPs are at the forefront of the Hate Campaign.

Georgian NGOs have responded to the banners that appeared in Tbilisi on July 24, saying that it poses a threat to the health and life of the opposition and media representatives.

The executive director of Transparency International took to Twitter to respond to the events taking place, saying that “if the lives of the people on these posters are endangered, Georgian Dream is directly respon-

sible for it”.

According to Manana Tokmajishvili, the head of the public relations department of the City Hall, the Tbiliservice Group has started the process of removing the posters, but “it is difficult to walk around all the streets and corners of the city quickly”.

The City Hall also said that they found two people who were participants in posting the posters in the city and that they were fined.



Representatives of Georgian NGOs say that it poses a threat to the health and life of the opposition and media representatives

News in Brief

PREPARED BY THE MESSENGER STAFF

Violent Platform Alt-Info Members Threaten Aisa Founder

According to Anisa Gachechiladze, the founder of Aisa, the violent and Putinist platform is organizing an attack on her on the Alt-Info Telegram channel.

Gachechiladze writes on Facebook that Alt-Info calls on people to use violence against her. Gachechiladze also publishes relevant correspondence screens, where members of the platform even share her location.

“I would tag the Alt-Info page but they no longer have it. It’s a continuation of the violence of July 5-6 and the result of 10 years of hell.”

Gachechiladze said she would apply to the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Khatia Dekanoidze questioned over July 24 incident

Khatia Dekanoidze, one of the leaders of the United National Movement, has been questioned.

Dekanoidze was questioned regarding the incident that took place on July 24 during the recording of the interview.

As Dekanoidze told the media after the questioning, she explained in detail what was hap-

pening during the aggression and insult.

“I told them that the health and life of one of the journalists in particular was in danger because the car was coming directly at her. This person is also particularly aggressive on social media - he uses threats. He is threatening the members of the United National Movement of shooting, he says if he had a gun he would have shot them,” Dekanoidze said.

Gabunia: At this stage, we follow and will maintain the model of voluntary vaccination

According to the First Deputy Minister of Health Tamar Gabunia, the voluntary model of

vaccination will be maintained in the country at this stage.

Gabunia stated that the doses are sufficient and added it is especially important that the medical personnel is vaccinated as soon as possible.

“At this stage, we will follow and maintain the model of voluntary vaccination. It is very important to vaccinate medical personnel quickly. Some of them have already been vaccinated, some of them have been waiting for the Pfizer vaccine, and we will do our best to support them during this period, especially the staff at the clinics, as well as the emergency staff, so that they can be vaccinated on a priority basis. The doses are enough and it is important that this group is vaccinated first,” Gabunia said.

Weather

Monday, July 26

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 34°C

Night Partly Cloudy

Low: 22°C

Tuesday, July 27

Day T-storm

High: 33°C

Night Showers

Low: 20°C

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