

EU Ambassador Hartzell calls for reopening of all crossing points at the occupation line

The crossing points have been closed for over 2 years

By Nika Gantsemlidze

The Ambassador of the EU to Georgia, Carl Hartzell, issued a special statement yesterday, on September 5, regarding the two-year anniversary of the closing of the Odzisi crossing point at the South Ossetian Administrative Boundary Line, ABL.

Before the official closure of the occupation line, as many as 400 crossings used to take place on a daily basis on average. According to the statement of the EU Ambassador, for over two years, ethnic Georgian residents living in the Akhgori District were unable to cross the so-called border and meet their relatives. People living in the occupied region were also unable to collect their pensions or exercise other basic human rights, including education in their native language, Georgian.

The statement also reads that people living in Akhgori District were unable to access medical care. Many reports regarding shortages of food and medicine were present as well, which had created numerous problems locally.

The statement of the EU Ambassador Hartzell also reads that the recent developments and steps taken towards easing procedures about regulating medical crossing from the Akhgori District have been welcomed by the EU representatives in Georgia.

According to the statement, it is very important to adopt a sensible as well as adequate Covid-19 testing strategy to further increase the freedom of movement between the occupied region and Georgian-controlled territory.



The statement of the EU Ambassador calls on the immediate opening of the crossing points

The statement also called on the de facto authorities in Tskhinvali and the Russian Federation to allow for the reopening of all crossing points at the South

Ossetian ABL to support the basic human rights of the local population in the region.

The EU Monitoring Mission is ready to support further negotiations and discussions within the framework of the Ergneti IPRM, according to the statement.

The two-year-long closure of the Administrative Boundary Line has created numerous problems for the local population of the occupied regions. Because of this, many were not able to leave the region for over two years now.



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Offline studies should resume from October 4



Gamkrelidze said that it is very important for teachers and professors to get vaccinated

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

Amiran Gamkrelidze, head of the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), calls on students to get vaccinated. Gamkrelidze told Rustavi 2 that in September and October vaccination should be intensified. The country's chief epidemiologist is also calling on parents of schoolchildren to get vaccinated. He also said that it is espe-

cially important for teachers and professors to get vaccinated in order to open schools and universities. Gamkrelidze said that one of the main processes in the country is to continue offline studies, and as he says, for this, a high number of vaccinations is very important.

According to the decision of the Coordination Council, the schools and universities will start online classes until Octo-

ber. In October, depending on the epidemiological situation in the country, as well as the number of people vaccinated, the schools and universities should start offline classes.

According to Amiran Gamkrelidze, education in many schools must resume on October 4.

"We are implementing a big project together with the Ministry of Education. Differentiated 400-500 schools have been selected so far in regions where internet access is low and there, we want the offline studies to continue as fast as possible," said Gamkrelidze.

He also talked about the importance of testing teachers and said that they will be using either PCR or fast antigen tests for these schools.

As of now, there still are several thousand cases confirmed in Georgia every single day. The number of people dying of the virus has increased drastically, with over 70 deaths being over the last few days on a daily basis.

As for the vaccination process,



There are four vaccines available in the country: Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Sinopharm, and Sinovac

Gamkrelidze and other epidemiologists of the country are saying that September and October should be very fast in terms of vaccinating the population. As of now, the country is vaccinating over 20,000 people every day, however, Gamkrelidze said with Formula a few days back that the country could vaccinate 40,000, or even more people every day.

As of now, Georgia is using four vaccines: Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Sinopharm, and

Sinovac. In addition, Georgia is expecting additional doses of vaccines to arrive in the country in September and October. Georgia will also receive the J&J vaccine, which is a one-dose vaccine.

Georgia administered a total of 1,314,104 doses of vaccines in total. The number of fully vaccinated people is over 475,748. According to the information of NCDC, 838,356 people have already received at least one dose of the vaccine, which is 29.4% of the population.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY THE MESSENGER STAFF

PM: In the infamous Gldani prison, where prisoners were tortured and raped, today they grow raspberries

"When we talk about the work done, we should not forget what challenges there had been even in the field of human rights in Georgia; It should be noted in two words what was the situation in prisons then, how human dignity, freedom and fundamental freedoms that are provided by

God had been violated," said Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili said during the presentation of the Georgian Dream Khoni mayoral candidate Lado Jurkhadze.

According to Gharibashvili, the above was not the distant past, this was the situation in Georgia just 8-9 years ago.

"Therefore, when our opponents criticize us, I want to remind them they have no moral right to criticize the policy of our government, which is focused only on human dignity and freedom, human protection. A few days ago, Rati Bregadze recalled that the situation in the prisons was unbearable.

Of course, we know this well, the whole world knows it. In a prison cell of 20 square meters, more than 30 prisoners were locked up. Daily beatings, oppression, torture, rape were common occurrence in prisons. Today the situation has radically changed. In the famous Gldani

prison, which was full of butchers and where people were tortured and raped, today prisoners grow raspberries, set up small businesses. We helped them and facilitated their re-socialization. This is how the Georgian Dream differs from the National Movement and Saakashvili's oppressive regime. Therefore, we must all do our utmost for mobilization. Of course, the Georgian Dream will strongly win this election in all cities and all municipalities," the PM said.

Zurab Japaridze says Georgia's western friends are tired of our problems, 'we are in danger of the West giving up on us'

"In the West, America, Brussels and the European Union are already tired of our problems - we are in danger of the West giving up on us, - Zurab Girchi Japaridze, the leader of For More Freedom said at the presentation of the majoritarian candi-

dates of the Kutaisi City Assembly."

According to Japaridze, the self-government elections scheduled for October 2 have naturally become a referendum about the direction of the country.

"The fact that there is unemployment in the country, the economy is stagnant, prices have increased by 13% and money is no longer coming in, no one is investing, etc.

People already know all this - what is happening now goes beyond all these everyday problems that people in the country have. What is happening is that the "Georgian Dream" has now, recently, rejected the reform of the justice system, backed by the United States and the European Union, and thus rejected the civilized choice of this country, refused to allow this country to continue on the path to the West, free world, for a better future for the children. This is practically written in the EU statement issued by the EU. Now we need to explain to people what that means. Generations have shed blood in this country in order for

it to finally stand on the irreversible Euro-Atlantic path and these people who are clinging to power and want money, intend to give it up.

Naturally, if any government in this country refuses to follow the Western course, Russia becomes its natural ally - this is the real threat we now face.

Adding to this threat is the fact that in the West, America, Brussels and the European Union are already tired of our problems. This is the reality, we are facing the danger of the West giving up on us - on October 2 this is to be decided. I understand that formally this is a local election, but in the end, this election has naturally become a referendum about the direction of the country. We do what we can, despite the many differences between us, we try, we cooperate, we talk, we agree on something with each other, and part of that cooperation is that we agree on common candidates in terms of majoritarian MPs. We will all go to the referendum on October 2," Japaridze said.

Weather

Monday, September 6

Day Cloudy
High: 28°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 18°C

Tuesday, September 7

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 27°C

Night Showers
Low: 18°C

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