

Penitentiary Service Releases Footage of Saakashvili

The footage shows Saakashvili taking some supplements

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

The Special Penitentiary Services posted a video saying that due to the high public interest, the agency is publishing some of the facts of food intake by the former president of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili. According to the Penitentiary Services, the video was taken on November 1.

"These photos and videos clearly show how prisoner Mikheil Saakashvili receives food and natural juices at different times of the day," reads the statement of the agency.

The service also published photos of the products, which, according to them, were received by Mikheil Saakashvili.

Before the photo-video footage was released by the Penitentiary Service, the Public Defender issued a statement saying that the agency had visited Mikheil Saakashvili, talked to medical staff, and examined the latest information/documents related to his hunger strike.

The Public Defender writes in a statement that according to the information received, Mikheil Saakashvili has been on continuous hunger strike since October 1, 2021, and has not received any food.



The agency said that the footage was taken on November 1



State Inspector's Office started an investigation about the footage

On November 6, Georgia's third president announced that he had stopped taking minerals and vitamins from November 6 to rule out any speculation chances.

The State Inspector's Office responded to Saakashvili's footage with a statement, writing that the service had begun investigating the legality of obtaining and disclosing photos and videos released by the Special Penitentiary Service.

According to the agency, it is essential to protect the privacy of a prisoner being on hunger strike.

Late at night on November 7, the Deputy Public Defender of Georgia, Giorgi Burjanadze, visited Saakashvili in prison. The meeting was held at the request of Mikheil Saakashvili. He had appealed to the prison administration to provide information to the Public Defender's Office regarding the footage released by the Penitentiary Service.

According to Burjanadze, Saakashvili told him that he had never seen the food additives shown in the footage released on November 6. Saakashvili received food supplements, in Burjanadze's words, "at the request of doctors, so to speak, as a substitute for drugs and medications."

According to Burjanadze, Mikheil Saakashvili noted that he received small dose supplements after communicating with Tamta Demurishvili, the medical director of the penitentiary service, and refused the offer to increase the dose. According to Burjanadze, the medical records prove that the supplements were taken in a small quantity.

Protesters Near Rustavi Prison Demand Saakashvili's Transfer to a Civil Clinic

Protesters said the rallies will continue until their demands are met



The rally participants said that more protests would be held across the country



Nika Melia said that the government had 24 hours to transfer Saakashvili

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

On Saturday, November 6, a rally was held near the Rustavi #12 prison. The main demand of the protest was to transfer the third president of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili, to a civil clinic.

The participants of the rally said that they are not going to stop unless their main demand is met. They also announced other rallies to be held in different parts of Georgia.

During the rally, numerous politicians addressed the gathering. Nika Melia, the leader of the United National Movement, has given the government 24 hours to transfer the third president of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili, who has been on hunger strike for 37 days, to a multi-profile clinic.

Activists set up tents outside the #12 prisoners in Rustavi and said that they were not planning to take the tents down until their demands were met.

The third president of Georgia, who has been found guilty by two Georgian courts and charged in several other cases, returned to the country a few days before the self-government elections.

Saakashvili was detained by law enforcement on October 1 and has been transferred to the Rustavi Penitentiary since then. He went on hunger strike on the day of his arrest, demanding a new court and the release of those detained in connection with his

arrival in Georgia.

As lawyers and his personal doctor point out, his health condition is entering the hardest stage. Their demand is to transfer Mikheil Saakashvili to a civil multi-profile clinic. The government does not agree with this and states that, if necessary, he will be properly treated in the clinic of another prison.

The participants of the rally announced that they are not planning to stop and they are going to hold protests in differ-

ent parts of the country, including Tbilisi.

Before the rally, the State Security Services issued a statement. According to the State Security Service, the agency has information that the organizers of the rallies are planning to liquidate one of the opposition leaders and also to block various state institutions.

The briefing was held at the State Security Service on November 6, before the planned protests in Tbilisi and Rustavi.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY THE MESSENGER STAFF

Ambulance Called in Parliament for Droa's Elene Khoshtaria

Droa's head, Elene Khoshtaria, has demanded that former President Mikheil Saakashvili be transferred to a civil clinic. According to Elene Khoshtaria, the former president is being targeted for cynical and vicious revenge.

Weather

Monday, November 8

Day Partly Cloudy High: 17°C
Night Partly Cloudy Low: 7°C

Tuesday, November 9

Day Partly Cloudy High: 18°C
Night Partly Cloudy Low: 9°C

"It has already been five days since Elene went on hunger strike. I can say that she is significantly weakened. I think if it continues like this, the weakness will increase even more and other events may develop. Severe and anomalous events are politically damaging to the country, threatening people's lives. Therefore, this is a difficult issue to resolve, which should be resolved in a timely manner and this process should be completed," said Gigi Tsereteli, chairman of the Political Board of European Georgia.

An ambulance was called to the parliament due to the health of the Droa party's leader, Elene

Khoshtaria.

Elene Khoshtaria feels dizzy and weak, according to the doctor, as a result of her hunger strike.

Khoshtaria was offered a transfusion but she declined it.

Salome Samadashvili Comments on Saakashvili Footage, Blames Government for Violating Prisoner's Rights

"This is a violation of a prisoner's rights. Understandably, there is a high level of public interest in Saakashvili's de-

tention and hunger strike, but perhaps when the government plans to release any footage, it must obtain permission from the prisoner. Therefore, this is a gross violation of Mikheil Saakashvili's rights.

The release of the footage was followed by Saakashvili saying that he would aggravate his hunger strike, which only created an even deeper stalemate. Dissemination of these footage was a very gross mistake in all respects.

The longer the controversy over human life lasts and the longer the government delays taking steps to convince everyone that the threat to Saakashvili's life is neutralized,

the deeper impasse the country will enter. It is in the interest of the government today to take steps that will help us to create space to defuse the situation.

The government's agenda is to prevent civil protests as much as possible, so their statements serve to warn people and try to weaken the protest wave, but today the key to this situation is in the hands of the Georgian Dream. The theme of tomorrow's rally is to ensure Saakashvili's health and life. They should take the necessary steps and the severity of the problem will be removed at this point," Samadashvili said.

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