

US & EU Ambassadors Call On Gov't to Provide Proper Medical Care For Saakashvili

By NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

U.S. Ambassador to Georgia Kelly Degnan has urged the Government of Georgia to ensure that Mikheil Saakashvili is immediately provided with 'medical care that he needs in a fully equipped medical facility.'

"The United States is still actively monitoring the detention and health of Mikheil Saakashvili," the US Ambassador said. She added that in any country, the government has the responsibility to protect inmates from mental abuse and allow medical well-being and safety. She highlighted that the imprisoned former president should be treated fairly following Georgian law and international standards.

"It is our strong recommendation to the government to ensure he is provided with the medical and mental healthcare he needs in a fully equipped medical facility," she stressed.

Degnan cited the report by the Public Defender's Office, according to which, #18

healthcare as well as privacy and dignity whilst in prison," he added.

The ambassadors further expressed their support for the Ombudswoman Nino Lomjaria, who is frequently criticized by the ruling Georgian Dream party members.

Degnan emphasized that the Georgian Public Defender's office deserves to be 'commended, not criticized,' while Hartzell referred to the Ombudswoman as the EU's 'trusted local partner.'

Public Defender Nino Lomjaria, who visited Saakashvili in the prison hospital, said that the former president thought he would be transferred to a civil hospital rather than another prison's clinic. She added that the penitentiary medical center was not equipped with medical devices recommended by the medical council that monitored Saakashvili's health.

Saakashvili was arrested in Tbilisi on October 1 after a clandestine return from 8 years of political exile. He considers himself a 'political prisoner' and has been



Saakashvili's health condition is fully managed by the Health Department of the Penitentiary System

claimed, Olson herself had already mentioned once.

"We request that these sanctions be targeted at judges and representatives of Ivanishvili's regime so that they stop harming Georgian people."

A meeting with representatives of non-governmental organizations and the Public Defender was also held at the same place. According to the participants of the meeting, the conversation focused on the political processes in the country. Representatives of non-governmental organizations said they focused on clan governance in the court. They said that the meeting stressed the need for fundamental changes in the direction of justice.

The issue of sanctioning judges was discussed at the meeting. It was also mentioned that Saakashvili's rights were violated when he was transferred to the hospital near Gldani prison instead of a multi-profile clinic.

Georgian Dream held a meeting with Olson the previous day. As party chairman Irakli Kobakhidze announced Saakashvili was not mentioned during the meeting at all.

"As for other topics, we talked about the post-election environment in the

country... and the future development and our vision regarding the role of Georgia in the region."

Meanwhile, the opposition is holding rallies supporting Saakashvili and protesting the results of local self-government runoffs. Nika Melia, the chairman of the United National Movement, says that the opposition will hold several rallies in Tbilisi today. According to him, the rallies will be held at 11:00 am with the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, the State Security Service, and the Ministry of Health of Georgia.

"Every morning we will have a specific plan. You will be informed of the plans at several points. There will always be one point that I will not name and the Georgian Dream special forces or the police chiefs will have to break their heads to figure it out. We must gather our strength...Remember that a person is on the 40th day, starving and we do not have the right to sit at home," he said at the rally held in front of the parliament yesterday.

Recall that Saakashvili's trial is scheduled to be held on November 9 at 13:00 and 11:00 rallies will meet at the City Courtyard.



"Everyone should play a role in reducing polarization - if the country's leaders put the interests of the people first, it will be the beginning of the end of the polarization"

prison hospital in Gldani is not sufficiently well-equipped to provide hunger-striking ex-President a proper treatment. Degnan added that according to the assessment by Saakashvili's medical team, he is a high-risk patient.

In addition, the ambassador urged Mr. Saakashvili to accept the recommendation of his doctors and agree to the medical care he needs. Degnan highlighted the sensitive and highly emotional aspect of the situation. According to her, the focus needs to be shifted to addressing Saakashvili's mental health and physical well-being.

EU Ambassador Carl Hartzell has also called on the Georgian government to provide proper medical care for the imprisoned ex-president.

Hartzell noted that the EU is closely monitoring Saakashvili in prison, and the Georgian authorities should make 'every effort to fully uphold' the former president's rights.

"These rights include the right to stand trial in transparent, fair, and due judicial proceedings and the right to adequate

on a hunger strike for over 40 days. The 3rd President of Georgia was serving his sentence in Rustavi Prison No.12, however, on November 8, he was transferred to Gldani prison hospital to 'prevent deterioration in his health due to increased risks', as the penitentiary service reported. The government has so far refused to take Saakashvili to a civilian hospital.

On November 9, the meeting with the representatives of the opposition with Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Erika Olson was held at the residence of the US Ambassador.

"The diplomat is very well informed about the current events, we discussed two issues, Saakashvili's situation, and the rigged elections," Tina Bokchava of the National Movement commented.

According to her, the Ivanishvili regime is in jeopardy, but various tools are used with partner countries when they do not fulfill their commitments to international partners. One such tool is subjecting them to sanctions, which, she



A meeting with representatives of NGOs and the Ombudsman was held at the residence of the US Ambassador to Georgia.

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 3.1622; Euro - 3.6583; GBP - 4.2674; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.4276; Swiss Franc - 3.4571

BY KHATIA BZHALAVA

UNM Considers Poisoning Droa Leader Elene Khoshtaria, GD Chairman Claims

Chairman of the ruling Georgian Dream (GD) party Irakli Kobakhidze announced at a briefing yesterday that the opposition considers taking radical steps such as murdering their teammates. Kobakhidze stated that according to the information provided to them, the National Movement is discussing the scenario of poisoning Elene Khoshtaria, the leader of political movement Droa, to further strain political tension. “We warn the radicals that any attempted crime will be strictly punished according to the law,” said Kobakhidze.



According to GD Chairman Irakli Kobakhidze, the only source of polarization in the country is the radical opposition.

According to the Chairman of the GD party, they have received confidential information that a meeting of ten UNM representatives was held yesterday, where the participants ‘seriously discussed’ poisoning Khoshtaria. Khoshtaria is currently on her 8th day of hunger strike in solidarity with the former president, Mikheil Saakashvili. According to Droa, such a statement is ‘an open threat from the government’s side.’

As Kobakhidze noted, placing Saakashvili in a civil clinic would contribute to the implementation of his destructive plans. He stated that international partners often talk about polarization as a major problem of the country’s political system and he believes that the only source of polarization is the radi-

cal opposition.

According to him, over the last few days, they have witnessed ‘desperate’ steps of radical opposition aimed at stirring up the country even after the elections are over.

Kobakhidze also touched upon the demand of the opposition for a snap election, saying that the recent municipal elections put an end to the radical opposition’s ambition to regain power and restore their violent regime in Georgia.

The main demands of the UNM are Saakashvili’s transfer to a civil clinic for treatment, instead of the prison hospital where he is currently placed, the

release of Saakashvili from prison, and the annulment of the municipal election results.

Saakashvili was transferred to Gldani prison medical facility on Monday and according to the former president, he was deceived by telling that he would be taken to a regular civil clinic. According to him, he was physically and verbally insulted by the guards. “They pulled me out of the car, hit me in the neck several times, and dragged me on the ground by grabbing my hair, during which I resisted,” reads Saakashvili’s letter.

He admits hitting the staff member because, as he claims,



Saakashvili claims that he was physically and verbally abused by the guards at the Gldani prison.

they tried to inject him without his permission. Saakashvili refuses any medical intervention, stressing that the purpose of his transfer to the Gldani 18th facility is his physical destruction and Putin’s order.

Following Saakashvili’s transfer to Gldani clinic, opposition members and Saakashvili’s supporters held a rally in front of the building of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia and later at the Parliament building on the Rustaveli Avenue, demanding the transportation of Saakashvili to a civil clinic. UNM head Nika Melia says that rallies will be held ‘regularly’ in Tbilisi and regions, ‘under the law and without break-

ing into state buildings,’ until all their demands are met.

The opposition has been holding protests in three different locations in Tbilisi today: the Ministry of Justice, the State Security Service, and the Ministry of Health.

For the record, the third President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili was arrested in Tbilisi on October 1 and has been on hunger strike since then. The ex-president is charged with several criminal offenses including, violent dispersal of the November 7 rally, unlawful raiding of Imedi TV, and exceeding of authorities over the seizure of Mtatsminda Park.

BY THE MESSENGER STAFF

Melia to GD: We’ll Finish You with Incessant Protest Rallies and Force You to Schedule Elections

Nika Melia, the chairman of the National Movement, addresses the Georgian Dream regarding the start of the protest movement, and finally, with a continuous, growing protest, forces them to call elections.

“You will not be given a chance to plunge the country into a whirlwind of civil strife and then ask your older brother for help, as the Orjonikidzes and Makharadzes did,” he writes on his Facebook page.

Melia said the tactics have been changed and instead of spending the night, the protest will start in the morning throughout the day.

“Especially, they want us to lose patience, use force and suppress the protest, and end it! !

And we will come calmly and firmly wherever you are, wherever you are planning crimes —



we will come to tell you out loud that you are murderers, you are

criminals! You think we will get tired,

we will get exhausted. No. And let’s see who gets exhausted first

Weather

Wednesday, November 10

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 16°C

Night Chance of Rain
Low: 8°C

Thursday, November 11

Day Showers
High: 10°C

Night Showers
Low: 5°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

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Successful conclusion of the intergovernmental negotiations on development cooperation between Georgia and Germany and agreement on important milestones for further cooperation

At the conclusion of the intergovernmental negotiations on 4 November 2021 in Tbilisi, the protocol was signed jointly by Deputy Minister Ekaterine Guntsadze and the German Head of Delegation Santiago Alonso-Rodriguez. With this, Germany commits to further support Georgia, especially in the areas of vocational training, promotion of the private sector, energy and energy efficiency, sustainable urban development and good governance.

The very good cooperation between Germany and Georgia in development cooperation has already existed for almost 30 years. During this time, Germany has supported Georgia with a total of more than 1.3 billion euros in the area of finan-

cial cooperation alone.

Intergovernmental negotiations take place every two years between Germany and Georgia. Since the last negotiations in 2019, the total funding amounts to approximately 188 million euros. Of this, 53 million euros are only grant funds. In addition, there is regional cooperation amounting to almost 76 million euros in grants, from which Georgia benefits for the most part.

Particularly noteworthy is the funding in the area of vocational training. Here Germany is providing grant funds in an unusual amount of EUR 24 million for the construction of centres of excellence via the German government's KfW. Germany is already financing the construction of a centre of excellence in

Tbilisi in the field of construction and logistics. The other two centres of excellence are to be located in the wine and tourism sectors in particular and are to become flagships for dual vocational training. The support that the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) has been providing for many years in the field of wine and tourism and beyond is also to be put to good use through the centres.

Immediately after the government negotiations, further documents on financial cooperation were signed in a festive ceremony:

Thus, in the field of biodiversity and sustainable local development, an agreement on a grant amounting to 5.24 million euros was signed by Am-

bassador Hubert Knirsch and Finance Minister Lasha Khutsishvili. This will enable the implementation of a biodiversity conservation project worth around 24 million euros.

This green package is rounded off by very special funding for the entire South Caucasus region in the amount of 40 million euros in grant funds for nature conservation in the South Caucasus through the Caucasus Nature Fund (CNF). Thanks to this funding, 12 existing protected areas are going to receive continued support in Georgia alone, and more will be added, as the establishment of up to five new protected areas is currently in the planning stage. A contract to this effect was signed last week by Ms. Birgit Holderied-

Kress, KfW's Head of Office, and Mr. Tobias Muenchmeyer, Managing Director of the Caucasus Nature Fund (CNF).

In the central area of German-Georgian cooperation "energy", too, a more in-depth cooperation was agreed, building on the existing portfolio, with the elaboration of a pilot project in another innovative field: green hydrogen. With the signing of a memorandum of understanding between KfW and the Georgian Ministry of Economy, the path of a pilot project was taken into concrete planning. In addition, an agreement was signed to implement an energy efficiency programme in public school buildings.

The next intergovernmental negotiations will take place in Berlin in 2023.

