

By NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

Saakashvili to Stop Hunger Strike if Taken to Civil Clinic

The imprisoned former president of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili has released a letter from Gldani prison hospital, saying that he would stop the hunger strike if taken to a multifunctional civil clinic for rehabilitation.

Saakashvili decided to call off his hunger strike after the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) urged him to do so.

"Recovering from a hunger strike is way harder than managing it... I appeal to the medical council to decide on which multifunctional, highly equipped clinic I will be transferred to," he wrote.

Saakashvili also addressed the opposition Droa party leader Elene Khoshtaria, who has been on a hunger strike in solidarity with Saakashvili, 'with immense respect and gratitude' to immediately call off her hunger.

The former president, who was serving his sentence in Rustavi Prison No.12, was transferred to Gldani prison hospital on November 8 to 'prevent deterioration of his health due to increased risks.'

On November 10, ECHR issued an interim ruling on 'temporary measures' concerning Saakashvili's hunger strike, his health, and safety. The ECHR urged Saakashvili to call off his hunger strike and rejected his complaint on his transfer to a private clinic from a prison hospital. The court also demanded from the Georgian government to inform them about Saakashvili's health condition by November 24 and ensure proper medical care for him now and in the post-hunger-strike period and safety in the penitentiary institution.



Saakashvili was arrested on October 1 after his return from 8 years in political exile. He was convicted in Georgia in absentia back in 2018 for abuse of power and was sentenced to 6 years in prison. He has also been charged with five other offenses. He considers himself a 'political prisoner', denying all charges.

The court indicated that if the Georgian government fails to take these measures, then the Georgian government may be found to be violating Article 34 of

the European Convention on Human Rights. This article obliges the state, not to hinder a person/organization/group of persons, to appeal to the ECHR.

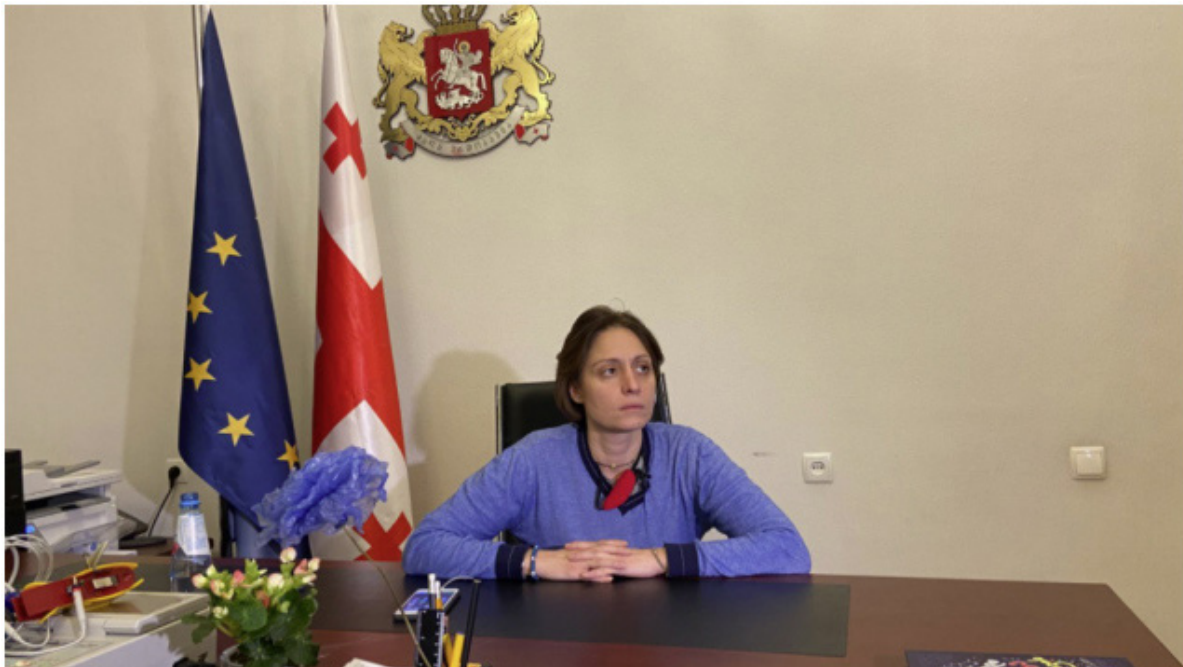
The letter received from Strasbourg was followed by different interpretations among political camps. The United National Movement says that by the decision of Strasbourg, Mikheil Saakashvili's hunger strike is already internationally recognized; ECHR did not directly indicate the issue of Saakashvili's transfer to civilian clinic, however, it indicated the need for a high standard of treatment and that on November 24 this information will be reconciled once again and with a high probability, the Strasbourg court will once again discuss what is happening. On the other hand, Minister of Justice Rati Bregadze said a Strasbourg court had rejected Saakashvili's complaint to transfer him to a private clinic and demanded him to end the hunger strike.

The UNM party is holding rallies across the country demanding Saakashvili's transportation to a civil clinic, then his release from prison and annulment of recent municipal election results. The GD government says that Saakashvili and the UNM plan to cause unrest once he's transferred to a civil clinic. Yesterday, the party released a statement, promising they will not hold rallies near the clinic if Saakashvili is transferred there.



Due to the content of the temporary measures, this decision of the Strasbourg court means that the European Court of Human Rights has seen the danger of irreparable damage to Saakashvili's life and health.

Elene Khoshtaria Has Vowed To Continue Her Hunger Strike Until Mikheil Saakashvili Is Moved to a Civil Clinic



Khoshtaria: "I did not make the decision with anyone's reference - I made the decision with a specific request: Mikheil Saakashvili's health should not be endangered."

Justice Minister Rati Bregadze: "Why should this person be transferred to a private clinic? Can anyone explain it to me?"

By THE MESSENGER STAFF

The founder of Droa is on her ninth day of hunger strike. Mikheil Saakashvili urged her to call off his hunger strike today.

Khoshtaria thanked him for it, but said that the ruling team is now in charge of resolving the problem.

"I did not make the decision following anyone's instructions — I made the decision with a specific request: Mikheil Saakashvili's health should not be endangered."

Today, once again, under very reasonable circumstances - at the request of Strasbourg and the decision of Mikheil Saakashvili, the Georgian Dream is in the hands of the final key to easing this crisis. It can also make a decision today in accordance with the position of the Strasbourg court.

"Until Mikheil Saakashvili is transferred to a civilian multi-profile clinic, I will not stop the hunger strike."

Mikheil Saakashvili's case has been prioritized by the European Court of Human Rights, which

issued an interim measure on November 10 ordering the ex-president to end his hunger strike and the authorities to ensure his safety in prison and proper medical care during the post-famine rehabilitation period.

Mikheil Saakashvili indicated on November 11 that he would comply with the ECHR's verdict and terminate his hunger strike provided the government did the same, transporting him to a civilian multifunctional facility and caring for his health.

Yesterday, Khoshtaria commented on the fact of detaining

peaceful protestors, adding that the hysterical reaction of the government is becoming more and more similar to the Russian and Belorussian regime.

46 citizens were detained during the rallies held by the opposition in front of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Health. The rallies took place in parallel, the police detained the citizens without even telling the reason.

Justice Minister Rati Bregadze says he would be happy if Mikheil Saakashvili stopped his hunger strike but "without any terms."

"The European Court has called on Mr. Saakashvili to end the hunger strike. We will be very happy if he agrees. But - without any terms. Why should this person be transferred to a private clinic? Can anyone explain it to me?"

The minister said that if the hunger strike was stopped, the ex-president would return to Rustavi 12th Prison because "there won't longer be a risk of his health deteriorating."

Bregadze does not take into account the difficulties of post-famine rehabilitation.

By NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

The Special Penitentiary Service publishes another video of the transfer of the third President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili from Rustavi to Gldani's prison. Experts commented that the video footage shows traces of editing and does not fully reflect the conflict between Saakashvili and the staff of the institution.

The published footage shows the protest of a prisoner who refuses to voluntarily enter the Gldani medical facility.

"The footage clearly shows how he does not obey the lawful instructions of the employees of the institution, behaves aggressively and verbally insults

Penitentiary Services Releases Another Footage of Ex-president Saakashvili

The video shows that Saakashvili was against his transfer to Gldani prison

them," the agency said in a statement.

The Office of the Public De-

fender of Georgia issued a statement yesterday, saying that the Special Penitentiary Service vio-

lated the prisoner's right to honor, dignity, and privacy, by releasing the footage which

showed the placement of

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The videos were assessed negatively by the Ombudsperson of Georgia



Saakashvili has been on a hunger strike since his arrest

Weather

Friday, November 12

Day Showers High: 8°C
Night Clear Low: 1°C

Saturday, November 13

Day Clear High: 15°C
Night Clear Low: 3°C

published by

The Messenger

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Penitentiary Services Releases Another Footage of Ex-president Saakashvili

Saakashvili in the Gldani prison medical establishment against his will.

The Ombudsman's Office also indicates that the footage does not fully reflect the relevant episode, while in several parts of the video, the prisoner is shown semi-naked, in degrading condition. The statement of the Public Defender also indicates that the ex-president was taken to the establishment fraudulently,

against his will.

"The Public Defender believes that by pointing to an abstract legitimate purpose and disseminating the footage of prisoner Mikheil Saakashvili in a completely disproportionate and insulting manner, his right to honor dignity and privacy was

violated," reads the statement of the Public Defender.

The State Inspector's Office also responded to the release of the footage, saying that the releasing such videos have already become systematic.

"Although the Office of the State Inspector General has re-

peatedly called for all agencies and individuals to be careful about disclosing the personal data of the third President of Georgia, the recent release of videos containing his data for the sake of public interest has become systematic," reads State Inspector's statement.

Saakashvili was arrested in Georgia on October 1, and he has been on hunger strike since then. The penitentiary service transferred him from Rustavi to Gldani for medical assistance.

Saakashvili was verbally insulted by prisoners as he was brought to the establishment.

Culture & Lifestyle

Wind Instrument Masterclass Held within the Framework of Festival Night Serenades

BY KHATIA BZHALAVA

On November 10, within the framework of the annual Batumi-Tbilisi Within the frameworks of the International Festival Night Serenades, a wind instrument masterclass was held, conducted by Giorgi Shaverzashvili, a professor at the Tbilisi State Conservatoire and the chairman of Georgian Composers Union. The masterclass was supported by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth of Georgia and Tbilisi city hall.

The Director of the festival Nina Tsagareli stressed that several master classes in different directions will be held throughout the month within the framework of the festival.

"I hope that the workshop delivered by Giorgi Shaverzashvili will be very important for the creative development of the students," she noted.

Shaverzashvili thanked the festival

Night Serenades, namely Giorgi Issakadze, Nina Tsagareli, and Liana Issakadze, stressing that meetings of such kind are important for talented young people for their future professional development. According to him, holding orchestral masterclasses is rare, especially in the direction of jazz.

As Tamaz Molashvili, the Director of Otar Taktakishvili Art School #19, noted, there is a lack of students as well as teachers in symphonic bands. According to him, the #19 art school is ranked first among 32 art schools in the city and provides staff for the Georgia Symphony Orchestra, Tbilisi Big Band, and the orchestra of Opera and Ballet Theater of Tbilisi.

Sergo Tkabladze, the conductor of Otar Taktakishvili Wind Instrument Orchestra "Big Band 19", thanked the Ministry of Culture and Tbilisi City Hall for holding such an important master class and enabling children to gain more knowledge

in this field.

In 1991, following the armed conflict, the festival stopped existing, however, 18 years later, in 2009, Night Serenades was brought back to the Georgian seaside town of Batumi, continuing the traditions of Bichvinta's Festival. Due to the wide popularity of the festival throughout the years, Tbilisi City Council decided in 2015 to change its name to Batumi-Tbilisi International Festival.

The basic team of the Festival is the chamber orchestra "Virtuosi", founded by Liana Issakadze in 2011. The orchestra is staffed with talented young Georgian musicians working abroad and in Georgia.

The artistic director of the festival is

Giorgi Issakadze, musician, teacher, and the founder and the artistic director of dance and music academies in Ingolstadt and Munich, the chief conductor is Maestro Vakhtang Matchavariani and the director of the festival is Nina Tsagareli.

The event is organized by the company 'Art Alliance.'

The festival Night Serenades is supported by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth of Georgia, Tbilisi, and Batumi city halls, Ministry of Culture, Education and Sports of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, and embassies of Italy and Germany.

The official insurer of the festival is the company 'Ardi.'

