

## Polish MEP Anna Fotyga Refused Entry in Prison to Meet Saakashvili

Fotyga visited Khoshtaria in the Parliament

BY NIKA GANTSEMLIDZE

Polish MEP Anna Fotyga was denied a visit to Mikheil Saakashvili. She wrote about it on her personal Twitter page.

"I regret the lack of goodwill and transparency on the side of the government of Georgia and reiterate that there still is a chance of solving this situation. The Government of Georgia is fully responsible for the life and health of the former president," wrote Fotyga.

Fotyga arrived in Georgia on November 12. A few days before her visit to the country, she said that the European Parliament was concerned about Saakashvili and his situation and that what was happening to Saakashvili was wrong.

Former President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili has been on hunger strike since October 1. He is currently in the Gldani prison.

Opposition MP Salome Samadashvili met with Anna Fotyga and told reporters that the government had turned its back on the EU by refusing Fotyga's visit to Saakashvili.

"Fotyga is our longtime friend, we have an informal meeting to summarize the impressions she has from the visit. This is an unprecedented thing, I do not remember the Georgian government ever denying the member of the European Parliament the right to meet a prisoner in jail," Samadashvili stated.

Former President Saakashvili said that he is thankful for Fotyga's solidarity and



Before visiting Georgia, Fotyga criticized the government, saying that they were responsible for the ex-president's well-being

says that those who did not let her in the prison will soon not be in power and "Georgia will meet Fotyga with old-fashioned hospitality and gratitude".

Fotyga visited Elene Khoshtaria, who has been on a hunger strike for 2 weeks.

"Fotyga visited Georgia to meet with Saakashvili, and she also came to me. It is a great honor to meet her. We must

understand that during such a major attack on democracy, the visits of our European partners are friends is very important," said Khoshtaria.

Opposition parties have criticized the government, saying the government has finally turned its back on Europe. The chairman of the Georgian Dream posted an extensive Facebook post on the sub-

ject, criticizing some of his European partners and calling them foreign lobbyists of the radical opposition.

This is not the first time for ruling party representatives to make such comments about Fotyga or other MEPs. The ruling team has repeatedly criticized Anna Fotyga for the critical tone that the MEP has towards them.



Samadashvili met with Anna Fotyga and told reporters that the government had turned its back to the EU

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 3.1493; Euro - 3.6044; GBP - 4.2182; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.3610; Swiss Franc - 3.4131

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

# 9 MPs Announce Hunger Strike in Support of Saakashvili

## UNM MPs demand Saakashvili's transfer to a private hospital

Nine United National Movement deputies announced that they are going on a hunger strike in support of Georgia's third president, Mikheil Saakashvili. The MPs demanded Saakashvili's immediate transfer to a private hospital due to the worsening health situation of the ex-president.

Among the MPs who announced hunger strikes are Akaki Minashvili, Temur Janashia, Bachuki Kardava, Nika Matchutadze, Giorgi Godabrelidze, Sul Khan Sibashvili, Levan Bejashvili, Abdula Ismailova, and Davit Kirkitadze.

"From today, we are going on a hunger strike and will continue until Mikheil Saakashvili is taken to a multi-profile clinic until his health and life are no longer in danger," said Kirkitadze.

Another MP, Elene Khoshtaria, has been on a hunger strike for 14 days. Yesterday, two Georgian doctors working in the US stated Saakashvili's health and called on Georgian authorities to transfer the ex-president to a civilian hospital.

Nana Gegechkori and Zura Guruli said that according to Saakashvili's symptoms, there is a risk of his imminent death. They applied to the Ministry of Health to transfer the ex-president to a civilian clinic.

Also, on Saturday, the personal doctor of Saakashvili,



The MPs said they demand Saakashvili be transferred to a private hospital

Nikoloz Kipshidze, said that Saakashvili's situation has worsened drastically. He said that Saturday was the first day when Saakashvili was unable to get out of bed.

"Today is the first day that the president has not gotten out of bed. He has a very severe weakness and is lying in bed. I visited the cell because the president could not come downstairs," said Kipshidze.

Paata Burchuladze also an-

nounced his hunger strike. Like others, he also demands transfer to a civilian hospital. Burchuladze addressed his colleagues and representatives of culture and encouraged them to join him.

Mikheil Saakashvili has been on a hunger strike for 46 days already. The ex-president and his lawyers are requesting to be transferred to a civilian clinic, but the government refuses - instead of a civilian clinic, he

was transferred to the Gldani Prison Medical Facility, where he was transferred against his will. Saakashvili refuses to receive any treatment there.

Following the statement of the European Court of Human Rights and its ruling, the ex-president announced that he would end the hunger strike if transferred to the clinic. In response to this, the Minister of Justice said that he would be happy if Saakashvili stopped the hunger strike, but without any terms.



Saakashvili's health has worsened according to his doctor

### The News in Brief

PREPARED BY THE MESSENGER STAFF

#### Melia Offers Forming a Group Regarding Mikheil Saakashvili's Transportation to Civil hospital

Nika Melia proposes that the government organize a group consisting of Mikheil Saakashvili's personal doctor, lawyer, a family member, one of the National Movement's members, and civil society representatives to go through all the details of Mikheil Saakashvili's

transit to the civil hospital. At the briefing, Nika Melia stated that the pledge that when Mikheil Saakashvili is transferred to the civic hospital, there would be no protest march around the civil hospital continues in effect.

"We have already stated that we take full responsibility that no protests will take place after Mikheil Saakashvili is transferred to a civilian hospital, directly around the civilian hospital. I reaffirm that no protest will be held in front of the Civil Hospital.

Moreover, I propose the relevant agency to form a group, which will include Mikheil Saakashvili's personal doctor, Mikheil Saakashvili's lawyer, one of Mikheil Saakashvili's family members, one member of the United National Movement, one civil society member with the

highest level of trust, to go through all the details regarding the transportation of Mikheil Saakashvili to the civil hospital, to avoid all misunderstandings and excesses," Melia said.

#### Med Council Members Were Denied Entry into Gldani Prison to Visit Saakashvili

Members of the medical council were denied admission to the Gldani prison medical center, according to Shota Tutberidze, the lawyer for Mikheil Saakashvili, Georgia's third president.

The cause, according to Shota Tutberidze, was the conclusion of the Penitentiary Service's operating hours.

"Today it was planned that the council would visit the third president at the Gldani facility.

Many thanks to each and every member of this council, my respect to them for finding time to come during non-working hours. Unfortunately, after a two-hour wait, the penitentiary service refused them entry on the grounds that it was non-working hours.

"The council has already been in the penitentiary institution during non-working hours, and

today one of the members of the council, Nikoloz Kipshidze, was in the penitentiary institution. We think that this step of the penitentiary service is absolutely illegal and shameful. In our opinion, it proves once again that the government spits on an illusory opponent and is trying to limit the rights of the third president," Shota Tutberidze said.

#### Correction:

There was a mistake on page two of the November 11<sup>th</sup> issue of *The Messenger*. In the article entitled "EU, France and Czech Republic Launch Project to Improve Georgia's Social Protection System" it should have read "Mr. Catalin Gherman, Deputy Head of Cooperation at the Delegation of the European Union to Georgia" instead of the "The Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Georgia Catalin German."

*The Messenger* apologizes for any confusion this may have caused.

### Weather

Monday, November 15

Day Mostly Cloudy High: 15°C

Night Mostly Cloudy Low: 8°C

Tuesday, November 16

Day Showers High: 12°C

Night Showers Low: 1°C

published by

**The Messenger**

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