

Melia: While Saakashvili Is in Captivity, Talking about Reconciliation Is Meaningless



By THE MESSENGER STAFF

Nika Melia, Chairman of the United National Movement, says that while Mikheil Saakashvili is in prison, talking about civil unity and reconciliation is meaningless.

As he said, there is a very important rally coming up, calling on the population to attend it on December 21.

"Now it is important to mobilize, our

protest voice must be heard even stronger. On December 21, everyone is waiting for you at 6 pm at Rustaveli Avenue. Everyone should remember that while Mikheil Saakashvili is in captivity, talking about civil unity and reconciliation, to put it mildly, is meaningless," said Melia while talking to Main Channel.

Mikheil Saakashvili started talking about reconciliation first. In a letter sent from Rustavi prison on October 14, 2021,



the ex-president wrote that "if we want a civilized country, then we need a great deal of reconciliation and refusal of revenge."

On December 10, Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili said at a Democracy Summit in the United States organized by Joe Biden that "polarization and hatred must be overcome, and as President of Georgia, he will launch an inclusive process nationwide to talk about a common understanding of history."

Elene Khoshtaria said she was ready to join the president's initiative. According to him, this means not reconciling

politicians, but agreeing on the rules of the game, creating a fair court, and holding elections.

On the same day, Irakli Kobakhidze, Chairman of the Georgian Dream, said that "reconciliation has certain preconditions in politics and the precondition for this is, first of all, regret."

"When UNM says they do not belong in politics and repents, we will reconcile," Kobakhidze said.

On December 11, Mikheil Saakashvili offered a 'meeting of presidents' to Salome Zourabichvili and Giorgi Margvelashvili at the Gori Military Hospital.

Russia Urges NATO to Annul 2008 Bucharest Summit Declaration Regarding Georgia's Future Membership

By KHATIA BZHALAVA

On December 10, the Russian Foreign Ministry urged NATO to annul the 2008 NATO Bucharest Summit decision which says that Georgia and Ukraine will become NATO members.

"To ensure the vital interests of European security, it is necessary to officially disavow the decision taken at the 2008 NATO summit in Bucharest about "Ukraine and Georgia becoming NATO members" as contrary to the commitment undertaken by all the OSCE participating States "not to strengthen their security at the expense of the security of other States," Russian FM says.

Javier Colomina, NATO Deputy Assistant Secretary-Gen-

eral for Political Affairs and Security Policy and Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia responded to the statement and stressed that Russia wants to dictate the choices of countries like Ukraine and Georgia regarding their future, adding that NATO remains committed to the decisions adopted in the 2008 Bucharest summit.

As US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told NBC on Sunday the door of NATO is open for Georgia and Ukraine and if the countries meet the requirements the process of their integration will advance. Blinken focused on the aggression of Russia towards Ukraine and stated that "if Russia continues to take reckless and aggressive actions, we will respond – and not only



"Russia wants to dictate the choices of countries like Ukraine and Georgia," said Javier Colomina, NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia.

us, partners and allies around the world."

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg has noted that NATO'S position remains unchanged, stating that it is a fundamental principle that every nation has the right to choose its path.

"This is enshrined in many documents and agreements that Russia has signed too - everything from the Helsinki Final Act in 1975, to the Charter of Paris, to many other accords. It has been clearly stated that any sovereign independent nation, of course, has the right to choose its path, including what kind of security arrangements it wants to be part of."

David Zalkaliani, Georgian

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 3.1002; Euro - 3.4924; GBP - 4.1068; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.2234; Swiss Franc - 3.3534

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Minister of Foreign Affairs announced that the decision of the 2008 NATO Bucharest Summit would not be revised. According to him, NATO is an organization based on principles and its regulations and not a single third party has the right to intervene in the decision about NATO enlargement.

"Any statement made by a third party regarding the revision of the Bucharest Summit decision, which is contrary to the

fundamental principles and norms of international law, is unacceptable to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs," said Georgian Foreign Ministry.

According to the Ministry, today, the main challenge of the European and Euro-Atlantic security architecture are the actions of the Russian Federation, which has occupied and annexed the territories of neighboring sovereign states, neglected the basic principles of international law, and has not fulfilled its international obligations.

Georgian MFA says that NATO is an organization based on principles and its regulations and not a single third party has the right to intervene in the decision about NATO enlargement.



Georgia's Biggest Export since Pandemic Began Was Last Month - \$430 Million



"This data is an indicator and a precondition that we will finish the year as we predicted - with double-digit economic growth."

By NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

Export statistics for November 2021 have been published by the National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat), according to which \$ 430 million worth of goods were exported from Georgia abroad last month. This is 43% or \$129 million more than the previous year. Overall, in the first 11 months of this year, Georgian exports were \$ 3.82 billion, an increase

of 26.7% year on year.

The volume of imported goods is growing at a high rate as well. In November, for the first time since the pandemic began, imports exceeded \$ 1 billion, reaching \$ 1.01 billion. Imports in November were \$ 293 million, or 40.6% more than the previous year.

In 11 months of the year as a whole, Georgia bought \$9 billion worth of goods from abroad, which is 24.5% more than in 2020.

Detailed data on Georgia's foreign trade will be published on December 20 of this year, as a result of which it will be clear which products' imports and exports increased during November.

As of now, the Petroleum Importers Union has reported that

oil imports continue to grow. According to the Union, in January-November 2021, the import of gasoline and diesel fuel in Georgia amounted to 1,042.3 thousand tons, which is 3.7% more than in the same period last year. The figure for the same period in 2019 is 5% more.

Significantly, gasoline imports increased while diesel imports decreased. In the first 11 months of 2021, 537.5 thousand tons were imported, which is 8.9% more than in the same period last year. By categories, 346.3 thousand tons (64.4%) of A-91 regular type gasoline in January-November 2021; 180.3 thousand tons (33.5%) - A-95 premium gasoline and 10.9 thousand tons (2.0%) - A-98 super gasoline were imported.

As for diesel fuel, the volume

of imports amounted to 1.2% less than the same period in 2020.

In the first 11 months of this year, the largest volume of imports of gasoline and diesel fuel came from Turkmenistan (229 thousand tons), accounting for 22% of total imports. Then come: Russia - 19.5%; Azerbaijan - 18.7%; Romania - 17.1%; Bulgaria - 15.3%; Greece - 3.4% and others.

It should also be noted that in January-November 2021, Turkmenistan became the largest supplier of gasoline imports, importing 156.2 thousand tons of gasoline, which is 29.1% of total gasoline fuel imports. It should also be noted that all gasoline imported from Turkmenistan comes from A-91 regular fuel.

The Union of Petroleum Importers explains the reasons for

the increase in fuel imports and notes that the increase in consumption is directly related to the recovery of the economy.

"Despite the record high prices of fuel this year, there is an increase in imports and consumption, which is directly related to the rapid recovery and growth of the country's economy. It is also noteworthy that the statistics of diesel imports show a positive trend, which is associated with a decrease in the inflow of unregistered products into the country, which is associated with tightening the administration."

The Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development commented on the above-mentioned data, saying that the process of rapid economic recovery continues, one of the indicators of which is foreign trade. "Foreign trade data for November show that exports continue to grow at a very good pace, especially exports of Georgian products," she underscored.



Oil imports continue to grow.

Weather

Tuesday, December 14

Day Cloudy
High: 7°C
Night Cloudy
Low: 4°C

Wednesday, December 15

Day Cloudy
High: 10°C
Night Clear
Low: 3°C

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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

Khatuna Gogichaishvili
Layout Designer, Photographer

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