

Georgian Government Launches Constitutional Dispute Against President Salome Zourabichvili

By THE MESSENGER STAFF

The Georgian government is launching a constitutional dispute against Salome Zourabichvili. The Georgian Dream has issued a statement saying that the president has been criticized for 'violating the constitution', including for the recent visits to Paris and Brussels.

"The Government of Georgia is forced to apply to the Constitutional Court in the near future within the framework of the dispute over the competencies of the competence and to request confirmation of the violation of the Constitution by the President of Georgia.

According to the Constitution, the President of Georgia can conduct international negotiations and exercise representative powers only with the consent of the Government.

In violation of this constitutional reservation, without the consent of the Government of Georgia, the President of Georgia, as she herself admitted at yesterday's sitting, made several visits to different countries. It should also be noted that these visits were planned by the President without any prior consultation with the Government and the Government was informed of the visits only after that, confirming that the President had intentionally violated the Constitution.

"We have taken care of the institution of the president and have not made this fact public, however, now that the president herself has made it public, we consider it necessary to have a political response to it," the Georgian Dream stated.

In the statement, Georgian Dream reminded the President "that the rules of the state system are not determined by the President but by the Constitution, and no one can allow the President to change the Constitution".

Besides, the statement reads that the President over the past year on multiple occasions refused to appoint an ambassador



According to the statement of the Georgian Dream Political Council, the President has violated the Constitution, which needs to be confirmed by the Constitutional Court.



President of Georgia criticized both the Ruling party and the opposition in her report.

or diplomatic representative nominated by the government, which, according to the GD political council, is 'grossly' contrary to the Consti-

tution of Georgia. Irakli Kadagishvili, the Chairman of the Rules and Procedural Issues Committee of the Parliament of Georgia said on

Tuesday that the question of impeachment of the President of Georgia was not on the agenda. According to him, the President's address re-

vealed that she had exercised powers above those defined under the Constitution, and addressing the Constitutional Court serves to regulate this situation.

Yesterday, March 14, after the President's speech in the Parliament, the Chairman of the Georgian Dream, Irakli Kobakhidze, said that if Salome Zourabichvili told the truth about her visit to Europe without the consent of the government, she had violated the Constitution and "they will find out."

"If what the president said is true, it turns out that he violated the constitution, we will find out," Kobakhidze said.

The President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, in her speech to the Parliament, said that on February 26 she received a written refusal to pay working visits to Paris, Berlin, Brussels, and Warsaw.

According to Zourabichvili, she was forced to use personal contacts.

As Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili told the reporters later, the reason why Zourabichvili was denied visits abroad was that the government believes the President should be in her own country during the difficult processes in the region.

During her speech at the parliament, the president stressed that Georgia needs to develop a uniform plan which will be a manifestation of national unity and called on the government and the opposition parties to engage in this process.

US Ambassador to Georgia Kelly Degan praised the Georgian President's address to Parliament, underscoring that 'the president's speech was excellent'. According to her, the President had a very clear and strong message. The ambassador noted that Zourabichvili's speech was a reflection of the desire to bring help to the Ukrainian people, and at the same time to bring unity to Georgia through cooperation, compromise and dialogue.

Medvedev, Shoigu, Zakharova and others - Britain imposes sanctions on another 370 people

By THE MESSENGER STAFF

The UK has imposed personal sanctions on another 370 people.

Among them is the former president and prime minister of Russia.

Sanctions were imposed on the current Russian Prime Minister, Mikhail Mishustin, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, propaganda channel, Russia Today editor-in-chief.

Last week, the UK imposed sanctions on Russian

oligarch Roman Abramovich, who owned the London-based football club, Chelsea.

Also, 368 deputies of the Russian Duma supported the recognition of the independence of the occupied regions, Donetsk and Lugansk.

Britain was one of the first Western countries to impose sanctions on Russia.

Frozen the assets of Russian oligarchs, banned the Central Bank of Russia and 5 major commercial banks from transactions. Suspended imports of Russian oil and oil products, as well as imposed trade restrictions on various products, including Russian vodka.

CRRC Survey Shows Georgians Want Government to Support Ukraine More



39% of the population believe that Georgia should join all sanctions against Russia.



Population supports President Zurbashvili more than PM Gharibashvili's actions in the Ukraine war. Photo: Publika.

By Natalia Kochiashvili

The social survey conducted by the Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRC) survey studied the views of the Georgian population on the war in Ukraine. The polls showed the majority of the population (80%) blames the Russian Federation and President Vladimir Putin for starting the war: asked who holds the most responsibility for the war in Ukraine, 43% of the surveyees name Russia, while 37% say Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Public opinion polls show that the support of citizens for the Ukrainian people is quite high. The majority of respondents (61%) believe that the Georgian government should increase its support for Ukraine. 32% of the population think that the government is sufficiently supportive of Ukraine, while an extremely small part of the respondents (2%) think that the Georgian government should not support Ukraine at all.

The population was also asked which step taken by the Georgian government to help Ukraine would be acceptable or unacceptable to them. 85% approve of

humanitarian aid delivery; 79% support the reception of refugees, 86% approve of financial assistance; 42% support the permission of Georgian volunteers to go to fight in Ukraine; 40% of respondents think that citizens of the Russian Federation should be restricted from entering Georgia; 31% support the supply of weapons and ammunition to Ukraine.

As for Georgia joining the sanctions imposed by the West, 39% of the population believe that Georgia should join all sanctions against Russia, 27% of respondents think that the country should join some sanctions, while only 19% of the population believe that Georgia should not join sanctions at all. Asked whether sanctions against Russia over the invasion of Ukraine should be tightened by the European Union, the United States and a number of other countries, 71% of the population said they should be.

The poll also finds that the Georgian population is broadly supportive of President Salome Zurbashvili's performance in relation to the war, while being significantly less approving of Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili in the same context. In particular, the majority of the

population (64%) positively assess the recent actions of the President in connection with the Russia-Ukraine war. It should be noted that among them were supporters of both the ruling party and the opposition parties.

For comparison, the majority of respondents (42%) negatively assess the recent actions of the Parliament of Georgia and only 34% of the population think of it positively.

The actions of Gharibashvili in connection with the Russia-Ukraine war are positively assessed by 41% of the respondents, and badly and very badly by 39% of the population. In the case of the PM, the positive assessments are mainly from the supporters of the ruling party.

75% of the population supports Georgia's accession to the European Union, 70% - NATO membership, and 75% of citizens are partially or completely opposed to the country joining the Eurasian Economic Union.

Survey also asked the respondents which of the following parties would they

vote for if the elections were held tomorrow,

The interest was distributed as follows: Ruling party Georgian Dream - 22%; I do not know - 18%; I would not vote for anyone and cross out everyone - 16%; United National Movement - 10%; I wouldn't take part in the elections - 4%; Party for Georgia - 3%; Lelo - 3%; Girchi - more freedom - 2%; Kremlin-friendly Alliance of Patriots - 2%. Rest 20% refused to answer this question.

Note that field work was conducted on March 7-10, telephone survey was conducted by random number generation, 1092 subscribers were selected and the response rate reached 24%, while error rate stands at 2.96%.

It has been 21 days since Russia has been conducting full-scale military operations on the territory of Ukraine - not only military facilities are being bombed, but also residential houses and hospitals. The world imposes sanctions to stop Russian aggression, and Georgia does not join them on the grounds of 'national interests.'

Court Fines Russian Journalist 30,000 Rubles

By MESSENGER STAFF

Moscow's Ostankino court has fined Russia's First

Channel journalist Marina Ovsyannikova 30,000 rubles for appearing on an anti-war poster during Vremya on March 14. Ovsyannikova, one of the editors of the Russian First Channel news program Vremya, appeared live with sign captions - "No to war, stop the war, do not trust propaganda, you are being deceived here". The video went



viral on social networks very soon.

Ovsyannikova was found guilty of 'organizing an unautho-

rized public event'. During the comments, reporters said that her interrogation lasted 14 hours and he was not allowed to con-

tact relatives, she also thanked everyone for support.

Recall that the European Commission responded to her disappearance, tweeting "We applaud the continued courage of the brave Russians who dare to express their opposition to this war led by Putin. The most recent example is the Russian TV journalist who dared to object Kremlin's lies LIVE on air, on a state-controlled TV channel."

According to Russian media, the journalist of the Russian "First Channel" was fined not for the anti-war poster, but for the video, which she shared on social networks where she blames Putin for the war.

Weather

Wednesday, March 16

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 6°C

Night Snow Showers

Low: -2°C

Thursday, March 17

Day Snow Showers

High: 5°C

Night Light Snow

Low: 0°C

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