

The Messenger

“Impartial, Informative, Insightful”

#128 (5188)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 2022

GEL 3.00

WWW.MESSENGER.COM.GE

BY NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

One Year Since July 5 Events in Tbilisi

The President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, published a statement on one year since the violent actions that happened on July 5, 2021.

“One year has passed since the events of July 5, and today, society is still waiting for the perpetrators to be brought to justice. This is the reality on the background of which pro-Russian, violent, homophobic, and aggressive groupings intensified and strengthened during this period, in a country whose territories of 20% are occupied by Russia, which is completely unacceptable. Their empowerment is damaging our European perspective.”

The President also responded to a constitutional claim prepared by the Public Defender.

“Some believe that the answer to this is to ban their activities, but the ban in a country with democratic principles should be the last, extreme step and reinforced by strong legal arguments so as not to remain in doubt that there is an infringement of freedom of speech and expression here. However, based on the principles of the same democratic countries similar decisions may also be needed.

Zourabichvili stated that before making this extreme decision, everyone should take their share of responsibility. It must be unacceptable to protect these groups and encourage their pro-Russian and anti-European propaganda.

Particularly, she focused on the responsibility of the government. In her opinion, the most important point in this regard is adherence to the principle of insecurity of the law, which im-



Mzia Saganelidze (RFE/RL)

plies responsibility for the crime committed, effective control of their activities, and identifying the sources of their funding. According to her, it is the immediate responsibility of the government to prevent such groups from failing to interfere with Georgia’s European perspective!

The Public Defender of Georgia has prepared a constitutional claim, which, if satisfied, the Conservative Movement party, known as the Alt-Info party in society, will be abolished. The Ombudswoman herself does not have the right to file the relevant claim to the Constitutional

Court, so she intends to offer the draft lawsuit to the entities with this right.

On July 5, the Public Defender released a statement noting that the conservative movement’s statements “contain signs of overthrowing the constitutional order, stirring up various types of feuds, encouraging violence or containing signs of violence itself and constitute war propaganda.”

Here, it’s also important that the European Court of Human Rights accepted the Georgian Democratic Initiative (GDI) complaint for consideration in the Tbilisi Pride case, noting that

the case may be of precedent importance.

It comes following homophobic violence, attacks, and threats against the LGBTQI+ community and activists carried out on July 5, 2021. Consequently, the plaintiffs demand the determination of violations of the rights guaranteed by the Convention due to the inaction and ineffective response of the government. In particular, the violation of Articles 3 (Prohibition of Torture, Inhuman, and Degrading Treatment), Articles 11 (Freedom of Assembly), and 13 (Right to Effective Means of Legal Protec-

tion), as well as Article 14 (Prohibition of Discrimination).

GDI, which protects the rights of Tbilisi Pride and LGBTQI+ activists in the European Court, notes that the court has communicated the case with respect to all articles. This means that before October 13, 2022, the Government of Georgia is obliged to answer the questions raised by the court regarding all the issues raised in the complaint. Among them, the court wonders whether the statements of members of the government encouraged the violence that erupted on July 5, 2021, and to what extent the state fulfilled its obligations for the prevention and effective investigation. In addition, the Court satisfied the GDI’s motion and instructed the Government to present a July 5 security plan and internal materials related to the planning of security measures implemented by the Ministry of Internal Affairs ahead of the controversial events (July 1 and 5, 2021).

One year after the incident, the hearing of cases related to July 5 in the Tbilisi City Court is completed, but none of the organizers of the violence have been prosecuted, and those who have been charged have been sentenced to minimal sanctions.

On July 4, Tbilisi City Court sentenced 3 people for attacking the Pride office as a preventive measure. The Prosecutor’s Office intends to appeal this decision to the Court of Appeals.

The ECHR has received another case related to July 5, which belongs to Transparency International Georgia. In this case, the plaintiff is a ‘shame’ activist.



Mzia Saganelidze (RFE/RL)

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.8710; Euro - 2.9574; GBP - 3.4564; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.6618; Swiss Franc - 2.9739

PM Launches Construction of Hadron Therapy Center in Kutaisi



The €1 billion project is entirely financed by the Cartu Foundation in cooperation with Ion Beam Applications, a leading international proton therapy company.

By KHATIA BZHALAVA

As Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili announced yesterday, the construction of the hadron therapy center has officially been launched in Kutaisi, Imereti region. According to Garibashvili, the prospective venue is an “unprecedented and unique” medical facility of

“international scale” that would serve Georgian citizens and patients from across the South Caucasus. The Hadron Therapy Centre will begin accepting patients in 2024.

The €1 billion project is entirely financed by the Cartu Foundation in cooperation with Ion Beam Applications (IBA), a leading company producing pro-

ton therapy equipment for treating cancer diseases. The center will be built on the base of the Kutaisi International University.

“It can be said without any exaggeration that Georgia will have a world-class academic and scientific research space. Georgian and foreign academic personnel - leading scientists of the

world - will work in this space, with programs approved by the international advisory council of professors already in progress”, the PM said.

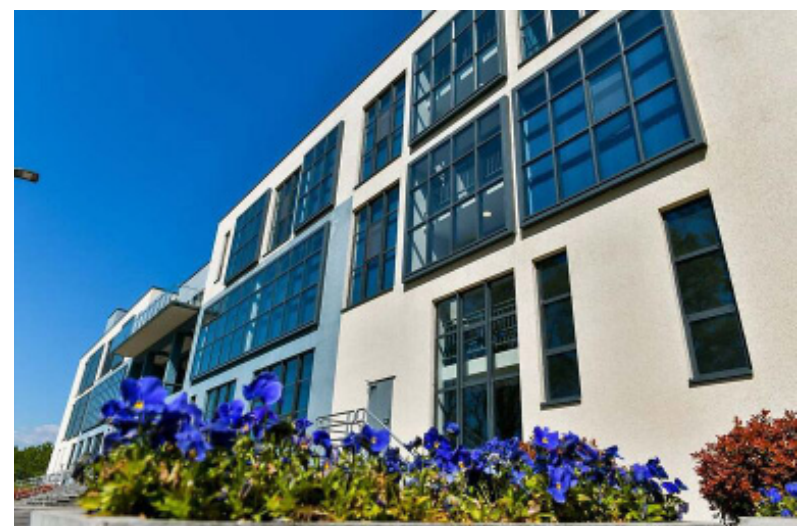
As the PM noted, IBA has already built two ultra-modern cyclotrons for the hadron therapy Centre, one of which will be used for cancer treatment, and the other cyclotron will be designated as part of the venue’s scientific research laboratory for medical, nuclear, and radiation physics and biophysics studies. The hadron therapy center will be built by IDOM Consulting, a company with half a century of experience in designing relevant facilities in the field.

“This will be a project of unprecedented and unique significance in the region, a medical institution of international scale, both for our citizens and the residents of the region,” Garibashvili noted.

According to Pierre Mottet, the CEO of IBA, the company

would be able to implement “many extraordinary projects” jointly with the Georgian side in the coming years as part of the project. The IBA representative also said the company was “very glad” to contribute to the project and to the treatment of cancer patients, including children, for whom hadron therapy provides particular benefits over other methods. According to him, hadron therapy is one of the best applications in terms of science, research, and technology development in the fields of physics, medicine, chemistry, and biology.

The ceremony of launching the construction of the facility was also attended by Education and Science Minister Mikheil Chkhenkeli, Chief Executive Officer of the Cartu Charity Foundation Nikoloz Chkhetiani, and Kutaisi International University Rector Aleksandre Tevzadze.



The Hadron Therapy Centre will begin accepting patients in 2024.

UNM’s Khatia Dekanoidze Says GD Unwilling to Meet 12-Step Criteria

By MESSENGER STAFF

One of the National Movement’s leaders, Khatia Dekanoidze, asserts that the Georgian Dream administration lacks the political will to implement the European Commission’s 12-point recommendation.

She informed the journalists that the passage of constitutional modifications would be the first indication, followed by Mikheil

Saakashvili’s transfer overseas and Nika Gvaramia, the director of Mtavari TV, being pardoned.

“I do not think at all that the government of Georgia-n Dream and Bidzina Ivanishvili have the political or any will to implement all the obligations that Georgia has been assigned in order to receive the candidate status in December. Such a request was voiced by the citizens of Georgia on 20 and 24 June, as well as at a very large rally on Sunday, where several thousand people came out and openly demanded - firstly, the resignation of Irakli Gharibashvili and secondly, the creation of a government of national consent, which would actually implement the reforms that are necessary. The fact is



that they have no political or will to do it. I have absolutely no illusions that Kobakhidze or the majority of Georgia-n Dream intend to fulfill these obligations. The first sign of this would be

the adoption of the constitutional amendments, which the Parliament had already adopted in the first reading.

Irakli Kobakhidze turned the issue of constitutional amend-

ments into a matter of trade. Second, the real change would be the political will exercised towards political prisoners, this implies the transfer of Mikheil Saakashvili abroad and the release and pardoning of Nika Gvaramia. The third political will would be to accept all the draft laws that are in the Parliament, this concerns the anti-corruption bureau and the issues listed in the Charles Michel agreement. Therefore, I do not see any kind of will and commitment from the government that they are going to carry out any process. I will tell you even more, Kobakhidze thinks that they will prolong the time until December with these incomprehensible commissions. Therefore, there are specific points that the government should implement so that the country sees political will from their side. Unfortunately, they don’t have the will to do that,” stated Dekanoidze.

Weather

Wednesday, July 6

Day ☀️ Clear
High: 31°C

Night 🌙 Clear
Low: 18°C

Thursday, July 7

Day ☀️ Clear
High: 30°C

Night 🌙 Clear
Low: 18°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

Khatuna Gogichaishvili
Layout Designer, Photographer

The Messenger welcomes your contributions. If you are interested in submitting an article or news item please contact.

All contributions should be submitted by e-mail.

The Messenger Georgia’s English language daily is an independent newspaper, and,

therefore, the opinions expressed in some articles do not necessarily coincide with those of the newspaper. We take no responsibility for any claims made in advertisements.

The Messenger preserves the style of a source written in English where possible.