

## The program of providing shelter and food to Ukrainian citizens has ended, says Tbilisi City Hall

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The program of providing shelter and food to Ukrainian citizens living in Tbilisi has ended, Tbilisi City Hall media representatives release the information. According to them, for this purpose, 14 million GEL was spent from the budget of the capital city.

Representatives of Tbilisi City Hall told the media that instead of the previously announced one month, the program lasted more than four months.

According to the decision of the Government of Georgia, from July 15 of this year, a socio-economic support program was launched for Ukrainian citizens living in Georgia, within the framework of which, 300 GEL per family and 45 GEL per family member will be given per month.

"As for the free municipal services available to Ukrainian refugees in Tbilisi, free travel by public transport, services of municipal kindergartens, art and sports schools are still valid.", Tbilisi City Hall representatives say.

Chairman of the Georgian Dream, Irakli Kobakhidze, said regarding the government's aid to Ukrainian refugees, that depending on the resources, certain types of aid could not continue indefinitely, and the government "had to make this decision at a critical stage."

"The situation is difficult in all countries. The state has done many things and will do many



things in the future. Appropriate and serious compensations will be given to these persons, however, depending on the resources, certain types of assistance could not continue indefinitely, therefore, the government had to make this decision at a certain stage." - said Irakli Kobakhidze.

The Minister of Health, Zurab Azarashvili, called the politicians who criticize the authorities for evicting Ukrainian refugees from the hotels 'provokers'.

On July 31, the program of accommodation of Ukrainian refugees in a hotel in Georgia ended. Accordingly, on August 1, they left the places where they lived until now. Their stay in the hotel was financed by the local governments, and from now on the assistance of the refugees is under the authority of the Ministry of Health.

Today, the leader of the Droa Party, Elene Khoshtaria, said that the eviction of Ukrainian refugees from hotels and the ter-

mination of the funding program is a hostile move. She found shelter for 300 Ukrainians with the help of businesses and volunteers. 800 people remain to be accommodated.

The government will pay 300 GEL per Ukrainian family and 45 GEL individually.

According to the Minister of Health, refugees have already been taken out of most of the hotels.

"Employees of the Agency for IDPs visited these 40 hotels for

3 weeks and opened accounts for all the refugees who were registered and filled out the relevant applications, in agreement with the bank, and they have already registered the appropriate assistance for all of them. It is a speculation that we are leaving the refugees out on the street, and this is not really the case. Within the limits of these funds, housing is offered in different regions. Our employees searched for such housings," said Azarashvili.

## Tbilisi Mayor Says government acts in the interests of the country, so Georgia will not get involved in the Russia-Ukraine war

BY MESSENGER STAFF

The government of Georgia acts in the best interests of the nation and its people, Tbilisi Mayor Kakha Kaladze stated, "and will not get engaged in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine."

He thus answered a question about the banners displayed in the capital, which read: "Russia wants war, not the West".

According to Kaladze, he does not know what this campaign serves.

"I don't know what the campaign is and what it serves. It is difficult for me to comment on this. Perhaps you should ask the people behind this campaign and they will tell you more.

As for the start of the war and the involvement of Georgia, we have talked about it many times. We can cite many specific examples, statements made by political parties, statements made by non-governmental organizations and the head of the Security Council of our friendly country, etc. However, I would like to emphasize once again that the Government of Georgia serves the interests of our country and acts as our people and,

first of all, our country's needs. Accordingly, Georgia will not get involved in the war," Kaladze said.

In an interview, he stated the government welcomes the influx of tourists from all countries, including Russia, Ukraine, Belarus.

We welcome the influx of tourists - Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, tourists from various countries, it does not pose any problem, - this is how the Secretary General of Georgian Dream and the Mayor of Tbilisi, Kakha Kaladze, answered the journalist's question about the entry of Russian citizens into Georgia.

According to Kakha Kaladze, the entry of tourists is important for the country and economic development.

"We welcome the influx of tourists - Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, tourists from various countries, it does not pose any problem. The entry of tourists is important for the country, economic development, budget, and creation of new jobs.

As for the competition, of course, business needs competition in order to develop and move forward," Kakha Kaladze said.





Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7484; Euro - 2.8168; GBP - 3.3649; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.3654; Swiss Franc - 2.8943

# Swiss media not interested in Credit Suisse and Bidzina Ivanishvili legal dispute, law firm MKD says

By LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Legal firm MKD issues another statement regarding the case of Bidzina Ivanishvili and notes that the firm has been offering Swiss media an article on Ivanishvili's financial dispute with Credit Suisse for a month without success.

Lawyers say that regarding the case of Ivanishvili, they intend to appeal to the Parliament of the Swiss Confederation, parliamentary factions and large political groups, as well as FINMA - the country's financial supervisory body.

According to lawyers, the need for an appeal is due to the high public interest in the dispute with Credit Suisse, as well as the "difficult situation" in which the banking group found itself.



"We are aware of the urgency of the dispute between the banking group and Mr. Ivanishvili and the various aspects related to it, we intend to apply in an

extraordinary and separate manner to the Parliament of the Swiss Confederation, parliamentary factions and large political groups, as well as to FINMA -

the country's financial supervisory body. It is caused by the high public interest in the dispute, as well as the difficult situation in which the "Credit Suisse" banking group found itself. Just as in the case of the Swiss media, here too we express our full readiness to cooperate with Swiss politicians and the relevant authorities of the country".

The law firm is also considering releasing key correspondence with the bank and its trusts.

"This intention is also due to high public interest. Moreover, if the correspondence is published, the public will assess and see for itself how unheard of and unprecedented the bank is acting, restricting access to their own assets to its clients. With the same actions, it is also clear

that the bank's management is consciously at risk of reputational and financial self-harm in the regime with the violations it reveals in the case of Mr. Ivanishvili. Besides, with such a step, we already show the public that all our claims and assessments are not made-up, but based on specific facts and circumstances. At the same time, this step will be a kind of warning call to those who are considering, or may consider in the future, entering into a business relationship with Credit Suisse."

Ivanishvili's lawyers continue to criticize the Swiss media and say that it has been a month since the firm has been offering them an article on Ivanishvili's financial dispute with Credit Suisse without success.

## The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

### Until 2026, salaries of civil service will increase by at least 10% every year, Prime Minister says

According to the Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, the salaries of civil servants will increase by at least 10% every year until 2026.

As he said at the government meeting, the state got additional revenues due to high economic growth, and therefore, the budget will be adjusted in September.

"The budget will increase, since additional revenues have been generated for the state due to such a high economic growth, and of course, we will have more funds to distribute according to the agencies, and more projects will be financed. I want to remind the public once again that the wages for employees in the public sector are increasing.

I would also like to remind the public that over the years, from about 2017 to 2020, salaries in the public sector have not been increased practically in any year, which I think was a big mistake.

If we compare the wages in the private sector and the public sector, the lag is significant and needs to be addressed.

Therefore, on my instructions, this year, in January, we started to put this in order. In January, the salary for all civil servants was increased by 10%. Now, the Minister of Finance has presented our vision, the criteria have been defined, and the said issue will be regulated by the decree, which means that the salaries of civil servants will increase by at least 10% every year until 2026. In total, an increase of about 50% will come out in the next 3-4 years" said Gharibashvili at the government meeting.

### 'Helicopters are checked before each takeoff, the people on board were professionals', MIF says

The Ministry of Internal Affairs once again responds to the rescue helicopter disaster in Gudauri on July 29 and states that all border police helicopters are "regulated, maintained and updated".

The Ministry of Internal Affairs says that the pilots and flight technicians on board were professionals, adding that helicopters are inspected before each takeoff.

"The pilots and flight technicians on board: Colonel Zaza Loria, Vice-Colonel Levan Chokheli, Major Dimitri Kaadze and Lieutenant Andro Kujoshvili were high-level professionals in

their field. The flight was managed by the Deputy Head of the Special Purpose Aviation Division of the Border Police of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Aviation In the field of training, Colonel Zaza Loria, who has been a pilot since 1992 and has commanded a helicopter squadron for years.

Under the leadership of Colonel Zaza Loria, many difficult rescue operations have been carried out over the years and he has saved many lives.

It is worth noting that at the base of the Main Division of Special Purpose Aviation of the Border Police, the helicopter is inspected in detail during each take-off, and it is not allowed for the pilots to start and drive a technically defective helicopter.

It is worth noting that in 2019-2022 the Air Park of the Border Police was completely updated, which means that all helicopters are regulated, maintained and updated.

It should also be noted that in March 2022, the border police, in full compliance with the rules of Georgian legislation, on the basis of the government's decree, in accordance with the international rules of aviation safety and the manual of aviation technical services, purchased 2 sets of helicopter tail screws for the 2 mi-8 mtv - 1 type helicopters on the balance sheet of the border police.

The old tail-screws on both helicopters were replaced with new ones, based on the international rules of aviation safety and in full compliance with these rules" the Ministry of Internal Affairs representatives said.

## UN-Georgia: 30 Years of Partnership

Thirty years ago, on 31 July 1992, Georgia became part of the United Nations family at the 88th plenary meeting of the 46th session of the UN General Assembly. Joining the UN provided an opportunity for the newly independent state of Georgia to be recognized as a fully-fledged member of the global community of nations, and to affirm its commitment to multilateralism. Since then, Georgia has consistently supported the aims and purposes of the Organization in the areas of peace and security, development, justice and human rights, as set forth in the UN Charter.

In the first years of the UN-Georgia partnership, the UN emergency humanitarian aid played a key role in the country's recovery efforts in the aftermath of the 1992-93 conflicts and the economic hardships of the early 1990s. Later, the UN mission grew to encompass much more: transition initiatives, environment, agriculture, rural development, climate change, education, health, asylum and migration, and economic development. Over three decades of work to support Georgia's development, the UN helped the country to develop human and institutional capacities and to create opportunities for the neediest.

We look back with pride at many joint achievements in the past 30 years. Among them are our efforts to support Georgia in promoting gender equality and enhancing protection of human rights for all people in all parts of the country, including children, women, ethnic minorities, LGBTQI+ persons, people with disabilities, older persons, internally displaced persons, refugees and migrants. UN is proud of our partnership with the Public Defender's Office and other

national institutions protecting human rights. We have also continuously promoted good governance and supported Georgian national institutions in enhancing transparency, accountability, evidence-based policy-making, improving delivery of services and enabling decentralization. Important milestones were the election of Georgia as a Chair country of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in 2017 and granting the United Nations Public Service Award to the Public Service Halls in 2012.

Today, the UN is present in Georgia in areas where our experience and resources are most needed. In October 2020 we co-signed with the Government of Georgia the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2021-2025 with one overarching priority of enhancing wellbeing, human capabilities and social equality.

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary represents a unique opportunity to look back in order to move firmly forward. Over these years Georgia has been able to achieve real progress on its development pathway. As we look forward, we remain unwavering in our support of Georgia's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. We will reinforce our joint efforts to leave no one behind and to make a real difference in the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people at a time when many fragilities and societal fault lines are even more exposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Today we reaffirm our commitment to our partnership with Georgia to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals for the benefit of people and prosperity of the country.

## Weather

Tuesday, August 2

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 36°C

Night Clear  
Low: 22°C

Wednesday, August 3

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 35°C

Night Clear  
Low: 22°C

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