

Georgian Dream members respond to Mykhailo Podolyak's statement that their party 'should change their tone' when speaking about Ukraine



Juansher Burchuladze



Anri Okhanashvili

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

In an interview with the Voice of America, Mykhailo Podolyak, adviser to the administration of the President of Ukraine, said the representatives of the Georgian authorities "must change their tone" when speaking about Ukraine, or reduce their speeches regarding Ukraine if they can't do it for some reason:

"Officials in Georgia should change their tone, and if they cannot do it for some reasons, then reduce their public speeches regarding Ukraine - this will be good for their reputation," said Podolyak.

The ruling party leaders, the Minister of Defense of Georgia, Juansher Burchuladze and Anri Okhanashvili, the chairman of the Legal Affairs committee of Georgian Parliament both responded to Mykhailo Podolyak. Both of their statements express disappointment.

The Minister of Defense, Juansher

Burchuladze, said that they have repeatedly tried to "warm up relations" with the Ukrainians:

"We have repeatedly tried to warm up our personal relations with our Ukrainian brothers, and this narrative, which is coming towards us, I think is not correct," said Burchuladze.

Anri Okhanashvili has called Mykhailo Podolyak a 'hostile person' to Georgia in his statement, adding that he is not interested in the opinion of someone who makes 'statements against the sovereignty' of Georgia:

"I am not interested in the frivolous, absurd positions of people who are hostile to our country. Therefore, all those people who make statements against our country and our interests, make statements against the sovereignty of our country, these people cannot be considered as persons we want," said Okhanashvili.

This is not the first time that Mykhailo

Podolyak has been critical of Georgia's ruling party. In an interview with Formula in June, when asked about whether he reads Georgian Dream leaders' statements, he responded that there is no need for him to read them when it's all just a 'street talk':

"What do I need it for? There is such a concept, as a highly cultured intellectual person. When these people speak like a street, it is not necessary to read it. I do not know how you vote for such people who speak in this tone. It is your internal choice. You may choose those who speak in the style of less educated people. If you like it, no problem. I'm in favor of both hands. This is your internal policy. They can talk, but when the war ends, we will ask each other questions on international platforms: you talked like

that, you are cool guys, then explain to us why you acted like that? We will talk later. Now people are being killed here, and I am forced to listen to people who cannot argue their thoughts," said the advisor of the President's office.

According to him, there is a relationship between the governments of Georgia and Ukraine, and certain issues are being discussed, however, at the moment, it is about the perception of reputation during the war.

"In the future, they won't be able to tell us that you supported us. How did you support us when the cities were being bombed? So we should listen to the guys drinking Borjomi in Tbilisi under air strikes? We will discuss everything later. History will place the accents appropriately," Podolyak said.

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The former deputy head of the State Security Service of Georgia, Soso Gogashvili, said that he received threats from Bidzina Ivanishvili in prison. As Gogashvili claims, they demand him to give their desired testimony.

"In the 12th institution, I received a threat from Bidzina Ivanishvili, that if I did not stop and give the desired testimony, me and my family would be destroyed. I might find out that my family was suffocated by CO, died in a fire or a car accident," said Gogashvili

In a 'better' case, Gogashvili said that they threatened his family members and the inner circle with imprisonment.

"I hold Bidzina Ivanishvili and his family responsible for the illegalities committed against my family and relatives. Together with my family, I will continue the fight for justice and continue the exposing campaign," said Gogashvili's statement.

According to the lawyers of Soso Gogashvili, after his arrest, the former high-ranking official of the Security Ser-

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vice received a phone call twice from the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia, Vakhtang Gomelauri and threatened him.

At the briefing, human rights defender Ramaz Chinchaladze spoke about the phone conversations between Gogashvili and the minister and noted that Gomelauri asked Gogashvili to give their desired testimony.

"On July 28, Ioseb Gogashvili, who is placed in the N12 penitentiary institution, was taken to the shower and he was pointed to the phone placed on the window shelf and was told that the phone would ring and he must answer it. In a few minutes, the phone rang. Ioseb Gogashvili answered the phone. And the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia was talking to him.

As Gogashvili states, there was quite

The News in Brief

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Davit Arakhamia releases a video, addresses Ivanishvili and his servants'

Davit Arakhamia, the chairman of the "People's Servant" faction in the Ukrainian Rada, responded to the information



spread in the media about the suspension of diplomatic passports for Ukrainian MPs and other high-ranking officials and explained that he was the initiator of the said decision.

Arakhamia released a video addressing the Georgian government and noted that he has already received a new diplomatic passport, with a 5-year visit to the USA, which he publishes "especially for Ivanishvili and his servants".

Arakhamia criticized the government of Georgia for the statements made on the 14th anniversary of the August 2008 war, and as he says, he expected that the government of Georgia would not have the courage to rebuke the aggressor even in relation to his country.

"Today, after a special break of several days, I decided to publish a video. I was wondering what the reaction of the Georgian government would be on the anniversary of the August 2008 war and whether anyone would have the courage to rebuke the aggressor in relation to Ukraine or not, at least in relation to their own country, and remind them of

the sacrifices and losses the Russian war brought to Georgia.

It happened as I expected. There was no reaction from the representatives of the Georgian government, which is due to fear and cooperation with the Russian authorities. The only thing I found during the tracking for the Georgian media was the widespread information about the confiscation of diplomatic

passports and their punishment for the deputies of the parliament, including me, as I am also a deputy. They exaggerated this and created a special operation out of this story.

Now, I will publish a new diplomatic passport, especially for Mr. Ivanishvili and his servants, which contains a 5-year government visa from the United States of America. You should understand that such visas are fortunately no longer available to you. I hope that in the eighth package of sanctions, which the European Union will approve in the near future, we will see who represents what, who will have what passport, and who will be where. "Well, be well, kisses," said Arakhamia,

A Few days ago, Ukrainian media reported that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine canceled hundreds of diplomatic passports, including the decision of Ukrainian MPs. Davit Arakhamia, Lisa Yasko, and Alexi Goncharenko, chairman of the "People's Servant" faction, were among the high-ranking officials on the mentioned list.

main request to Gogashvili was that he should give the testimony they wanted on the issues that Gogashvili voiced already after his arrest through his social page. Regarding this issue, the conversation between Ioseb Gogashvili and the Minister of Internal Affairs took place in the same manner, as a result of being taken from the cell to the bathroom, the next day as well. During the second conversation, Gogashvili was promised that since it was necessary to silence not only him, but also his family members, they would bring

his family members to the penitentiary institution with him, so that he could talk about silence and persuade them. This condition has been fulfilled" Chinchaladze said.

As the lawyer points out, Gogashvili has evidence of his re-

'It's unfair to ban Russian citizens from entering Europe,' Olaf Scholz says

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz does not like the idea of banning Russian citizens from entering Europe.

Scholz thinks that the war in Ukraine was started by Vladimir Putin and it is unfair to punish Russian citizens by banning them from traveling to Europe. The German chancellor believes that the already imposed sanctions against Russia are sufficient.

"This is Putin's war, so we don't like such calls [to ban entry to Europe]," Scholz said at a press conference today.

Scholz says that the sanctions imposed by the European Union against the Rus-

sian leadership and those close to them are quite extensive and these sanctions will continue.

The topic of the ban on the entry of



Russian citizens into Europe will be discussed by the ministers of foreign affairs of the EU member states at a meeting planned in Prague.

Estonia bans Russian citizens with Schengen Visas from entering the country

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia has announced that it is closing its borders to Russian citizens with Schengen visas issued by the country.

"After a week, the sanctions will apply to Schengen visas issued by Estonia. Restrictions will be imposed on visa holders [from Russia], they will be prohibited from entering Estonia," said Estonian Foreign Minister, Urmas Reinsalu.

Earlier, it was reported that the Prime Minister of Estonia, Kaia Kalas, supported the request of the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky, to ban the issuance of tourist visas to European citizens of Russia."

UNM's Dekanoidze says impossible to separate Saakashvili from Georgian Politics

According to Khatia Dekanoidze, the Chair of the United National Movement, it is impossible to separate ex-President Mikheil Saakashvili from Georgian politics.

"I think that separating Mikheil Saakashvili from Georgia and Georgian politics is simply unthinkable because Mikheil Saakashvili is a factor in Georgian politics - his personality, based on his past, his present - is a factor in Georgian politics. As for his open participation in elections, of course, this is up to him, and of course, this is up to the citizens and voters of Georgia. Therefore, I would not make conclusions only from his social network, posts, or from the statements of several lawyers. It is unthinkable to separate Mikheil Saakashvili from Georgia. He is a factor, he has great historical importance, and he is the third President of Georgia.

We, as a party, his friends, and all those who are not only party-related to Mikheil Saakashvili but also have had very important relationships with him over the years, have not heard any personal statement on the separation of the National Movement and Mikheil Saakashvili according to his will. Accordingly, this has not been a topic of discussion," stated Dekanoidze.

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a tense conversation between them, and the said conversation was mainly about threats. If Gogashvili did not keep silent, he must have considered the factors that could happen to him, his family and relatives. The

family. Gogashvili is charged with 3 counts: illegal purchase-storage-carrying of firearms, exceeding official authority, and tampering with personal information or personal data.

Weather

Friday, August 12

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 35°C

Night Clear
Low: 22°C

Saturday, August 13

Day Clear
High: 35°C

Night Clear
Low: 22°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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