

## Ministry of Internal Affairs releases statistics of Russian citizen inflow into Georgia



BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Ministry of Internal Affairs publishes statistics on how many people crossed the Russian-Georgian border in the last 10 days. In total, from September 17 to September 26, 78,742 people entered from Russia, and 62,120 people crossed the border.

According to MIA, after September 21, the number of people entering the border from Russia increased.

"In order to effectively manage the increased flow from the Russian Federation, police teams are additionally stationed at the Darial border crossing point, both to perform border immigration control procedures and to ensure public order and prevent possible violations in the area surrounding the point.

In addition, the appropriate unit of the State Security Service is permanently present at the border checkpoint, in order to ensure security and identify risks.

Border control procedures are carried out with special observation, in full compliance with the current legislation of Georgia," the statement reads.

According to them, the number of citizens who are not allowed to enter the territory of Georgia due to the reasons stipulated by the legislation has increased recently. Accordingly,

questions are asked more often about the rules of admission and the reasons for refusal.

"As it is known, according to Article 12 of the Law of Georgia on the Legal Status of Foreigners and Stateless Persons, upon entering Georgia, any citizen of a foreign country undergoes an inspection at the border checkpoint, as a result of which he is either given permission to enter Georgia or is refused and cannot cross Georgian border. The inspection/survey of each foreign citizen is carried out in accordance with internationally recognized best practices.

The border guard takes the decision to grant or refuse entry to a citizen of a foreign country as a result of evaluating various factors and circumstances. For example, it takes into account the compliance of the documents available to the person with the purpose of the trip, the sufficient amount of financial funds during the stay in Georgia and upon departure from Georgia, the terms of stay in the country in the past, etc. Accordingly, if this standard is violated, law enforcement officers explain to the foreign citizen on the spot the possible reasons for the refusal and the conditions for appealing this decision.

In order to identify risk-taking persons at the border-crossing points, inspection/interview of citizens and in conditions of

increased number, arrangement of the border-crossing point and road infrastructure during movement to a certain extent leads to the formation of queues, which, at the same time, requires an increased period of time for registration.

Every month, the Ministry of Internal Affairs proactively publishes the statistical data of persons and transport moved across the state border of Georgia. Accordingly, in the future, the Ministry will also ensure, on the one hand, the publication of statistics, and on the other hand, the analysis of relevant data and informing the public," the Ministry of Internal Affairs says.

According to the Minister of Internal Affairs, Vakhtang Gomelauri, the number of Russian citizens entering Georgia has increased by 40-45% in recent days.

Gomelauri stated that about 10,000 citizens from Russia enter Georgia every day.

"As for the fact that 250,000 Russian citizens entered, this is absolutely incorrect, it is a lie, not so many entered, and I don't know where you get these numbers from. About 4-5 days ago, there were 5,000-6,000 people entering, now it has increased to 10,000 to, it increased by 40-45%, not 250,000 and 2 million. I don't know where they get it from," said Gomelauri.

### The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

**President Zourabichvili pays tribute to heroes who died in Abkhazia war**

this is one generation, and this one generation showed us all, and I think it showed the people of Abkhazia, that these almost 30 years did not bring anything, not for the culture and language of Abkhazia, not for its economy, not for development, and this is



The President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, paid tribute to the memory of those who died for territorial integrity in Abkhazia war.

"Today is the most tragic day in the history of independent Georgia. For this day, the memory of the fallen heroes is an obligation for us, for all of us, and this memory should never be lost.

Almost 30 years have passed,

What the young generation living in Abkhazia realizes is that Russian occupation does not bring anything.

Today we must be ready to see and show that a new time is beginning, a new perspective, a new relationship and we must think about it. Mourning is not necessary, mourning is

**MORE NEWS IN BRIEF ON P. 2**

# Mukhtarli demands suspension of authority for Vakhtang Gomelauri



BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Azerbaijani journalist, Afghan Mukhtarli, requests the suspension of the powers of the Minister of Internal Affairs, Vakhtang Gomelauri. The jour-

nalist announced this at the press conference.

According to Mukhtarli, the Prime Minister is obliged to remove the Minister of Internal Affairs from his position until the investigation of his abduction

case is completed. He spoke about the facts made public by the former high-ranking official of the Security Service and demanded the identification of specific persons. At the same time, he said that he himself had doubts and

Gogashvili confirmed that his kidnapping could not have been carried out without Ivanishvili's order.

"At the very first announcement in Azerbaijan, I said that Ivanishvili was behind my kidnapping. Kvirikashvili was the prime minister then, I was kidnapped by the criminal police, and handed over to the Lagodekhi customs office. This would not have happened without the permission of Ivanishvili and Kvirikashvili. The order was issued at the highest level," Afghan Mukhtarli said.

Afghan Mukhtarli demands a response from state agencies to the new facts released by Soso Gogashvili. He also intends to officially appeal to the Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, and request the dismissal of the Minister of Internal Affairs, Vakhtang Gomelauri. Mukhtarli was called to the General Prosecutor's Office together with his lawyer.

Azerbaijani journalist Afghan Mukhtarli, who was investigating the corruption schemes of Ilham Aliyev's family and was persecuted because of it, took refuge in Georgia with his family. After 2 years of living, he was kidnapped from Tbilisi in May 2017. After 2 days, it was found out that Mukhtarli was detained in Azerbaijan, and his passport was in the house of his wife, Leila Mustafaeva.

The Georgian side has not yet investigated the incident. On April 21, 2022, he was granted the status of a victim.

## The News in Brief

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

necessary to know what our past is, but we cannot live in mourning, we must live for the future, and I am sure that this future will bring us many things soon. We see this when the population there comes out on the issue of Bichvinti, when they react to the mobilization, these are all signs that we should read carefully," said the President.

On September 27, 29 years have passed since the fall of Sokhumi.

### President Zourabichvili meets with Minister of Internal Affairs Vakhtang Gomelauri

The President of Georgia

### Weather

Wednesday, September 28

Day ☀️ Clear  
High: 30°C

Night 🌧️ Partly Cloudy  
Low: 17°C

Thursday, September 29

Day 🌧️ Partly Cloudy  
High: 31°C

Night 🌧️ Partly Cloudy  
Low: 16°C

Salome Zurabishvili met with the Minister of Internal Affairs, Vakhtang Gomelauri.

According to the President's administration, the challenges facing the country today were discussed at the meeting.

"The President welcomed the agency's dissemination of information regarding the entry of citizens from Russia into Georgia.

During the meeting, the president received complete information about the issue and noted that it is important for the public to know comprehensive information about the issue that worries him. However, it is also important for the government to use all mechanisms, including the format of the National Security Council, so that there are no more questions on the issue in the public, and the feeling that the risks are taken into account and all levers are used" the information released by the administration reads.



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