

Lukashenko's visit to occupied Abkhazia condemned by gov't of Georgia and international society

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Lead Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Commission, Peter Stano has condemned Aleksandr Lukashenko's, President of Belarus' visit to occupied Abkhazia and the meeting with the so-called President of Abkhazia, Aslan Bzhania.

"The European Union strongly condemns the visit of Aleksandr Lukashenko to the self-proclaimed region of Georgia - Abkhazia", said Peter Stano.

According to Peter Stano, the visit is a brutal violation of international law.

"In addition to the fact that this person, Lukashenko, does not have the legitimacy to act as a head of state, this visit was made without the consent of the Georgian government, which has the only legitimate authority over the Abkhazian region. So, this visit violates the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia and is a flagrant violation of international law. The European Union continues to confirm its strong and firm support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders", said Peter Stano.

Lukashenko's visit was condemned by the Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, and the President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili. They published relevant statements on the social network 'Twitter'.

The Ambassador of Belarus to



Georgia was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia hours after the aforementioned visit and released a statement:

"The Georgian side expressed extreme concerns and asked for additional clarifications from the Belarussian side," the ministry said in a statement.

"We continue to strongly support Georgia and its territorial integrity within internationally

recognized borders," said US State Department spokesman Ned Price.

Lukashenko's visit to occupied Abkhazia was also condemned by the British ambassador, Mark Clayton, as well as the ambassadors of Austria and Lithuania in Georgia.

Nikoloz Samkharadze, member of the Georgian Dream, and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament as-

sessed the Lukashenko-Bzhania meeting as 'unacceptable'.

"Lukashenko's visit to Abkhazia yesterday is clearly a very brutal violation of Georgia's sovereignty, territorial integrity of Georgia, and all the fundamental principles of international law. Therefore, of course, this is unacceptable for us.

Along with all this, this is also a violation of the law of occupation of Georgia, so we have, of

course, a very strict position regarding this issue. This is the undermining of relations between Georgia and Belarus, including diplomatic relations. Therefore, we cannot say, in this case, that relations between us and Belarus will continue and develop normally until we receive a clear and unambiguous explanation of what this so-called visit was for," said Nikoloz Samkharadze.

Afghan Mukhtarli demands dismissal of Vakhtang Gomelauri and appeals to Prime Minister and Parliament

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Azerbaijani journalist Afghan Mukhtarli submitted an appeal to the government administration and parliament asking for the resignation of Vakhtang Gomelauri.

The journalist is asking the Prime Minister to dismiss the Minister of Internal Affairs and appeals to the Parliament to force the head of government to dismiss Gomelauri.

According to Mukhtarli, Vakhtang Gomelauri has influence on the investigation of his abduction case.

Mukhtarli returned to Georgia after Soso Gogashvili, a former high-ranking official of the Security Service, issued a statement in which he said that Vakhtang Gomelauri carried out the plan to abduct Mukhtarli on

the orders of Bidzina Ivanishvili and destroyed the material showing it.

Afghan Mukhtarli wanted to get acquainted with the testimony of Soso Gogashvili as a victim, but he was not given the opportunity to do so.

"I appeal to the Prime Minister and the Parliament of Georgia to dismiss the Minister of Internal Affairs Vakhtang Gomelauri from his position. As you know, Soso Gogashvili testified and said that my kidnapping was organized by Gomelauri. He is now in office and is pressing for an investigation.

I wanted to get acquainted with Gogashvili's testimony. The prosecutor's office told us there was no problem, but when I went with the lawyer, they

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refused. I believe that this was an order from the government.

In a democratic state, such a minister must resign from his post, and if he does not, the prime minister lets him go. I expected that this would happen in Georgia, the government would at least remove it for the

show, but it didn't happen. By law, I have the right to see the materials of the investigation, but I am not allowed to do so. I think Gomelaury is preventing this," Mukhtarli told the media.

Former deputy head of State Security Service of Georgia, Soso Gogashvili stated that the kidnapping of Mukhtarli was the task of Bidzina Ivanishvili,

which was carried out by the State Security Service, and that "Otto deleted" the video materials. He also mentioned in one of his statements that the cameras showing Mukhtarli's abduction were deleted before Lagodekhi.

Azerbaijani journalist Afghan Mukhtarli was abducted from the center of Tbilisi on the evening of May 29, 2017, and

handed over to the Azerbaijani side through the Lagodekhi border checkpoint. In Azerbaijan, he was charged with illegal border crossing and smuggling. Afghan Mukhtarli said that he is a political prisoner and that the government of Azerbaijan was persecuting him as a journalist.

He also said that both the authorities of Azerbaijan and

Georgia were involved in the case of his abduction. Rallies in support of Afghan Mukhtarli were held at the Government Chancellery in Tbilisi. He was sentenced to 6 years in prison in Azerbaijan. After three years of imprisonment, the journalist was released on March 17, 2020, after which he went to Germany, where his family lived.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

'We are not worried about Georgia's reaction to Lukashenko's visit', Inal Ardzinba says



Abkhazia's de facto Minister of Foreign Affairs Inal Ardzinba responded to the statements of the Georgian side regarding the arrival of Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko in occupied Abkhazia.

"The Republic of Abkhazia is an independent state, a subject of international law and geopolitical reality. We consider Belarus an important partner of our foreign policy. They are our friends. Regarding this visit, the reaction of third countries, for example, Georgia, does not worry us", said Ardzinba.

Duma speaker mistakes 'Shame' movement's fake document for real one

According to the statement of the 'Shame' movement, the document, which the speaker of the Russian State Duma spoke about at the session held in the Duma, was created by an activist of

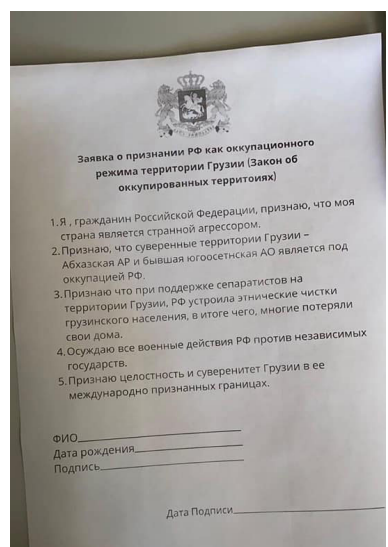
'Shame' and Volodin considered it to be a real document.

At the session of the State Duma, Volodin said that Russian citizens are required to recognize Russia as an occupation regime upon entering Georgia. Volodin stated that he had a document confirming the fact.

According to the 'Shame' movement, the mentioned 'document' was created by an activist of 'Shame' and sent in a telegram chat called "Zemo Larsi - Chat". The form was specially made with spelling mistakes and it was removed from the Russian chat within a few minutes, and the activist was blocked.

During the session of the Duma, Volodin said that those who sign this document "have already betrayed us".

"Here, Nikolay Kolomeitsev recently handed me a document



that those who cross the Russian-Georgian border are asked to sign - a statement on the recognition of Russia as an occupation regime on the territory of Georgia. If this is true and our citizens sign this document, it is quite obvious that this is a crime.

We must investigate this because according to the first paragraph, the signatory admits that his country is the aggressor. This is already a criminal responsibility," Volodin said.

Strengthening Civil Society in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) Countries



On September 29-30, 2022, the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) is organizing a two-day conference under the project - "Strengthening Civil Society in the Eastern Partnership" in Hualing Hotels and Preference Tbilisi. Representatives of around 60 regional and local CSOs and different donor organizations are participating in the event.

"Strengthening Civil Society in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) Countries" is a regional programme covering Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Armenia, who are committed to sustainable and inclusive local development. The program is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ.

The main purpose of the project is to contribute to sustainable and inclusive local development and aims at developing internal and external capaci-

ties of CSOs in EaP countries, promotion of experience exchange and learning among CSOs through organization of capacity building measures, networking, experience exchange events, funding and implementation of pilot measures.

Dr. Thomas Meyer, GIZ Programme director welcomed participants and highlighted the important role of Civil Society in inclusive and sustainable development of any country. He also presented different priority sectors where GIZ focuses its work (sustainable economic development, good local governance, environment and climate change) and underlined that in all above-mentioned areas Civil Society plays a decisive role and thus by strengthening Civil Society, GIZ also greatly contributes to overall development and improvement of those sectors in general.

Programme director and national coordinators presented the objectives and results, as well as

different activities envisaged by the programme and highlighted the regional learning and exchange aspect among EaP target countries.

PMCG Consulting presented the CSO capacity building Needs Assessment results. Which is the basis for the discussions and networking among participating CSOs.

"Our role, as the civil society organizations working in the regions is decisive in implementing local development initiatives. Thus, such events and exchange opportunities foster cooperation with other non-government organizations working at the local level in Georgia. At the same time, they enable sharing innovative approaches and solutions from the regional level exchange platforms which is of utmost importance for effective civic engagement in local self-government" - said Natia Apkhazava, representative of Civil Society Institute (CSI).

Weather

Friday, September 30

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 30°C

Night Clear
Low: 16°C

Saturday, October 1

Day Clear
High: 29°C

Night Clear
Low: 15°C

published by

The Messenger

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All contributions should be submitted by e-mail.

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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.

Tbilisi Center of Architecture, Design, and Creative Industries (TCADCI) held the presentation of the second edition of Domus Georgia Magazine. The presentation took place on September 28th, at Stamba Hall.

The main issue of the 2nd edition is Memory and Heritage and is dedicated to the intervention of Russia in Ukraine. The highlights of the edition is personal interview with Guest Editor of current year Pritzker Prize winner, French architect Jean Nouvel, stories of the 2022/60th Salon Del Mobile Milano, personal poetic memories of Abkhazia and it's heritage by NY based artist Lado Pochkhua and lot more.

During the event was the Georgian premiere of a documentary film "Budinok-

Memory and Urban Heritage

The Building" the story about the first Soviet/and European skyscraper in Kharkiv/ by Ukrainian film Director Tatjana Kononenko and Matilda Mester. Build between 1925-1928, it was intended to embody the idea of Communism. Although it was a poster child of the avant-garde movement, now it seems almost forgotten. Derzhprom acts as a kind of time machine. Space becomes time hear. It reflects on how past and present, movement and time are related to the static nature of architecture.

Tbilisi Center of Architecture, Design and Creative Industries- Independent professional organization with the aim of

opening new perspectives in architectural and urban thinking in Georgia, as well as increasing professional education in various fields of creative industries.

Domus Georgia is TCADCI's educational-media project that serves as a source of unique access of Western architectural professional information, knowledge and experience that Georgia lacks.

In 2021 Georgia joined the big family of International Domus (www.domusweb.it), an iconic magazine in the field of Architecture, Design and Art since 1928. Domus is not only an iconic magazine but it is a mixed platform of knowledge, initiatives, projects, workshops, seminars, residences,

festivals, forums, etc.

Georgia is the first and the only country in Post Soviet Countries and Eastern Europe publishing the local edition of Domus International.

Distinguished names of architecture and design have closely collaborated with Domus along the years. Among the others, Gio Ponti (founder and Editor in Chief for many years), Mario Bellini, Alessandro Mendini, Deyan Sudjic, Stefano Boeri, David Chipperfield, Rem Koolhaas, Winy Maas, Tadao Ando, Jean Nouvel, and many other leading architects and designers.

The event was attended by Ambassadors, representatives of Diplomatic Corps, various companies, architects, designers and artists.





