

## Nika Gvaramia found guilty by Tbilisi Court of Appeal



BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Tbilisi Court of Appeal found Nika Gvaramia under Article 220 of the Civil Code in two episodes:

In addition to the "car episode", the court also found Gvaramia guilty of the advertising revenue episode and sentenced him to prison. However, taking into account the principle of absorption of punishment, one of the equal punishments absorbed the other and he was sentenced to imprisonment for 3 years and 6 months.

In this part, the prosecutor's

office accused Gvaramia of causing 6,763,509 GEL of damage to "Rustavi-2" TV company. The city court imposed a fine of 50,000 GEL on Gvaramia, and the appellate court changed the type and size of the punishment and sentenced Gvaramia to 3 years and 6 months of imprisonment.

As for the II episode, the so-called 'Car Case', the appeal shared the decision of the city court, which is imprisonment for 3 years and 6 months.

The prosecutor's office accused Gvaramia of causing damage of 6,763,509 GEL to the TV com-

pany "Rustavi-2". In this case, the judge imposed a fine of 50,000 GEL on Gvaramia.

According to the prosecution, in February 2019, Gvaramia selected a new Porsche Macan S car worth 76,700 euros at the Porsche Center for his and his family's personal use in exchange for the cost of placing commercials.

The decision of the court was followed by the protest of the opposition politicians and other members of the society. After the session, Gedevan Popkhadze addressed them and noted that the Courtyard and Rustaveli should

become a place of protest.

Khatia Dekanoidze, one of the leaders of the "United National Movement", called on the President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, to pardon Nika Gvaramia and thus take a step towards the European integration of Georgia.

"Despite the fact that I know Nika's attitude towards this issue, I would like to openly call on the President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, to take responsibility for European integration, of course, in case of an appeal, and we will think about it... because this is an issue to

be discussed very seriously with our partners.

Take responsibility and release Nika Gvaramia, because this is not only about his political views, it is about the European future of Georgia, European integration," said Dekanoidze.

According to her, now it's time for the President to take responsibility, and "use the amnesty mechanism and take this step for the freedom of Nika Gvaramia, this is important for the European integration of Georgia, Nika Gvaramia's freedom, which is directly written in the resolution, it must be fulfilled".

## Public Defender to release detailed assessment of Nika Gvaramia's case

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Public Defender expressed 'extreme concern' regarding the verdict rendered by the Tbilisi Court of Appeal



against Nika Gvaramia as said in the statement made by the Public Defender.

As the ombudsman notes, the Office of the Public Defender has already applied to the Tbilisi Court of Appeal and demanded a verdict.

According to the statement, upon receiving the reasoned verdict, the public defender will additionally present a detailed assessment of the case to the public.

"We remind the public that back in 2019, the Public Defender, Regarding the so-called advertisement episode, applied to the Tbilisi City Court. According to the Public Defender's assessment, it was inadmissible to convict Nika Gvaramia for his managerial decision-making (the so-called advertisement episode), which could theoretically become the subject of a civil legal dispute, but not the basis for criminal prosecution against a person.

Unfortunately, the court of the first instance found Nika Gvaramia guilty and did not take into account the fundamental principles of separation of civil and criminal liability.

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# Public Defender to release detailed assessment of Nika Gvaramia's case

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The appellate court, instead of correctly evaluating the mentioned legal issues, made an even more severe decision and used imprisonment as a punishment for Nika Gvaramia for the action, which is civil in its content and the evidence of

which cannot be considered criminal in the criminal case.

In addition, the Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the first instance of the so-called regarding the conviction of Nika Gvaramia in the car episode. According to the public defender, the verdict of the first instance court was problematic in

this episode as well.

The Office of the Public Defender has already appealed to the Tbilisi Court of Appeal and demanded a verdict. Upon receiving the reasoned verdict, the public defender will additionally present a detailed assessment of the case to the public.

The Public Defender reminds the public that on June 8, 2022, he appealed to the President of Georgia and, taking into account the essential flaws in justice, he called on Nika Gvaramia to use the power of pardon in response to the violated rights," Public Defender's statement reads.

## The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

**Salome Samadashvili says ruling party can't avoid fulfilling EU recommendations**



by Georgia, and the evaluation will be very difficult.

"As for who they consider being oligarchs in the European Union and whose influence they are talking about, because you did not understand it until now, you consider one resolution of the European Parliament shameful.

one in this country is going to comply with any of the EU's demands.

Second, by deciding to pass the bill, and by creating some kind of registry, you are effectively announcing a hunt in this country for opponents you don't want. That's how we understand your position and that's how the European Union understands it too," Salome Samadashvili said.

**If president pardons Gvaramia, it will be insult to institution, Irakli Kobakhidze says**

Irakli Kobakhidze, chairman of the Georgian Dream party, said that if the president pardons Nika Gvaramia, it will be an insult to the institution of the president on the part of Salome Zourabichvili.

"You remember how Nika Gvaramia used to insult the



same Salome Zourabichvili, referring to her with such rude words. This was an insult not only to Salome Zourabichvili personally, but also to the President's Institute. If the president pardons Gvaramia

under such circumstances, it will be an insult to the institution of the President directly from the side of the president of Georgia, which I don't think is right," said Kobakhidze.

Salome Samadashvili, one of the leaders of Lelo, stated during the discussion of the law "On De-oligarchization" in the Parliament that the Georgian Dream can not avoid fulfilling recommendations imposed by the EU for candidacy status.

"Your regime will not be able to avoid the requirements set by the European Union in order for the country to be granted candidate status," Salome Samadashvili said.

According to her, the European Union will receive a number of documents regarding the fulfillment of the requirements

In the near future, the European Parliament will adopt another resolution. The EU will then receive a number of documents on what your government has done to meet EU requirements, and these assessments will be very tough.

Not because we don't want the country to get candidate status, but because just like a camel can't go through a needle's eye, your regime can't avoid the requirements set by the European Union in order to grant the country candidate status," said Salome Samadashvili.

According to Samadashvili, the Georgian Dream is refusing to carry out the reform recommended by the EU commission.

"The path chosen by "Georgian Dream" is to refuse to carry out real reforms. Leaving Nika Gvaramia in prison by an oligarch-run court is yet another resounding statement that no

## EU: 'Journalists are our eyes and ears reporting from conflict zones'

"Impunity for crimes against journalists must end," said a special statement by EU High Representative Josep Borrell and European Commission Vice-President Vera Jourova. The statement was issued on the occasion of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, which is celebrated on 2 November.

"Journalists are our eyes and ears reporting from conflict zones. They put their lives in danger to provide accounts of what is happening on the ground. Their accurate, impartial media reports serve a fundamental public interest: accounts, images and news from



atrocities committed by Russian troops in Putin's war of aggression against Ukraine". The EU officials say that their work is essential, as the Russian regime wages a global disinformation campaign.

Borrell and Jourova add that intentionally directing attacks against journalists, as civilians, constitutes a war crime.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, nobody has been held to account in 80% of journalists' murders during the last 10 years.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

the ground can have a decisive impact on the development and outcome of armed conflicts," says the statement.

Borrell and Jourova stress that several journalists and media workers have been killed or injured in Ukraine, "sometimes deliberately targeted, while documenting the truth about the

### Weather

Thursday, November 3

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 17°C

Night Partly Cloudy  
Low: 7°C

Friday, November 4

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 16°C

Night Partly Cloudy  
Low: 6°C

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