

Opposition parties appeal to President for pardoning of Nika Gvaramia

By Liza Mchedlidze

The opposition parties, signatories of the Charles Michel agreement, appeal to the president to pardon Nika Gvaramia, the founder of the "Mtavari Channel".

As Salome Samadashvili, Political Secretary of Lelo stated at the briefing held in the Parliament, a letter was prepared based on the spirit of the Michel agreement, with the request to use the power to issue a pardon in the name of the President.

"We believe that today, more than ever, it is important for the President of Georgia to use the authority granted by the constitution to pardon Nika Gvaramia in the case. With a corresponding message, we appeal to the president to use the right of pardon, opposition parties and members of parliament who are signatories of the Michel agreement.

The agreement, which defined depolarization in the country as its main task, and in which Mrs. President participated directly. We would like to apply in the spirit of this agreement and ask you to exercise your authority. We are also ready to meet in person and present our arguments as to why we consider this issue very important for this country today.

I also plan to communicate today with Michel's office in Brussels, to whom I will also present the argument why it is important today to find a solution to Nika Gvaramia, including through a pardon, so that our country's European future is not hindered and we do not receive another very big blow like that when Once we failed to get candidate status.



For this purpose, various opposition groups and politicians will sign the appropriate letter in the name of Mrs. President and we will let you know the content of the letter with signatures, as soon as the signatures are finally ready", said Salome Samadashvili.

In addition, Salome Samadashvili spoke about the draft law on de-oligarchization, which was adopted by the Parliament in the first reading. As the

deputy pointed out, this draft law will not only fail to fulfill the requirements of the European Union regarding de-oligarchization, but in the worst case, it may actually become a new tool of political persecution in the country.

"That's why we refrained from supporting the bill, although, as we said, "Georgian Dream" has enough votes. He took political responsibility for this draft law, he also takes political responsibility

for the consequences of the adoption of this draft law.

We believe that everything that is missing from fulfilling the requirements of the European Union to ensure our European future cannot be supported by us in this parliament, and among them is the bill on de-oligarchization, which was supported by the majority today," said Samadashvili.

Union Parliamentary Assembly of Belarus and Russia Delegation visits occupied Abkhazia

By Liza Mchedlidze



After the President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, the delegation of the Union Parliamentary Assembly of Belarus and Russia arrived in occupied Abkhazia. According to local Abkhazian media, the delegation was hosted by the de facto president, Aslan Bzhanian, and the chairman of the de facto parliament, Lasha Ashuba.

Aslan Bzhanian said that it is important to deepen their relations at all levels, be it executive, municipal or legislative. According to him, similar meetings will promote friendship between Abkhazian, Russian and Belarusian people.

Artyom Turov, the head of the commission on youth policy, sports and tourism in the Parliamentary Assembly, as well as the deputy chairman of the committee on relations with the CIS countries in the Russian Duma, said that they discussed issues that correspond to the interests

of Russia, Belarus and Abkhazia.

"It is necessary to actively deepen ties in the humanitarian, economic and political spheres, and I am sure that we will be able to respond to the challenges facing the societies of our countries. Our peoples have been close to each other for hundreds of years. We have common values, culture, and faith", said Turov.

Aslan Bzhanian also talked about how important it is to deepen the economic relations between occupied Abkhazia and Belarus and expressed hope that more steps will be taken in this regard.

The ruling party Georgian Dream responded to the visit of the Russian-Belarusian delegation to occupied Abkhazia. The chairman of "Georgian Dream", Irakli Kobakhidze, assessed the visit as "worrying", and said that "pragmatic steps must be taken."

"We have a very clear goal and task, which is to maintain a successful non-recognition policy. Therefore, any response will be carried out precisely in the context of this goal. The visit is worrying, but we need to take pragmatic steps to continue the successful policy of non-recognition," said Irakli Kobakhidze.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Political persecution puts Georgia's Euro-Atlantic future at risk, Kelly Degnan says



The US ambassador to Georgia, Kelly Degnan, responded to the appeal court's decision regarding the case of Nika Gvaramia and said that the impartiality of the judicial system is crucial for Georgia's Euro-Atlantic future.

"The importance of an impartial judicial system is a central part of Georgia's Euro-Atlantic future, and everything that even has the appearance of politicization, political persecution, puts this Euro-Atlantic fu-

ture at risk", Degnan said. "Everyone has seen the statements of the US Embassy and the European Union, as well as the statements of other European friends of Georgia. Everything that the US has been doing for

Georgia for the last 30 years is aimed at supporting the Georgian people's clear choice for a democratic future.

The importance of an impartial judiciary is central to this future, and anything that even looks like politicization, or political persecution, puts this Euro-Atlantic future at risk. The leaders of Georgia, including the ruling party, promised the Georgian people in the parliamentary elections that further important steps would be taken on Georgia's Euro-Atlantic path, everything that prevents this and puts it at risk is cause for concern," the US Ambassador to Georgia said.

Irakli Kobakhidze criticizes US Embassy for 'interference' in the independence of the court

According to Irakli Kobakhidze, Chairman of "Georgian Dream", the statement issued yesterday by the US Embassy regarding the appeal court's decision to imprison the general director of "Mtavari

Channel" Nika Gvaramia was a direct interference in the independence of the court.

As he told the journalists, Georgia's partners should be equally careful about the rule of law and the independence of the courts both in their own and in other countries.

"I have to evaluate such statements a little hard. In no case do we condone interfering with the independence of the court and influencing the court's decisions in any way. Yesterday I saw the statement of the US Embassy,

it was a direct interference in the independence of the judiciary, which is naturally very serious. I can't give it another assessment.

Our partners should be equally careful about the rule of law, and the independence of the judiciary both in their own country and in other countries, this is the only assessment I can make. We take a different approach to the independence of the court and the rule of law," said Kobakhidze.



Results of the first National Forest Inventory of Georgia presented thanks to German support



In 2013, Georgia initiated the reform of the forest sector by involving stakeholders from the government and private sector, as well as from academia and

the civil society. Under the umbrella of the so-called National Forest Programme, the National Forest Concept and the new Forest Code were developed, along with criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. However, one great uncertainty remained for a long time – what is the actual state of Georgia's forests?

To find clear answers, the German Government funded the design, the preparation, and the



implementation of Georgia's first statistically sound National Forest Inventory (NFI), technically supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

80 forest variables were assessed at more than 2,000 field clusters between 2019 and 2021 by specifically trained Georgian field teams. After months of deep analysis, the results were presented by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agri-

culture at an international hybrid conference, held in Tbilisi on 3rd and 4th of November 2022.

The results show that 44.7% of Georgia are covered by forests. With more than 130 tree and bush species recorded, Georgia's forests are still rather natural in terms of diversity, offering good habitat for many animal and plant species. Besides being ecologically valuable, diverse forests also offer good resilience against the impacts of

climate change. On the other hand, more than one third of the forests are degraded due to unsustainable management, pests, disease, and grazing by cattle and sheep. The situation is highly dramatic for the Box tree with more than ninety percent having died.

Based on the results of the NFI, Germany primarily through GIZ and KfW will continue to support its Georgian partners in the further roll-out of the forest sector reform.

The forest sector reform is primarily implemented through the ECO.Georgia project (2021-2028) co-funded by the Government of Georgia, the Green Climate Fund, the German Government, and the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC).

Weather

Friday, November 4

Day Partly Cloudy High: 14°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: 6°C

Saturday, November 5

Day Partly Cloudy High: 17°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: 7°C

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On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of re-establishing diplomatic relations between Austria and Georgia the Embassy of Austria organized a classical music concert at the Recital Hall of the Tbilisi State Conservatoire. Talented Austrian violinist, Mr. Johannes Fleischmann and prize-winner pianist Ms. Mari Sato played the works of Schubert, Azarashvili, Kreisler, Schönberg and Brahms.



Ambassador of Austria to Georgia, H.E. Thomas Mühlmann











