

Center 'Empathy' publishes conclusion on Mikheil Saakashvili's health condition, lawyers demand transfer abroad

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Center 'Empathy' has published the conclusion of the study regarding the health condition of ex-president Mikheil Saakashvili. Based on the statement, Saakashvili has more than 20 diagnoses or symptoms - about 10 of them make imprisonment incompatible.

According to the conclusion, Mikheil Saakashvili's current state of health is assessed as serious and incompatible with imprisonment - separate diagnoses, both separately and together, will lead to irreversible damage to Saakashvili's health, resulting in shortening of life expectancy and even death, if he is not given the opportunity to receive adequate diagnosis and treatment.

According to the statement, Mikheil Saakashvili currently has symptoms and diagnoses in terms of neuro-psychic, gastroenterological, locomotor system and vision. According to their reports, Saakashvili has a fever of unknown etiology, anorexia, rapid weight loss, pain in muscles, joints, and muscle spasms, "which may be the results of an unknown infectious



process and/or possible intoxication."

The lawyer of ex-president Mikheil Saakashvili, Shalva Khachapuridze, appealed to the court to fully release Saakashvili from his sentence or postpone it.

"In the case, we have presented other evidence with which we will prove to the court that adequate treatment cannot and will not be provided to Saakashvili in Georgia.

Accordingly, we submit a

motion for full release from his sentence, and as an alternative, a postponement of the imposed sentence.

The other side will have almost no argument - you will see it in court proceedings. This will

be a truly historic case, it will make a big change in Georgian justice and, in general, in the case of protecting the human rights of prisoners," says the lawyer.

'Exports to Georgia have almost doubled, we are sure that some of them go to Russia' Czech Ambassador Petr Mikyska says, Irakli Kobakhidze responds

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On November 30, at an event organized by the non-governmental organization 'Free Russia' and the Embassy of Lithuania, the opposition politician Gigi Ugulava asked if "in the light of the fact that the Georgian government has betrayed its partners [by refusing to join the sanctions or taking into account other issues], whether the population of Georgia should expect any type of rejection Regarding the results." Ambassador Petr Mikyska stated:

"Since the beginning of this year, the export of Czech products [from the Czech Republic] to Georgia has increased by 80%, compared to last year. almost doubled. Last year, despite the impact of the pandemic, we already had a record number," he said, adding that "we are quite sure that part of exported products is going to Russia."

However, the idea that the increased amount of the product goes north is still unconfirmed and, according to Ambassador



Mikyska, there is not enough statistical data to confirm it.

As Netgazeti wrote, the Czech ambassador said at the meeting that "this will be one of the criteria when we evaluate Georgia's readiness for candidate status, not just 12 recommendations."

Chairman of the Georgian Dream, Irakli Kobakhidze, responded to the mentioned statement of the Czech ambassador, Petr Mikyska. He said that if "the ambassador really said such a thing," it would be followed by a diplomatic response.

"I don't know, it's the first time I hear this statement, but if this statement was made, it's really unbelievable. We've heard such statements from the Ukrainian authorities in the past, and then when we responded they had to deny it themselves. If this statement was made, we're going to respond. We will have the same reaction if this statement was made. Diplomatic, of course, what more should we do, a diplomatic response to the ambassador," said Kobakhidze.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

'If it was poisoning, there are traces of a foreign state that considers my son an enemy' Mikheil Saakashvili's mother says



Mikheil Saakashvili's mother, Giuli Alasania, said that her son does not accuse Georgians or the Georgian govern-

ment of poisoning. At the same time, he notes that if there was a similar poisoning, there are traces of a hostile state.

Giuli Alasania made a statement in front of 'Vivamed Clinic', where Saakashvili is undergoing medical treatment.

"My son does not blame the Georgians

foreign state that considers my son an enemy. These tests were done in America by the best laboratory, in California, which is considered the number one laboratory. The test was also done the best by toxicologists. They are very careful about their reputation. In any case, this is a provocation against the Georgian state," Alasania said.

In addition, she urges not to use ex-president Saakashvili's situation for political speculation and to exercise restraint.

Center Empathy is connected with UNM, credibility is zero, Irakli Kobakhidze says

Chairman of Georgian Dream, Irakli Kobakhidze, responded to the medical

report prepared by the Empathy center about Mikheil Saakashvili, and said that the organization is "connected with The United National Movement" party, and according to him, therefore the center's "credibility is zero":

"Firstly, as for the 'Empathy' Center itself, it is directly related to The National Movement, which its leader never hid. Therefore, the credibility is zero, this organization is biased as usual. Secondly, it should be mentioned what is such an illness that leads to the release of the prisoner, which other prisoners do not have. As for the list itself, any prisoner or non-prisoner can have such a list. That is, certain types of illnesses are experienced by practically everyone. Therefore, such a list does not mean anything by itself," said Kobakhidze.



Vocational education opens a pathway to success for people living in rural areas

Switzerland and UNDP announce a new phase of the project to support Vocational Education and Training in Georgia

TBILISI. 1 December 2022 – Youth education, public-private partnerships, rural economy skills and modern technologies in Vocational Education and Training (VET) are the focus of a new project launched today by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The three-year initiative draws on US\$4.4 million in Swiss funding and will

be implemented in close partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.

Giorgi Khanishvili, First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture; **Valerian Gobronidze**, Deputy Minister of Education and Science; **Tamar Kitiashvili**, Director General of Georgia's Skills Agency; **Dr. Danielle Meuwly**, Regional Director of the Swiss Cooperation Office for the South Caucasus, Embassy of Switzerland in Georgia; and **Nick Beresford**, UNDP Resident Representative in Georgia, attended the project launch event.

"The VET modernization project plays a key role in the current Swiss Cooperation Program 2022-2025. Skills development and rural employment are also high among Georgia's Government priorities. Therefore, we are confident that with our continued cooperation with the national entities, with UNDP, and with the private sector, the project will achieve success and will make a significant contribution to Georgia's development," said **Dr. Danielle Meuwly**, Regional Director of the Swiss Cooperation Office for the South Caucasus, Embassy of Switzerland in Georgia.

"Our joint work with Switzer-

land, Georgia's Government and the private sector provides people living in rural areas with better access to vocational education and training. We are helping to create an environment where quality learning is available for all and job seekers, particularly the youth, can realize their true potential," said **Nick Beresford**, UNDP Resident Representative in Georgia.

The new SDC and UNDP project builds on the achievements of the previous initiative carried out in 2018-2022 to support reforms in Georgia's vocational education and training in agriculture. The results of this five-year work include training

and professional education opportunities for 21,000 small farmers across Georgia, 140 innovative local projects in climate-smart agriculture, and 48 active partnership projects between educational institutions and private companies seeking a qualified workforce.

Besides, SDC and UNDP helped establish a network of qualified extension officers and agriculture advisors in four regions (Guria, Racha-Lechkhumi, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, and Samtskhe-Javakheti), and supported the first Sectorial Skills Organization "Agroduo" to enhance the partnership between the private and educational sectors.

Weather

Friday, December 2

Day Overcast
High: 5°C

Night Showers
Low: 3°C

Saturday, December 3

Day Light Rain
High: 4°C

Night Light Rain
Low: 3°C

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