

PM Gharibashvili says his statement about Georgian fighters killed in Ukraine was misinterpreted

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili explained his statement regarding Georgian fighters in Ukraine that 'war parties' are urging Georgians to go to war in Ukraine. According to the Prime Minister, his statement was misinterpreted and he respects all people 'in uniform'.

According to the Prime Minister, some of the Georgian fighters are fighting in Ukraine "with their idealistic attitude", but there is also a category that was sent away by the 'United National Movement'.

"I want to say that what I said was misunderstood and it is your fault that you misinterpreted it. As if I called all the people who are fighting in Ukraine today 'members' of the 'National Movement'. This is a big lie, you all have been spreading it.

I have said the following and now I will repeat it so that it is completely clear:

We all know very well, specific surnames have been named by various media outlets, that there are people with specific surnames and names, who are directly connected to the UNM and Saakashvili.

There are people, ex-military, policemen, ordinary citizens, who went to war with their beliefs, their spirit, their idealistic attitude, this is their decision.



Of course, I did not say that all these people were taken by the United National Movement and the 'War Party'.

I have said the following and I will say it again that it must be separated. There is a category - a few people, maybe a dozen, who are, yes, Saakashvili's war

party, the party that lost our territories and handed them over to the Russian occupier and handed over strategic objects after the war, taken and organized by them, there is evidence of this," he said.

According to Irakli Gharibashvili the government is

doing everything to bury the dead fighters in Ukraine with dignity.

"The state is doing everything it can to give these people a dignified rest, and then all these people will be buried with military honors.

In general, I want to ask ev-

eryone, including the most radical, degraded, immoral opposition, that speculating on issues related to the death of a person, especially the death of a person in trial, war, is immoral immorality and hypocrisy," Gharibashvili said.

Public Defender's Office: Article 18 of the European Convention violated in Nika Gvaramia's case

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE



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The Public Defender of Georgia has completed the study of the appeal verdict of Nika Gvaramia, the founder of 'Mtavari Channel'. According to the document, the Public Defender believes that Article 18 of the European Convention on Human Rights (restriction of human rights based on non-conventional/political motives) is violated in the criminal case of Nika Gvaramia.

As stated in the conclusion, this assessment was based not only on the study of court decisions and case materials, but also on the public statements of government officials addressed to Nika Gvaramia (before and after imprisonment), as well as the analysis of the media environment in the country.

According to the Public Defender's assessment, the appeal verdict against Nika Gvaramia is not substantiated, it is a case of imposing criminal liability for corporate actions, and the political motive in the case outweighs the interest of justice.

As stated in the conclusion, regarding the so-called 'episode of advertisements', the Public Defender of Georgia, applied to the Tbilisi City Court in 2019, in which they noted that a business decision similar to Nika Gvaramia's accusation cannot lead to not only criminal, but also corporate liability.

Due to the essential shortcomings of justice, the Public Defender applied to the President of Georgia for the purpose of using the power of pardon.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

PM Gharibashvili says he does not take responsibility for Saakashvili's life



Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili to the journalist's question whether he accepts responsibility as the Prime Minister for Saakashvili's life, answered that he can not take responsibility for the life of any person.

"Our lives are entrusted to God, I cannot really be responsible for the life of any person... Our lives and destiny are en-

trusted to God. So, we can all do the right thing," he said.

"I have heard a lot that Mr. Saakashvili is depressed and does not like the environment. Which prisoner likes

the prison environment?

I am not a doctor, Mr. Rati Bregadze came out and made a public offer to bring any doctor from any country, any clinic and treat him on the spot. They do not want to be treated in Georgia, their only goal is to release Saakashvili," said the Prime Minister.

Papuashvili calls on Saakashvili's friends to not 'interfere' in court's activities



Speaker of the Parliament Shalva Papuashvili called on the third president of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili's friends "both inside and outside the country not to interfere in the court's activities"

According to Papuashvili, he hopes that at least in this case everyone will refrain from "unnecessary statements and pressure" on the court.

"First of all, Georgia is a legal state and decisions are made through legal procedures. The court makes a decision and everyone must respect the decision.

I once again call on Saakashvili's friends both inside and outside the country not to interfere in the court's activities.

This is the minimum elementary principle of the legal state. We have seen attempts to intervene before, and I hope that in this case they will refrain from making unnecessary statements and putting pressure on the court," said Shalva Papuashvili.

According to Shalva Papuashvili, the announcement of rallies demanding the transfer of Mikheil Saakashvili abroad for medical treatment means that the "United National Movement" is completely missing the interest of the Georgian people.

Embassy Tulip 2022 award for a Georgian grassroots human rights activist handed out by Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands on 6 December

On 6 December 2022, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Georgia, H.E. Maaïke van Koldam, presented the Embassy Tulip award to Elnur Alisoy for his outstanding work promoting human rights.

Support for human rights defenders is one of the human rights priorities of the Netherlands. The Embassy Tulip is an annual award of the Dutch Embassy for outstanding and courageous human rights activists. Through the award, the Netherlands supports human rights



Weather

Thursday, December 8
Day Partly Cloudy High: 5°C
Night Mostly Cloudy Low: 1°C
Friday, December 9
Day Cloudy High: 5°C
Night Mostly Cloudy Low: 0°C

activists to continue their work and to share their story.

Elnur Alisoy is a prominent example of a courageous grassroots activist. He founded "Solidarity Museum" in Kvemo Kartli and promotes civic activ-

ism among young people of the region. His work includes environment/green activism, protection of cultural heritage, social services, and education of the local youth.

The award also includes a

monetary contribution for a project to support the winner for his outstanding work in promoting human rights.

This year, the Embassy Tulip award ceremony took place during Human Rights Week.

This is a Dutch initiative led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, taking place from 5 to 10 December, meant to enhance awareness about human rights among children and young people.

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The Member of the German Bundestag, Mr. Christian Haase, MdB, and the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, H.E. Mr. Ernst Peter Fischer, held a reception on the occasion of this year's selection trip for the International Parliamentary Scholarship (IPS) on December 6.



