

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Ukraine's Chargé d'affaires, Andrey Kasyanov, told 'European Pravda' that The Embassy of Ukraine in Georgia does not rule out the possibility of evacuating Ukrainian citizens in case of a 'danger' caused by the possible resumption of direct air traffic between Georgia and Russia and the mass influx of Russian citizens to Georgia.

"In the case of the restoration of direct air communication and the increase of real security risks, I would like to say that today the embassy does not rule out contacting international organizations, our international partners, in order to discuss the possibility of assistance in the mass evacuation of Ukrainian citizens from the territory of Georgia," Kasyanov said.

According to him, due to the 'anomalous influx of Russians', in the background of the significant increase in the danger of being in Georgia, the embassy supports the return of Ukrainian citizens to Ukraine in every possible way. Kasyanov emphasized that this will only happen if there is a real threat to the life and safety of Ukrainian citizens.

Kasyanov said that the Ukrainian side would not 'sit silently' and will do everything in their power to ensure the protection and safety of their citizens, which according to him, is their main priority.

"Now we are considering the possibility of arranging special evacuation routes for the most vulnerable segments of the population of Ukraine, who really have no way to return. At the same time, we consider land

Ukraine to evacuate its citizens from Georgia in case of 'security risks'



transport to be the most optimal," said Kasyanov.

Andrey Kasyanov also discussed the Georgian government's political path to Europe and criticized the ruling party for declaring that they are moving towards the European Union but, in reality, according

to him they are moving in a different direction.

"Georgia, as you know, has applied for EU candidate status. Currently, Georgia is officially confirming its principled position on joining the European Union and NATO, which is provided for in the Constitution of Georgia.

Euro-Atlantic aspirations are supported by the majority of the population of Georgia, which is not denied by the current government of Georgia, but what we have in reality is that the country, which continues to consistently move towards the European Union and NATO in the

statements of its politicians, has started to move in a different direction," Kasyanov said.

According to him, it is obvious that the government of Georgia ignores the general principles of foreign and security policy and the fact of violation of the third package of EU sanctions.



Irakli Kobakhidze responds to Kasyanov's statement on possible evacuation of Ukrainian citizens

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Chairman of Georgian Dream party Irakli Kobakhidze responded to the interview of Ukraine's Chargé d'affaires Andrey Kasyanov, who said that in case of resumption of direct air traffic between Georgia and Russia, Ukraine's government does not rule out the possibility of evacuation of their citizens from Georgia for security reasons.

Irakli Kobakhidze called Andrey Kasyanov's statement a 'shameful speculation', adding that an 'irrelevant' statement coming from Kasyanov is 'not the first time'. He said that there is nothing the Georgian government can do if Russia decides to resume direct flights, as the Russian government was the one who banned flights in the first place, not Georgia.

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6499; Euro - 2.8789; GBP - 3.2641; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.8463; Swiss Franc - 2.8710

Irakli Kobakhidze responds to Kasyanov's statement on possible evacuation of Ukrainian citizens

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Irakli Kobakhidze argued that Andrey Kasyanov would

need to evacuate Ukrainians from Georgia if Georgia sent Buk missile systems to Ukraine, which according to Kobakhidze

would have been a 'direct involvement' of Georgia in the military conflict.

"We are used to such irrelevant statements from Kasyanov. This is a sad event. I can say that in that case Kasyanov would probably need to evacuate Ukrainians from Georgia, if we would send BUKs to Ukraine. This would be Georgia's direct involvement in the military conflict. That's right, Kasyanov called us to join the war, and in this case we would need to evacuate not only Ukrainians, but also Georgians from Georgia. We heard

Kasyanov's statements regarding the second front, which were very heavy, and this is a continuation of this rhetoric.

Everyone knows that the resumption of flights has nothing to do with the influx of Russians into Georgia. We have already run three speculative campaigns in this regard - one was in March, the second was during the summer season and the third was after the announcement of mobilization, and we proved that all three were empty speculations. No risks were created for the security of our country, including the security of

Ukrainians living in Georgia. It was all empty speculation, shameful speculation. Kasyanov's statement today is a shameful speculative statement.

Flights have been unilaterally stopped by Russia, it was a sanction imposed by them, and if this sanction is canceled by the Russian Federation, it is their decision and we cannot make any decision about it. The only thing I can say once again is, of course, such a decision will be a benefit for up to a million Georgians living in the Russian Federation," said Kobakhidze.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia says there are no negotiations with Sochi Port Administration

საქართველოს სავაჭრო ტრანსპორტის აგენციის განცხადება



MARITIME TRANSPORT AGENCY OF GEORGIA

The Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia responded to the statement of the Sochi Port Administration, according to which they are 'negotiating' with Georgia and occupied Abkhazia to start traffic to the ports.

According to the Maritime Transport Agency, the Russian side did not address them and it is unclear what the Sochi Port Administration is talking about.

"Regarding the information spread in the media, which concerns the start of sea passenger traffic between Georgia and the Russian Federation, we announce that

Georgia does not have sea passenger traffic with Russian seaports.

In addition, the Russian side did not address the Georgian side, and therefore, we do not know what negotiation the Sochi port administration is talking

about," the statement reads.

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe expresses support for Georgia on its EU candidacy path

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Marija Pejcinovic Buric, at the session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe said that Georgia still has several recommendations to

fulfill and hopes that it will soon become a candidate country of the European Union.

According to her, the number of candidate states of the European Union is

expanding, including countries located in other parts of Europe. So I think we have standards, ways and means through which we can be very helpful and useful," Marija Pejcinovic Buric said.



Anna Datiashvili: 'The ice of gender stereotypes is beginning to melt'

Anna Datiashvili, 23, is head of the 'Youth for Zestafoni' group in the small village of Zestafoni in Georgia. Together with friends, she founded the youth group to promote gender equality and address the needs of young women and men in her community. Anna is one of the 226 young girls and boys who participated in the UN Women and UNFPA-led 'Youth for Social Change' initiative, aimed at promoting gender equality and eliminating gender stereotypes

in Georgia as part of the EU-funded 'EU 4 Gender Equality: Together against gender stereotypes and gender-based violence' programme.

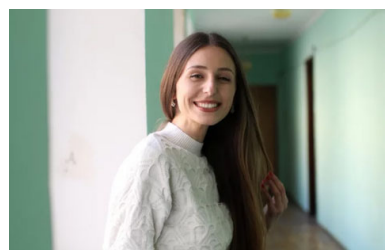
"I am the Chair of the initiative group, which is a very big responsibility. Leadership is not easy. You must give everyone some knowledge, motivation, manage processes and be involved in all events - and that is my call. At this stage, we are mainly focused on educational projects, because what young people need the most is education.

I believe that our activism will help to attract and keep people from leaving the region, will create a lot of jobs and interesting projects, and will involve youth. If you support young people with information, teach them how to solve problems diplomatically, without violence, and motivate them, you will get good results. Youth is power.

Young people would create families, get employed in serious

positions, and raise children very soon. It is important to create an environment free of stereotypes for them. It will help to eliminate violence, discrimination, and disrespect in their families and workplaces.

We have one important goal - the elimination of gender in-



equality. This is our starting point. Education, raising awareness and creating new opportunities will increase the nation's progress towards gender (and general) equality.

We have just started our work, but we have already done a lot of things. Through advocacy, and with the support of the City Hall

of Zestafoni Municipality, we found a space where we hold movie screenings with follow-up discussions, workshops and training on gender equality. As of now, around 30 students attend the Sunday School every week. The ice of gender stereotypes is beginning to melt after every meeting.

Anna chose innovative ways to promote gender equality, like her painting on the wall of one of Zestafoni's nursery schools, which aims to break existing gender stereotypes about professions with the tagline: "My profession is my choice: Break gender stereotypes". Photo: Dina Oganova/UNFPA Georgia.

Harmful gender stereotypes persist in Zestafoni. We should work with the root causes of these stereotypes. That is why education is important. That is why I decided to equip myself with a legitimate tool to make changes in the education system, and I enrolled in a programme on higher education leadership and

management at a state university. I think I will be able to make a lot of positive changes.

The main challenge for us is the widespread misunderstanding of gender equality and gender in general. That's why we try to provide information to young people in a way that they can better understand. For example, we held the theatre forum "Early marriage", where we showed the importance of gender equality.

I would recommend to young people in my community never to be afraid to face new challenges. Every experience is one step taken to success in your future work because you are developing the skills."

The 'Youth for Social Change' initiative was conducted within the "EU 4 Gender Equality: Together against gender stereotypes and gender-based violence" programme, which is funded by the European Union and jointly implemented by UN Women and UNFPA.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Wednesday, January 25

Day ☀️ Clear High: 6°C

Night 🌙 Clear Low: -4°C

Thursday, January 26

Day ☀️ Clear High: 6°C

Night 🌙 Clear Low: -4°C

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