

Mikheil Saakashvili's Request for Release or Postponement of Sentence Denied, Judge Rules

By Liza Mchedlidze

Tbilisi City Court judge Giorgi Arevadze did not satisfy the request for the postponement of the sentence or release of Mikheil Saakashvili. Lawyer Shalva Khachapuridze is planning to appeal to Strasbourg in the near future.

"I would like to remind you of the resolution part of the decision: the petition of Shalva Khachapuridze, the lawyer defending the interests of the convicted Mikheil Saakashvili, regarding the postponement of the sentence or exemption from the sentence due to the illness of Mikheil Saakashvili, should not be granted. The decision can be appealed within 10 days after the transfer in the Criminal Chamber of the Court of Appeal", Giorgi Arevadze said.

The court proceedings on this case were ongoing for 2 months.

The Penitentiary Service tried to prove that the evidence of the defense side does not provide reliable information regarding the severity of the illness of the convict Mikheil Saakashvili and it cannot be used as a basis for the postponement of the sentence.

Abramishvili claimed at the trial that providing adequate medical services for all the diagnoses made to Saakashvili is perfectly possible under the conditions of his stay in the penitentiary system.



During the closing speech, the representative of the Special Penitentiary Service, Gela

Nikolaishvili, said that "no one is being tortured, no one is being poisoned, no one is being

killed and will not be killed." Lawyer Shalva Khachapuridze responded to the

Court's decision and claimed that judge Giorgi Arevadze is 'biased' and did not expect any other decision.

As he mentioned while talking to reporters after the decision was announced, the case will be sent to the European Court of Human Rights in the coming days.

"Of course, we were waiting for this decision. I could not even imagine that the pocket court would make a different decision. Unfortunately, in Georgia, a judicial system has been formed that serves this or that political ruling power. Tomorrow another power will come, they will serve them. This decision has nothing to do with justice. Moreover, the conclusion of Samkharauli was dictated by the judge.

We were refused to interrogate the Minister of Justice, the head of the medical department of the penitentiary, who was on the list for questioning, sat in the hall and gave the questions to someone else, and in the end he was also refused to be questioned. In the recent proceedings, it was clear that the judge was biased and protected the rights of the penitentiary service, but his decision will be put to a serious test in just a few days. Since the law is dead in Georgia, naturally we will turn to the European Court of Human Rights," said Khachapuridze.

Mikheil Saakashvili Responds to Court's Decision, Calls it 'Death Sentence'

By Liza Mchedlidze

Mikheil Saakashvili responded to the court's decision denying him of postponement or release of the sentence with a letter from the "Vivamed" clinic, saying that he has received a 'death sentence' and will remain in prison with the fatal diseases and that no one in the world except Russia recognizes the court's decision.

"As expected, the Russian ambassadors at first delayed my process in the hope that I would not make it to the end, but now such a storm has arisen from all over the world that they hastened it. Not any serious cabinet in the world and not any serious media doubts anymore that

they are killing me on Putin's orders, and now they have decided that the game is pointless, they can no longer deceive the West, and on the contrary, they are under enormous pressure. They decided to please Putin directly and without any hiding," Saakashvili said.

According to him, the court believed the experts of the government, who did not even bother to see him, and not the international Nobel experts.

"The Georgian court hearing turned out to be an absolute joke. On the other hand, our evidence was based on thorough research conducted by leading doctors in the United States of America,

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Mikheil Saakashvili 14m · 🌐

🇯🇵 Today, the Georgian "court" practically gave me a death sentence.

After almost all doctors, including several world lights, unanimously concluded that if I stay in Georgian prison, I will definitely die.

My dear fellow citizens, I miss you very much and I am absolutely sure of our victory. I have been fighting this empire for several decades, and not only in Georgia, but also in Ukraine, starting with the Granite Revolution, the Two Maidans and my work in Odessa during a very critical period for it.

I am very proud to be an active advisor to President Zelensky, whom I consider to be one of the greatest leaders in human history. Not just a great politician but to me and many he has shown a very big heart.

I am very grateful to Andrew Ermak and the whole office for creating a great international coalition for my liberation.

Of course, I'm Putin's personal prisoner. Over the past few weeks, Lavrov has been very praising the Georgian government in his interviews and swearing at me and, of course, Ukraine.

Friends recognize each other in trouble and I in the fight for freedom and life have discovered true friends from Minister Kuleba to Dmitry Lyubinet, a lot of Ukrainian journalists and observers, ordinary people.

I am Putin's personal prisoner. By his order, I was poisoned, tortured and continue to be mocked. But the end of Putin and the empire is as close as ever. We gotta hold on my darlings!

I love Ukraine so much... Kyiv is my city. Odesa is also my city that I miss a lot. In case, my heart belongs to Ukraine and we will definitely defeat this enemy and be the best country in Europe - as I always dreamed!

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6424; Euro - 2.8432; GBP - 3.1778; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.7348; Swiss Franc - 2.8520

Mikheil Saakashvili Responds to Court's Decision, Calls it 'Death Sentence'

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the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Georgia. Almost all of

them visited me, some of them several times. The government experts didn't even bother to see me at least once, but the court

believed them, not the international team, which included a Nobel laureate, who said that if I stay in prison, I will die.

Therefore, now I have, in fact, received a death sentence and will remain in prison with all the lethal diseases, by a court decision that no one in the world, except Russia, recognizes. It is no coincidence that Lavrov has

praised the Georgian government several times over the past week and also attacked me. Putin promised that he would "hang me with eggs", and it seems that he is doing it through his puppet Russian oligarch Ivanishvili," said Saakashvili.

The former president of Georgia thanked everyone who supported him and said that now is

not the time to be 'heartbroken' but to be 'angry'.

"Thank you very much to everyone who came to the rallies these months, who came to the court, who spent ten nights at the hospital. Now is not the time to be heartbroken, but to be angry. We are winning this war and it will definitely help Georgia as well," Saakashvili wrote.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

EU Calls on Georgia to Join Sanctions Imposed on Russia in Aviation sector, Peter Stano Says



Peter Stano, the spokesperson of the European Commission's External Action Service called on the Georgian government to join the sanctions imposed on Russia in the aviation sector.

When asked about the possible resumption of direct air traffic between Georgia and Russia, Stano replied that "Georgia must be vigilant so that Russia cannot evade the sanctions imposed on it."

"We are aware of recent discussions regarding the possible resumption of direct flights between Russia and Georgia. Due to Russia's illegal aggression against Ukraine, the European Union has imposed sanctions on Russian aviation and banned flights to, from, or through Russia.

The European Union calls on Georgia to join the sanctions imposed by the European Union and other countries against Russia in the aviation sector and to remain vigilant against any possible attempts to circumvent the sanctions. The EU sanctions re-

gime is considering imposing sanctions on those who participate in or support the possible circumvention of EU sanctions against Russia," Stano said.

Rada Recommends the Adoption of Resolution on Transfer of Saakashvili for Treatment

The Committee on Foreign Policy and Interparliamentary Cooperation of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine discussed the draft resolution regarding the sending of the imprisoned third president of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili, for medical treatment abroad.

The draft resolution on the transfer of Mikheil Saakashvili abroad for treatment was regis-

tered in the Ukrainian Rada on February 3. The initiator of the project is the chairman of the People's Servant party, Olena Shuliak.

According to the resolution, the deputies of the Rada of Ukraine address Georgia, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, the European Commission, PACE and the parliaments of the EU member states.

Based on the results of the consideration of the draft law, the committee decided to make

Рада закликала перевести Саакашвілі із Грузії на лікування за кордон

Сьогодні 17:36

Цей матеріал можна прочитати і російською мовою



Грузинська сторона має створити умови для переведення Саакашвілі до однієї з європейських чи американських клінік для подальшого лікування, зазначають у проекті постанови Ради. Фото: rada.gov.ua

Верховна Рада України на засіданні 6 лютого ухвалила проект постанови № 8417 про звернення парламенту до Грузії, Європарламенту, Ради Європейського союзу, Єврокомісії, ПАРС та парламентів держав - членів ЄС щодо необхідності негайного переведення третього президента Грузії (2004-2013), громадянина України Михайла Саакашвілі на лікування за кордон.

a recommendation to the draft resolution that the Rada include the mentioned resolution in the agenda of the session and adopt it taking into account the technical and legal changes.

Opinion & Analysis

The Pro-Western Opposition: Between Crisis and Effort

BY MALKHAZ MATSABERIDZE

The opposition part of the political spectrum in Georgia, which acts as a defender of the western direction of the country, is in a difficult situation. There is a deep internal conflict in the main opposition party, the National Movement, and it is doubtful that it will maintain its integrity. Three small opposition parties have announced to hold the first large-scale rally on February 24, although others do not join it and remain skeptical.

The opposition political parties in Georgia move in different orbits in terms of distancing themselves from the government and, accordingly, the degree of their opposition is also different. The closest to the Georgian Dream are 9 MPs separated from the party, who created a new force

People's Power.

These MPs formally separated from the GD in order to have more freedom in criticizing the West. But these MPs together with the Georgian Dream are in the majority.

Before the 2021 local self-government elections, Georgian Dream was challenged by the team of retired Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia's party For Georgia, which at that time supported a certain part of the Dream electorate. At that time, Giorgi Gakharia could not say anything against Bidzina Ivanishvili, which made the commentators think that Ivanishvili, who had gone into the shadows from active politics, was creating a backup political force.

After the elections, Gakharia's activity decreased sharply, but recently he appeared and actively criticized Bidzina Ivanishvili. Gakharia's party, unlike People's Power, cannot stand the Georgian Dream in power. However, it is difficult to say in what orbit Gakharia's party will move and what rating it will have for the

upcoming elections.

After the parliamentary elections of 2020, when no opposition members entered the parliament, it was difficult for the Georgian Dream which was left alone and, apparently, due to their efforts, a new party under the name of European Socialists, which had not participated in the elections, appeared in the parliament. It included sponsors of the pro-Russian Alliance of Patriots participating in the elections, who were included in the electoral list of this party. This party, as well as several other small opposition parties, are officially in the government orbit and represent the 'constructive opposition'.

The main opponent of the Georgian Dream after the 2012 elections is the United National Movement, which, according to the representatives of the government, represents a 'destructive opposition' and scares voters with the prospect of this force's return to power.

The UNM is the main opposition force and is the only opposition force that manages to

overcome the 5% electoral threshold. Today the party is in a difficult situation. Mikheil Saakashvili, who is considered the leader of this party, has been in prison for more than a year and is seriously ill. Within the party itself, there is a struggle for leadership.

In itself, the holding of party chairman elections is a manifestation of intra-party democracy, which is so rare in Georgia. This would only be an indication of competitiveness and democracy if it were not for the nature of the confrontation between the candidates, during which compromising materials and insults were used.

After such an election campaign, it is doubtful that the said party will maintain its unity. Some suggest splitting the party into two parts, others - into three. At least with this, the main opposition party will be able to overcome its internal problems.

A simple explanation was also found for the intra-party conflict in the United National Movement. Today's leader, Nika

Melia, is relatively new to the party, and no one can relate him to the problems of the United National Movement administration. Nika Melia is associated with bringing new faces to the mentioned party and trying to renew it. His main rival was Levan Khabeishvili, who won the elections. Behind him are famous faces of the old UNM, including former Prime Minister Vano Merabishvili and Former Defense Minister Davit Kezerashvili.

Meanwhile, three small political parties (Droa, Girchi - More Freedom and Strategy Agmashenebeli) announced the pro-Ukraine rally on February 24 and stated that this is the beginning of a new national liberation movement. Both the government and the opposition were critical of the planned rally. The small number of people gathered will become an excuse for mocking its organizers, but a large-scale rally will not be welcomed by authorities either.

The fact is that rallies do not affect the government to a large extent.

Weather

Tuesday, February 7

Day Light Snow
High: 4°C

Night Cloudy
Low: 1°C

Wednesday, February 8

Day Cloudy
High: 4°C

Night Cloudy
Low: 0°C

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43, Chovelidze st., Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia
Founded by Prof.

Zaza Gachechiladze

Tamar Gachechiladze
Publisher

Mob.: +995 599 565621; +995 577 760000
E-mail: messenger@messenger.com.ge
http://www.messenger.com.ge/

Nino Metreveli

Commercial Director

Mariam Mchedlidze

Editor-in-Chief

Khatuna Gogichaishvili

Layout Designer, Photographer

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