

Davit Arakhamia Pledges to Request Ambassador to Tbilisi if Nika Gvaramia is Released from Prison



President of Georgia had made a promise to pardon Nika Gvaramia, but this promise has not been fulfilled yet. He expressed disappointment that despite President Salome Zourabichvili being a French citizen, no pro-European steps have been taken to resolve the situation.

Arakhamia was asked about the conditions under which Ukraine would send its ambassador back to Georgia, and he responded that the first step would be to release Gvaramia.

"The first step will be to release Nika Gvaramia. Nika Gvaramia is not a politician, he is a journalist. And if he is released from prison, I will be the first to go to my president and ask him to send the ambassador to Tbilisi," Arakhamia said.

According to him, he was warned by Americans about potential problems when crossing the border and a possible scandal, which led him to refrain from attending the funeral of Vakhtang Kikabidze.

Arakhamia stated that Georgian people will not get used to such a government, and there will be either a new power or a coalition. He also mentioned that Bidzina Ivanishvili has been in power for more than ten years and is doing everything, including at the legislative level, to maintain his power. However, Arakhamia is confident that the situation will change and that the Georgian people will deliver Ivanishvili 'a proper answer'.

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Davit Arakhamia, the head of the People's Servant faction in the Ukrainian Rada, stated in an interview with the Mtavari Channel that if Nika Gvaramia is released, he will be

the first person to request the president to appoint an ambassador to Tbilisi.

Arakhamia stated in an interview with the Main Channel that imprisoning a journalist is unacceptable, especially for a country with European aspirations.

He emphasized that mentioning the case of Gvaramia in Brussels or Strasbourg would result in high-ranking European officials not wanting to associate with members of the Georgian government. Arakhamia asserted that while the Georgian

government may pretend to have the respect of their partners, this is not the case. He claimed that when meeting with these individuals informally, they are shocked by Gvaramia's story.

According to Arakhamia, the

Shalva Papuashvili Responds to David Arakhamia's Statements on Ambassador Appointment and Calls for Handover of Two Individuals

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Shalva Papuashvili, the Chairman of the Georgian Parliament, expressed disappointment that despite Georgia's solidarity with Ukraine, the ambassador of Ukraine has not been appointed to Tbilisi. Papuashvili's statement was in response to Davit Arakhamia, the head of the "Servant of the People" faction in the Ukrainian Rada, who promised to request the appointment of an ambassador to Tbilisi once Nika Gvaramia is released from prison.

Papuashvili commented that he hoped the current issue in their relationship would be re-



solved soon and expressed his belief that setting preconditions on the matter is not appropriate. He emphasized the importance of Ukraine restoring their previous positive relationship with Georgia and its people, stating that the appointment of an ambassador would be a significant indicator of their willingness to do so.

"I hope that this flaw introduced into our relationship will soon be removed. I don't think it's right to set preconditions here. It is important for Ukraine to restore the attitude they had towards the Georgian people and the state. Appointing an ambassador would be a sign of this

CONTINUED FROM Page 2

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.4830; Euro - 2.7430; GBP - 3.1440; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.2257; Swiss Franc - 2.7955

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CONTINUED FROM Page 1
attitude," Papuashvili said. Shalva Papuashvili added

that it's hard to respond 'seriously' to David Arakhamia. However, he suggested that if the Ukrainian authorities wish to

win the hearts of the Georgian people, they should consider handing over Zurab Adeishvili and Gia Lortkipanidze to Geor-

gia. According to Papuashvili, Zurab Adeishvili has been convicted in five cases, and Gia

Lortkipanidze was involved in Saakashvili's illegal entry into Georgia.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili Meets with Portugal's National Defense Minister



The Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili held a meeting with Helena Carreiras, the Minister of National Defense

of the Republic of Portugal. The information was released by the Prime Minister's press office.

According to the office, at the meeting held in the government administration, the dynamics of the existing partnership between the two countries were reviewed. The parties also discussed the prospects of deepening the exist-

ing cooperation. During the meeting, the importance of Portugal's support for Georgia's European and

Euro-Atlantic integration was emphasized, with the Prime Minister noting that it confirms Georgia's future lies in the European Union.

The head of government also expressed gratitude to the Minister of National Defense of the Republic of Portugal for their strong support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The conversation addressed regional and global security challenges. Brigadier General Ana Balthazar, Deputy Director of the National Defense Policy of the Republic of Portugal, and Juansher Burchuladze, Georgia's Minister of Defense, also attended the press service of the Prime Minister.

Georgian Parliamentary Delegation Receives Support from Maltese Parliament for EU Integration Progress

Shalva Papuashvili, the Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, led a parliamentary

delegation during their visit to the Republic of Malta.

Samkharadze said that the

faced by Georgia in its occupied territories, threats posed by Russia, and the geopolitical sig-



objective of their visit was to update their Maltese colleagues on the progress made by Georgia in implementing reforms, including those related to fulfilling obligations under the Association Agreement and implementing the 12 recommendations of the European Union.

The delegation also aimed to discuss topics such as the security environment, challenges

nificance of attaining candidate status for their country.

Samkharadze reported that the delegation received messages of support from the Chairman of the Maltese Parliament. Additionally, he mentioned that they received a guarantee of support from Malta at the end of the year, which will reflect the progress that Georgia has made.

European Peace Facility: EU adopts assistance measures to support Georgia and Moldova's defence sector

On 4 May, the Council of the European Union adopted two assistance measures under the European Peace Facility (EPF) in support of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Moldova and the Georgian Defence Forces.

Building on previous EPF support, the latest assistance measures will contribute to enhancing the operational effectiveness



of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Moldova and the Geor-

gian Defence Forces, and accelerate their compliance with EU

standards and interoperability, thereby allowing for better protection of civilians during crises and emergencies.

Moldova will receive Euro 40 million over a period of 36 months to finance non-lethal equipment, supplies and services, including technical training, where requested. The approved equipment includes air surveillance, mobility and transportation, logistics, command and control, and cyber-defence equipment.

For Georgia, the Euro 30 million assistance measure will cover a period of 36 months, and finance non-lethal equipment,

supplies and services, to the units of the Georgian Defence Forces, including technical training where requested. The approved equipment includes engineering, command and control, medical, logistics and cyber-defence equipment.

Commenting on this decision, EU High Representative Josep Borrell said that this third assistance package for both countries "clearly underlines the EU's unwavering commitment to the region's security and stability" in a challenging geopolitical context.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Tuesday, May 9

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 22°C

Night Few Showers
Low: 12°C

Wednesday, May 10

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 23°C

Night Light Rain
Low: 14°C

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Celebration of The International Portuguese Language Day

Within the frames of International Portuguese Language Days, screening of Brazilian films took place at Cinema House on May 1-3.

On May 1 the International Portuguese Language Day was attended by representatives of the diplomatic corps accredited to Georgia as well as people interested in the cultures that are connected by the Portuguese language. The celebrations on May 1-4 were organized

by the Embassy of Brazil in Tbilisi, TSU/Camões Portuguese Language Center and the University of Georgia.

On May 4, a Lecture by Professor Ennes Ferreira (ISEG/University of Lisbon) took place at University of Georgia - Portugal in Europe and in the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries and the role of the Portuguese language. Ennes Ferreira is a member of several editorial boards of academic journals and

has been advisor at the Instituto for National Defence (IDN) and consultant for the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Portugal-Angola (CCIPA), of which he is an honorary member.

After the lecture, book presentations took place - "The Hour of the Star" and "Near to the Wild Heart" by a Brazilian writer Clarice Lispector, Georgian translation by Nino Lortkipanidze.

World Portuguese Language Day is

observed annually in the beginning of May. The day is marked through a range of cultural events worldwide in order to highlight the use and spread of Portuguese language around the world.

The Portuguese language is not only one of the most widespread languages in the world, with more than 265 million speakers spread through all continents, but it is also the most widely spoken language in the southern hemisphere.





