

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

US State Department Sanctions Former Prosecutor General Otar Partskhaladze for Russia's Malign Influence on Georgia

The United States has imposed sanctions on over 150 individuals worldwide in an effort to disrupt Russian President Vladimir Putin's access to technology and financial networks that support the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Among those targeted by these sanctions is Otar Partskhaladze.

In a US State Department document, Otar Partskhaladze is referred to as a Georgian-Russian oligarch. He held the position of Prosecutor General of Georgia for a brief period, from November 7 to December 30 in 2013.

According to a US State Department document, Otar Partskhaladze is being sanctioned in response to Russia's malign influence on Georgia. He has been included in the list of sanctioned individuals due to his involvement in the consulting sector of the economy and his ties to the management of the Russian Federation. Additionally, he holds a 50 percent ownership stake in the consulting companies MOSCOW BUSINESS BROKERAGE LLC and INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CORPORATION LLC, alongside Alexander Onishchenko, who serves as an officer in the Federal Security Service of Russia.

According to the document, the Federal Security Service officer, Onishchenko, is alleged to have assisted Partskhaladze, described as an 'associate,' in obtaining a Russian passport and possibly Russian citizenship. As a result, Partskhaladze has fully embraced a Russian

U.S. EMBASSY IN GEORGIA

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Russian Federation economy:

- **LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY RCC TRADING** is a metals trading subsidiary of RCC.

Pursuant to section 1(a)(i), the following entity is being designated for operating or having operated in the metals and mining sector of the Russian Federation economy:

- **LLC ARMZ MINING MACHINES** manufactures high-tech underground mining equipment used within the metals and mining sector of the Russian Federation.

ADDRESSING RUSSIA'S MALIGN INFLUENCE IN GEORGIA

The Department is also designating a Georgian-Russian oligarch and a Russian Intelligence Services officer to further address the Russian Federation's malign influence abroad.

- **OTAR ANZOROVICH PARTSKHALADZE (PARTSKHALADZE)** is being designated pursuant to section 1(a)(i) for operating or having operated in the management consulting sector of the Russian Federation economy. PARTSKHALADZE is a Georgian-Russian oligarch.
- **ALEKSANDR VLADIMIROVICH ONISHCHENKO (ONISHCHENKO)** is being designated pursuant to section 1(a)(iii)(A) for being or having been a leader, official, senior executive officer, or member of the board of directors of the Government of the Russian Federation. ONISHCHENKO is an officer of the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB).

FSB Officer ONISHCHENKO likely assisted his associate PARTSKHALADZE in obtaining a Russian passport and possibly Russian citizenship. PARTSKHALADZE has fully taken on a Russian identity and routinely travels to Russia. ONISHCHENKO and the FSB have leveraged PARTSKHALADZE to influence Georgian society and politics for the benefit of Russia. PARTSKHALADZE has reportedly personally profited from his FSB connection.

Pursuant to section 1(a)(i), the following two entities are being designated for operating or having operated in the management consulting sector of the Russian Federation economy. They are both Russia-based management consulting companies owned 50 percent by PARTSKHALADZE:

- **LLC MOSCOW BUSINESS BROKERAGE**
- **LLC INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CORPORATION**

identity and frequently travels to Russia.

Based on the document, Onishchenko and the Federal Security Service are using Partskhaladze to exert a favorable influence of Russia on Georgian society and politics. The document also states that, according to reports,

Partskhaladze has received personal benefits from Onishchenko and the FSB.

Opposition leaders Levan Khabeishvili and Elene Khoshtaria addressed the sanctioning of Otar Partskhaladze.

Levan Khabeishvili, chairman of the 'United National Movement,' commented that the

extensive sanctions list indicates a readiness to hold all of Putin's allies accountable. He believes that the sanctions may soon extend to the founder of the Georgian Dream, Bidzina Ivanishvili.

At a briefing on September 14, Elene Khoshtaria, leader of the 'Droa' party, viewed the sanctions imposed on Otar

Partskhaladze as an exposure of the ruling party, stating, "This is the complete exposure of the Georgian Dream. It serves as a significant warning to all those who undermine the country's national interests, support Russia, and are under the rule of Bidzina Ivanishvili."

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Georgia's Ministry of Defense Initiates Declassification of Saakashvili's 2010-2012 Air Travel Agreements



The Ministry of Defense of Georgia has initiated the process of declassifying agreements related to the air travel of former President Mikheil Saakashvili, following accusations against Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili for using government aircraft for personal purposes.

The Defense Ministry will declassify the agreements related to the former president's travel between 2010 and 2012.

"Due to public interest and media coverage, the Ministry of Defense of Georgia has initiated the declassification process for agreements related to the air travel of former President Mikheil Saakashvili.

The declassification process is being conducted by the appropriate commission within the agency, in compliance with the relevant legislation. This confidentiality pertains to agreements made between the Ministry of Defense and Georgian Airways LLC in 2010, 2011, and 2012. It's worth noting that, as per the 2012 Ministerial order, two contracts between the Ministry of Defense of Georgia and Georgian Airways LLC have already been declassified.

The Ministry of Defense has spent 14 million GEL from its budget to service these agreements," the statement reads.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

De-Oligarchization Action Plan Adopted at the 68th Session of Georgia's EU Integration Commission



Irakli Gharibashvili, the Prime Minister of Georgia, led the 68th session of the European Union Integration Commission of Georgia.

According to the press service of the Prime Minister, a meet-

ing was held in the government administration where members of the commission discussed the prevention of excessive influence of interests in the political, economic, and public life of Georgia. They adopted the so-called 'de-oligarchization action plan,' which was developed based on the recommendations of the

Venice Commission and the European Union.

"The document comprises a 'Systematic Approach' package of changes with specified deadlines for adopting relevant legislative amendments.

The document addresses seven different directions, including anti-corruption, anti-monopoly, money laundering, media pluralism, and justice-related measures.

After receiving the document, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia was advised to engage in further consultations with European partners.

When the government receives the document, the work process will be transferred to the Parliament of Georgia," the press service of the Prime Minister stated.

Impeachment Not Helping Georgia's Path to Stability and Strong State Institutions, says Pawel Herczynski

Pawel Herczynski, the European Union Ambassador to Georgia, emphasized the significance of Georgia maintaining stability, strong governance, and robust institutions. He refrained from commenting on the ongoing impeachment proceedings against the President, emphasizing that, as a foreign diplomat, he should not

interfere in Georgia's internal affairs.

"If you ask me about the ongoing impeachment of the

tutions. But again, it's not for me to comment," the ambassador stated.

Herczynski also highlighted



President, I'm a foreign diplomat. I need to be really careful because I don't want to interfere in the internal affairs of Georgia. What we want - we want Georgia to be a stable, strong country with very strong institutions. So, of course, the impeachment procedure is not what is helping Georgia to become a stable, strong, solid country with strong state insti-

that the primary focus of his recent meeting with the President Salome Zourabichvili revolved around Georgia's European integration.

"We were invited together with all other EU ambassadors by the president yesterday. And the main topic of our meeting was Georgia's European integration," he added.

EUMM screens documentary on Georgian youth attitudes towards Abkhazia



The European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM) and the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) have hosted a public screening of the documentary film My Links to Abkhazia on 8 September.

The film, directed by Zviad Mchedlishvili - a journalist of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) - tells the story of a post-conflict generation that inherited a fragile peace following

the 1992-1993 war in Abkhazia. "Focusing on the daily routine of young people, I tried to delve deeper into their thoughts and feelings. In their emotions, I sometimes heard an echo of the negative collective memory passed on them by older generations," said the film director, Zviad Mchedlishvili. According to him, the young protagonists of the film have never visited Abkhazia and have not had family ties there but respect the Abkhaz culture, traditions and language. "The filming revealed to me that for the film protagonists, Abkhazia is not just a breakaway region, but a part of their own identity," Zviad Mchedlishvili added.

The film was screened in the

Knowledge Café in Tsnori as part of EUMM's outreach efforts to encourage regional audiences to participate in the ongoing 2023 edition of the EUMM Special Prize for Peace Journalism. My links to Abkhazia is also

the product of a joint initiative of EUMM and Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR). For several years now, within the scope of the EUMM Special Prize for Peace Journalism project, a series of documenta-

ries has been produced. The documentaries are dedicated to Georgia's unresolved conflicts, aiming to understand the conflict roots and to help reconcile the communities.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Friday, September 15

Day Partly Cloudy High: 25°C

Night Clear Low: 15°C

Saturday, September 16

Day Partly Cloudy High: 26°C

Night Mostly Cloudy Low: 15°C

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Advertisement for the XV International Festival 'Night Serenades' featuring various artists and orchestras across different dates and locations.

On the occasion of the Constitution Day of the Slovak Republic, Slovak Armed Forces Day and Farewell of the Ambassador, the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Georgia H.E. Pavel Vizdal and Defence Attache of the Slovak Republic to Georgia Lieutenant Colonel Milan Sintaj held a Reception on September 14.









