

Georgian Prime Minister Gharibashvili Hosted by French President Macron at the Elysée Palace

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Irakli Gharibashvili, the Prime Minister of Georgia, was hosted by the President of France, Emmanuel Macron, at the Elysée Palace. According to reports, the meeting focused on the European Commission's decision to recommend positively to the European Council the granting of candidate status for EU membership to Georgia.

Gharibashvili emphasized that the decision by the European Commission holds historic significance for Georgia and will shape its European future. He expressed gratitude to Emmanuel Macron for his support, highlighting the significance of France's political and practical backing as a leading nation in the European Union. He expressed hope for the continued reinforcement of this support, which will assist Georgia in successfully navigating the subsequent stages of accession.

At the meeting, Irakli Gharibashvili and Emmanuel Macron discussed cooperation between the two countries and prospects for deepening collaboration in various fields. They also addressed regional and global security issues, including ways to tackle existing challenges and the positive role that Georgia can play in achieving security and stability in the South Caucasus.

The Prime Minister of Georgia addressed the meeting with the French President on social media, expressing gratitude for the President's support on Georgia's path to the EU.



"Delighted to meet with Emmanuel Macron. We are grateful for the President's support on Georgia's EU path! We believe that France will further strengthen its political & practical support, helping us advance successfully to

the next stages of the accession," Gharibashvili wrote.

French President Emmanuel Macron also addressed the meeting with the Georgian Prime Minister and posted a message on social media in Georgian.

"Bravo to the Georgian people, whose loyalty to democracy and Europe no longer needs to be proven. Combine efforts to move forward. France stands by you," Macron wrote.

Ministry of Internal Affairs: Russian Activist Rafael Shepelev Voluntarily Crossed Occupation Line in Georgia

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Regarding the potential disappearance of Russian activist Rafael Shepelev in Georgia, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has stated that he crossed the occupation line willingly.

According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the investigation is being conducted under Article 143 of the Criminal Code.

The agency also stated that as soon as they received the notification about Rafael Shepelev's disappearance, they initiated an investigation and conducted interviews with all potential witnesses.

Furthermore, they reviewed video surveillance camera records, which confirm that on October 12, the Russian citizen left his residence in Tbilisi, traveled to the city of Gori, and then took a taxi to the village of Kirbali.

Based on information gathered from interviews with individuals, including the taxi driver and local residents, it was determined

that after exiting the car, the individual voluntarily crossed the occupation line and proceeded into the occupied territory.

"Additionally, the footage from video surveillance cameras was reviewed, confirming that on October 12, the Russian citizen traveled from his residence in Shida Kartli, specifically the city of Gori, to the village of Kirbali by taxi.

As per the accounts provided by the individuals interviewed, including the taxi driver and local residents, the individual voluntarily crossed the occupation line and proceeded into the depths of the occupied territory," as stated in the release.

Russian media reported the disappearance of the Russian activist from Georgia between November 8 and 9. According to their reports, Rafael Shepelev left an apartment on Mtatsminda Street in Tbilisi at the start of October and did not return. Initially, there were speculations that he might have been detained in Vladikavkaz.



STATEMENT

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Georgian Citizen Abducted by Russian Occupation Forces Released



Levan Dotiashvili, abducted by Russian occupation forces on November 6, has been freed and is now in an area under the control of Georgian authorities.

Irakli Antadze, the deputy director of the Analytical Department of the State Security Ser-

vice of Georgia, verified to reporters that Dotiashvili bears facial injuries.

“A few minutes ago, we successfully relocated Levan Dotiashvili, who had been detained by Russian occupation forces, to the territory controlled by the central government. While we have not had the opportunity to engage in a detailed conversation with him, we can confirm that he has a facial injury. According to his explanation, this injury occurred during an unlawful arrest. He was injured in the face during illegal detention.

As for the details of the murder, as you know, Mr. Levan is an eyewitness. He will be questioned as part of the investigation, as the Ministry of Internal Affairs has initiated a criminal case and is conducting an investigation,” said Antadze.

Russian Foreign Ministry ‘Surprised’ at EU’s Blame on Russian Occupiers for Georgian Citizen’s Murder

Maria Zakharova, the

spokesperson of the Russian Foreign Ministry, stated that Moscow is ‘surprised’ by the European Union’s attribution of blame to the Russian occupiers for the murder of Georgian citizen Tamaz Ginturi in the occupied territory near



the village of Kirbali.

Zakharova accused the European Union of being ‘biased’ towards Russia.

“We are surprised by the European Union’s position; they ignored the obvious facts and detailed explanations from the Ossetian side. The most shocking aspect is that Brussels is relentlessly at-

tempting to shift the responsibility for the incident to Russia. These assessments are politicized, one-sided, and false,” Zakharova said.

According to her, the European Union’s position “undermines its role as one of the or-

ganizations co-chairing international discussions on security and stability in Transcaucasia.”

On November 6, near the village of Kirbali in the Gori municipality, Russian occupation forces shot and killed a Georgian citizen, Tamaz Ginturi, and abducted another, Levan Dotiashvili.

G7 to accelerate talks to reduce Russia’s revenues from diamonds, energy and metals

G7 Foreign Ministers meeting on 8 November in Tokyo, Japan, have reaffirmed their readiness to continue to support Ukraine and to increase economic pressure and impose robust sanctions and other restrictions against Russia.

The Foreign Ministers of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, and the High Representative of the European Union took part in the meeting.

“We will reinforce our coordination on sanctions to restrict Russia’s access to critical goods and technology. We will take further action to prevent the evasion and circumvention of our measures against Russia,” ministers said in a joint statement.



“In order to reduce the revenues that Russian extracts from its exports, we will accelerate our consultation on energy, metals, and all non-industrial diamonds, including those mined, processed

or produced in Russia.”

They also reaffirmed that, consistent with their respective legal systems, Russia’s sovereign assets in their jurisdictions would remain immobilised, “un-

til Russia pays for the damage it has caused to Ukraine”.

The ministers also said that “Russia’s irresponsible nuclear rhetoric and its announced deployment of nuclear weapons in

Belarus are unacceptable”.

“Any use of chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons by Russia would be met with severe consequences. We deeply regret Russia’s decision to revoke its ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. We strongly support the International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) continued presence and unfettered access at all of Ukraine’s civil nuclear sites,” the statement said.

Concerning the South Caucasus, G7 ministers expressed their grave concern over the humanitarian consequences of the displacement of Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh after the military operation conducted by Azerbaijan. They urged Azerbaijan to fully comply with its obligations under international humanitarian law, and welcomed international efforts to address urgent humanitarian needs for those who had been displaced.

(eunighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Friday, November 10

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 16°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 7°C

Saturday, November 11

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 13°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 7°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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