

Georgian Foreign Ministry to Utilize International Measures for Rights of Captured Georgian Citizens

By Liza Mchedlidze

The Ministry of Defense of Russia has reported that two Georgians, who were fighting on the side of Ukraine, have been captured by Russian forces.

The Ministry of Defense of Russia has released a video on Telegram showing Georgian citizen Giorgi Goglidze, who appears to be reading a text likely prepared in advance by the Russian side. Goglidze stated that he served as a sniper in the 2nd foreign region of Ukraine.

Russian government media, citing the Ministry of Defense, has reported the capture of another fighter and Georgian citizen, Giorgi Chubitidze.

The Ministry of Foreign Af-



fairs of Georgia has announced that it has been informed, based on open sources, about the cap-

ture of two Georgian citizens fighting in Ukraine by the armed forces of the Russian Fed-

eration.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia stated that they

will employ all available international mechanisms, such as the International Red Cross Organization and the Swiss Confederation acting as a mediator between Georgia and the Russian Federation. This is to ensure the protection of the rights of Georgian citizens as guaranteed by the Constitution.

"The Georgian side, to protect the rights of Georgian citizens guaranteed by the Constitution, will utilize all international mechanisms at its disposal, including the International Red Cross Organization and the Swiss Confederation, as a mediator between Georgia and the Russian Federation," stated the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

By Liza Mchedlidze

Robin Dunnigan Gives First Interview as US Ambassador to Georgia

H.E. Robin Dunnigan gave her first interview to RFE/RL as the US Ambassador to Georgia, during which she explained the purpose and significance of the sanctions imposed on Russia. According to her, these sanctions serve multiple goals, including promoting accountability and combating corruption.

Specifically, the sanctions against Russia aim to prevent actions in support of Russia and to restrain the promotion of the Russian war machine, which is not only involved in aggression in Ukraine but also in other re-

gions.

"Some of them are aimed at promoting accountability and fighting corruption. The purpose of sanctions against Russia is to stop actions in favor of Russia, as well as to curb the promotion of the Russian war machine, which Russia uses not only to carry out aggression in Ukraine but also elsewhere.

So, when we apply sanctions, we expect countries not only to enforce them, but also, when these individuals are citizens of

specific countries, to view this as valuable information for governments to investigate potential cases of corruption by them, or, in the case of Partskhaladze, a possible instance of very close interaction with the FSB. We would advise governments, in all cases, to use our sanctions as an indication that they can investigate," said Dunnigan.

The US Ambassador highlighted the significance of constructing the Anaklia port for Georgia. She told RFE/RL that

when it comes to crucial infrastructure projects for the country, it is essential for the government to have a clear understanding of its potential cooperation partners.

"As for Anaklia, the development of this port will be an important element of Georgia's serious efforts to make this country an important node in the Middle Corridor, which is now more important than ever. Who the government chooses for the development of this port is its

sovereign decision.

We were just advising Georgia, as we advise any other country. When it comes to critical infrastructure, including the port, you need to know exactly who you are working with and what their long-term intentions are. And the country must ensure that this process is as transparent as possible, and when it comes to such critical infrastructure as ports, this is extremely important," said the ambassador.

RFE/RL asked Ambassador Dunnigan what the partnership agreement between Georgia and China meant for the US, to which she responded that she finds it a bit undesirable since China has closer ties to Russia, which has occupied Georgian territories.

"I must be honest: when I say that we respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia, we mean it sincerely - we genuinely respect the sovereignty of Georgia.

As for the strategic partnership, I will only note that in that agreement, Georgia unequivocally recognizes China's sovereignty, but we do not see a similar approach from China towards Georgia. Meanwhile, this is a country that is getting closer to Russia. Russia has occupied part of Georgia's territory. I think it's a somewhat undesirable situation," said Dunnigan.



The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

State Security Service Confirms Release of Another Illegally Detained Georgian Citizen by Russian Occupying Forces



The State Security Service stated that the Georgian citizen Levan Petriashvili, who was illegally detained by Russian occupation forces in the vicinity of Ergneti village in the Gori municipality, is now free and in the territory controlled by the central government.

“The ‘hotline’ mechanism played an active role in facilitating the release of Levan Petriashvili from unlawful impris-

onment. The central government of Georgia consistently addressed the issue of his immediate release from illegal detention through the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM) and the Geneva international discussions.

The central government of Georgia consistently shared information with in-

ternational partners. Collaborating closely with these partners, the central government remains actively engaged in efforts to secure the release of all Georgian citizens who are unlawfully detained in the occupied territories.

“The occupying power bears full responsibility for all the destructive actions carried out in the occupied regions and along the occupation line,” the agency stated.

Tbilisi Mayor Kakha Kaladze Announces Plans for Rustaveli Avenue Rehabilitation in the Coming Year



Mayor Kakha Kaladze has revealed a comprehensive plan for the rehabilitation of Rustaveli Avenue in the upcoming year. The project will unfold in two stages, with the first focusing on strengthening buildings and the second dedicated to enhancing the road infrastructure.

“At the initiative of the City Hall, the Tbilisi Development Fund is set to commence renovation works on Rustaveli Av-

enue starting next year. The process will unfold in several stages. In the first stage, the focus will be on arranging the existing buildings along Rustaveli Avenue, addressing significant issues such as dam-

aged roofs and structural components. The situation is quite serious. The second stage will involve fixing the road infrastructure, with these works commencing immediately after the strengthening of the buildings. The intention is to organize the road infrastructure, including its underground communications. In this aspect as well, the situation is quite challenging, with frequent cases of landslides,” Mayor Kaladze explained.

The famous French choreographer Olivier Patey is in Georgia

The French Institute of Georgia and the Tbilisi Opera and Ballet State Theatre are proud to announce the visit of Olivier PATEY to Georgia.

As Master of the Royal Ballet of Flanders and the Artistic Director of the Mosa Ballet School in Liège, Olivier PATEY will conduct classical dance masterclasses at the Tbilisi Opera on November 14, 15, 17, 18, and 19, 2023. Additionally, he will be actively involved in the rehearsals of the upcoming performances of “La Bayadère” at the Tbilisi Opera and Ballet State Theatre, scheduled on the same dates.

Olivier Patey studied at the Ballet School of Paris National Opera, then at the Royal Ballet

School in London. At the age of sixteen he joined the Paris Opera Ballet and was soon given soloist roles. He has worked with George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins and Roland Petit, among others. In 1983, Olivier Patey was promoted to Premier Danseur and was chosen by Rudolf Nureyev to interpret Franz in Coppélia. In 2000, he became Deputy Artistic Director and Chief Ballet Master of the Staatstheater Braunschweig, and in 2013, he became Master of Opera Ballet Vlaanderen.

During his career as a dancer, Olivier Patey has shared the stage with the greatest stars: Rudolf Nureyev, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Vladimir Vasiliev, Ekaterina Maximova, Natalia Bessmertnova and Nina Ananiashvili, who invited him to Tbilisi to teach at the National Ballet of Georgia.

Olivier Patey has been a member of numerous international competition juries since 1995.



French Ambassador to Georgia, H.E. Sheraz GASRI and Olivier PATEY

Weather

Thursday, November 16

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 20°C

Night Mostly Cloudy
Low: 10°C

Friday, November 17

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 14°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 4°C

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43, Chovelidze st., Tbilisi,
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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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