

## State Security Service Accuses Certain Groups of Organizing Provocations Near Parliament, Involving Georgians Fighting in Ukraine

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

In light of ongoing protests against the "Foreign Agents" law in front of the parliament, the State Security Service has expressed concerns over certain groups orchestrating "provocations" funded by foreign sources to incite destructive and violent scenarios.

Furthermore, the Security Service has alleged that Georgian citizens living abroad are actively involved in these plans. Specific groups of Georgian citizens fighting in Ukraine have been accused of expressing intent to return to Georgia and participate in violence against the police.

"Georgian citizens residing outside the country are actively involved in the mentioned criminal plans, specifically a group of Georgians fighting in Ukraine, who have declared their readiness to return to Georgia and actively participate in planned violence against the police. These individuals are in active communication with their associates in Georgia and are discussing plans to block and paralyze the parliament, government administration, and other government buildings," agency stated.



### სახელმწიფო უსაფრთხოების სამსახური / State Security Service Of Georgia

The State Security Service alleged that the protest organizers intend for the protests to result in human casualties. They believe that such outcomes will escalate the protests and increase radicalism.

The agency accused the protest organizers of specifically targeting aggression towards police.

"The specific target of the protest organizers' aggression is the employees of the law enforcement agency. Methods related to the organization of 'color revolutions', such as threatening, brib-

ing, and staging their defection to the side of the protesters, are used to demoralize and provoke them. Ultimately, these actions aim to dismantle state structures and overthrow the government through violent means.

We urge the young people participating in the protests not to succumb to provocations. We ap-

peal to the organizers that if they proceed with their destructive plans, immediate legal measures will be taken by law enforcement agencies to prevent the escalation of events, eliminate disorder, avoid civil conflict in the country, and preserve peace," agency stated.

## GYLA Urges Investigation into Harassing Phone Calls Amid Protests Against 'Foreign Agents' Law

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Georgian Young Lawyers Association issued a statement regarding phone calls targeting individuals involved in protests against the 'Foreign Agents' law, human rights defenders, or their family members. Since May 7, citizens opposing this law have been receiving harassing, cursing, and threatening calls from foreign numbers. Reports on social networks indicate that family members, including minor children, are also being targeted and some individuals have reported receiving death threats during these calls.

GYLA stated that the frequency, systematic nature, and specific targeting of the calls, along with the use of a narrowed circle of recipients identified by a specific characteristic, raise a reasonable suspicion that the data may be processed unlawfully, potentially involving the misuse of databases from relevant state agencies.

The association called on the Personal Data Protection Inspectorate to investigate this matter within its jurisdiction.

"Since May 7, 2024, individuals involved in protests against the Russian law and human rights defenders (or their family members) have been receiving frequent phone calls from both foreign countries and

Georgian numbers. When answered, the caller uses hateful and abusive language towards the recipient of the call.

Considering the frequency, systematic nature, and specific targeting of recipients identified by a distinct characteristic, these calls raise a reasonable assumption that personal data may be processed unlawfully, potentially involving the misuse of databases from relevant state agencies.

We urge Personal Data Protection Inspector Lela Janashvili and other responsible individuals involved in this matter to fulfill their legal duties by investigating this event within their jurisdiction and informing the public about the position of the state agency, the Personal Data Protection Service," GYLA stated.

In response, the Personal Data Protection Service issued a statement announcing their investigation into the legality of unknown individuals processing citizens telephone numbers.

"Based on information circulating on social networks, unknown individuals have been contacting citizens using personal phone numbers in recent days. The Personal Data Protection Service will investigate the legality of this processing of citizens' telephone numbers by these unknown persons within our jurisdiction," the statement said.

მომიტინგეების და უფლებადამცველების მიმართ შეურაცხველი გარეგანი, აჩენს დასაბუთებულ ვარაუდს, რომ, შესაძლოა მოხდეს დამუშავება კანონის დარღვევით, შესაბამისი სახელმწიფო უწყებების ბაზების გამოყენებით ხდება



საქართველოს ახალგაზრდა იურისტთა ასოციაცია

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

**Georgian Dream Initiates Database to Track Individuals Involved in 'Violence, Threats, and Blackmail'**



Parliament Chairman Shalva Papuashvili stated at a briefing hosted at the Georgian Dream office that, in accordance with the decision of the party's political council, a database will be established concerning individuals involved in "violence, threats, and blackmail" or those who "publicly approve" such behaviors.

"Based on these facts, along with the state structures, the ruling party also has the responsibility to protect the legitimate interests of citizens, law enforcement officers, and outstanding members of society. For this purpose, according to the decision of the political council of Georgian Dream, the party structures are be-

ginning to create a database where information will be collected about all individuals involved in violence, illegal actions, threats, and blackmail, or those who publicly approve of such actions.

All this information will be posted on a dedicated website and made public and transparent for the citizens of Georgia. All necessary measures will be taken

against these individuals within the framework of the constitution and the law, ensuring that violations, threats, and acts of violence do not go unanswered by the state or society," said Papuashvili.

**Changes to Georgia's Citizenship Tests Exclude Saakashvili, Rose Revolution, and Occupied Territories Questions**



According to a report from the Russian-language edition of Radio Liberty, Ekho Kavkaza, recent changes to Georgia's citizenship tests no longer include questions related to former President Mikheil Saakashvili, the Rose Revolution, or the

country's territories occupied by Russia. These changes, effective from May 1, 2024, remove questions such as:

"20% of Georgia's territory is occupied by which state today?"

"In which year did the 'Rose Revolution' take place in Georgia?"

"Who was the third president of Georgia?"

"After the 'Rose Revolution', who became the head of the government of Georgia?"

"Which of the following states does not recognize the independence of the occu-

ried territories of Georgia, Abkhazia, and the Tskhinvali region?"

These specific historical and geopolitical questions are no longer part of the revised test format.

**EU Foreign Affairs Council discusses Ukraine Plan**

On 7 May, the EU Foreign Affairs Council held a discussion on the situation in Ukraine and on the Ukraine Plan, aimed at unblocking disbursements under the first pillar of the Ukraine Facility for 2024-2027.

The EU's support under the first pillar amounts to •38.27 billion (•5.27 billion in grants and •33 billion in loans) of the total amount of •50 billion under the Ukraine Facility.

"Reconstruction and modernisation are needed as part of Ukraine's EU accession process," said EU High Representative Josep Borrell. "The plan encompasses key structural reforms, investment and improvements in public administration, the rule of law and fighting corruption and fraud. The support of member states will enable the payments planned as

part of the Ukraine Facility."

The European Commission has already transmitted its positive assessment on the plan. It considered that it meets the nec-

essary criteria and constitutes a targeted and well-balanced response to the objectives of the Ukraine Facility, while addressing the accession track chal-

lenges and responding to Ukraine's recovery, reconstruction and modernisation needs.

The ambassadors of the EU Member States (Coreper) are ex-

pected to back the assessment of the Ukraine Plan today. The EU Ecofin Council is expected to endorse and approve the implementing decision by a qualified majority on 14 May.

Weather

Thursday, May 9

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 20°C

Night Partly Cloudy  
Low: 11°C

Friday, May 10

Day Showers  
High: 18°C

Night Showers  
Low: 12°C

Dear Friends and Partners,

**American Friends of Georgia** is celebrating the **30th Anniversary** of its Charitable work in Georgia! On Saturday, May 18, 2023, we are holding a Special Anniversary Gala Event to celebrate a longstanding tradition of philanthropy to benefit the neediest children and elderly in Georgia.

We are thrilled to inform you that world-renown jazz trumpeter **Chris Botti** will be performing at our Gala. It will be a spectacular event and we will be delighted to share this memorable evening with our dearest partners and friends.

**GRAMMY-winning** trumpeter **Chris Botti** is celebrating an anniversary as well - the 20th anniversary of his first performance in Georgia- and he will be visiting Georgia to exclusively present this Charity Concert for **American Friends of Georgia!**

*Chris Botti has been one of the most popular instrumentalists in the world for nearly three decades. He's collaborated with some of the biggest superstars on the planet, including Sting, Paul Simon, Barbra Streisand, Lady Gaga, Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra, Aretha Franklin, Bette Midler, Joni Mitchell, Steven Tyler, Andrea Bocelli, Herbie Hancock, Yo-Yo Ma, and others. He's topped the jazz charts with numerous albums, earned multiple Gold and Platinum records, performed with symphony orchestras and on prestigious stages from Carnegie Hall to the Hollywood Bowl to the Sydney Opera House.*

For the past few years, our annual Gala celebration has been a wonderful, elegant gathering for our community, and a pivotal event in our efforts to support Georgia's neediest children and elderly. It has been made possible by generous sponsorship donations from corporations as well AmCham, Diplomatic missions, prominent Georgian artists and musicians.

This year will be extremely important, exciting and particularly memorable as it marks the 30th Anniversary of our Charitable Work in Georgia.

**Saturday, May 18 at 6:00**  
**Location: Biltmore Hotel Tbilisi**  
**Dress code: Black Tie**

Corporate tables as well as individual tickets available!

For more info and reservations, please contact **AFG Gala Committee**

[kate@afgeorgia.org](mailto:kate@afgeorgia.org). [lena@afgeorgia.org](mailto:lena@afgeorgia.org)

**ONLY TOGETHER CAN WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

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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](mailto: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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