

## Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili Addresses Ukraine Peace Summit

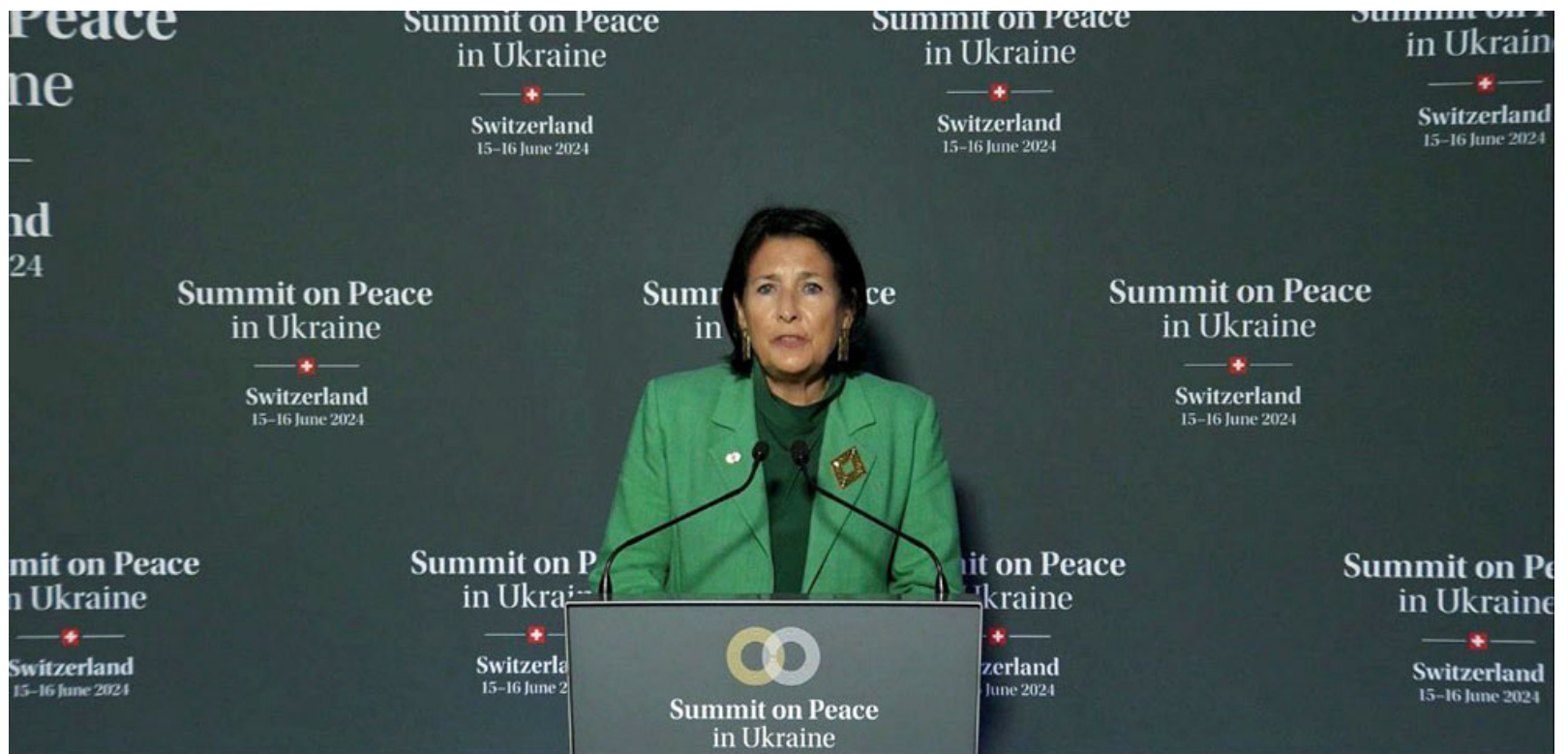
BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, speaking at the Ukraine Peace Summit in Switzerland, emphasized the shared hardships between Ukrainians and Georgians due to Russia's aggressive actions. Zourabichvili highlighted Ukraine's courageous defense against Russian aggression for over 800 days, stressing the immense suffering and loss of innocent lives caused by this conflict.

The Georgian President expressed solidarity with Ukraine in her speech, stating that the war concerns not only Ukraine and Russia but also threatens the freedom and security of all Europe. She condemned Russia's imperialistic ambitions, drawing parallels to Georgia's own struggles with Russian occupation in Abkhazia and Tskhinvali.

Zourabichvili underscored the interconnected nature of conflicts in the region, urging concerted efforts to achieve lasting peace in Ukraine and to address territorial disputes across Europe. She emphasized the importance of international cooperation and upholding democratic principles in the face of such challenges. President called for solidarity and collective action to ensure peace and justice prevail in the world.

"For more than 800 days, Ukrainians have faced and courageously defended against brutal aggression from Russia, which has caused unimaginable suffering, destruction, and the loss of innocent lives. For more than 800 days, with their endless resolve and determination, the Ukrainians have inspired all of us. Let us not forget that this war does not concern solely Ukraine and Russia; instead, it affects the freedom and security of Europe as a whole and the very core ideals on which our understanding of the world order of international cooperation and peace is established.



We must be unwavering in our condemnation of these actions and resolute in our support for peace. This is not just a fight for territorial integrity; it is a fight for the principles of democracy, freedom, and the rule of law. Unfortunately, the human suffering of Ukrainians is not unknown to Georgians. We, too, have been victims of Russia's imperialistic ambitions that should have no place in the 21st century, and we continue to suffer the human toll of the ongoing occupation of Georgia's Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions.

It is clear that the war in Ukraine is not an isolated conflict but a continuation of Russia's destructive policy against its neighbours. It is for this reason that we seek to find and obtain lasting, sustainable peace in Ukraine. We must also address all territorial conflicts and occupations, such as those in Georgia and Moldova, to ensure that we secure a prosperous future for Europe. The war in Ukraine has shown the importance of Europe, and especially the Black Sea region, to the world at large, and I hope that the important discussions at this summit will lay the foundations for lasting peace.

The war in Ukraine is a call to action for all of us. It challenges us to stand together in solidarity, uphold the values that bind us, and strive for a world where peace and justice prevail. And with all of us standing together, peace and justice will prevail," said the President.

## President's Administration Condemns Efforts by Georgian Dream Officials to 'Discredit' President Zourabichvili

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Administration of the President of Georgia has issued a statement addressing recent efforts by Georgian Dream officials to "discredit" President Salome Zourabichvili.

According to the administration, these attempts aim to turn popular football players and the public against the President by spreading harmful speculations about presidential acts or decrees. It emphasized the inappropriateness of such actions, especially before a historic football match, and called for national unity and support for the football team.

The statement also mentions that the President will personally award nominated individuals at a public ceremony in September at the Orbeliani Palace.

"There is another attempt to discredit the President of Georgia, both personally and institutionally. With harmful behavior, they are trying to make football players, who are loved by the whole country and the society as a whole, have a negative attitude towards the President. Any speculation about acts or decrees is a deliberate attempt to discredit the President.

It's a shame when it happens before such a historic match. Now, people's unity and festive mood should prevail around our football players, they need support and encouragement from the whole country, from all institutions. This unity exists and no mean effort can shake it. We wish success and victories to our players at the European Championship.

As for the awarding, the President will personally award all the persons nominated for the award in September in the Orbeliani Palace, it will be a public celebration", reads the President's statement.





The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

**Economic Council Session Held Under Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze's Leadership**



Under the leadership of Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze, a session of the Economic Council took place at the government administration. According to the government administration's press service, council members highlighted "posi-

tive trends in economic growth, attributing stability to sound macroeconomic policies".

"The session focused on ongoing and upcoming projects, particularly in transport and logistics. Discussions also included investor interest in major invest-

ment projects," stated the government administration's press service.

Additionally, council members deliberated on new government initiatives during the session.

**Mayor Kakha Kaladze Criticizes Zourabichvili for Incomplete Awards List**



The Mayor of Tbilisi responded to President Salome Zourabichvili's decrees on awarding the Georgian national team players, coaches, staff, and the federation's leadership with an order of honor and a medal.

Kakha Kaladze criticized Zourabichvili for not awarding all the individuals listed by the Prime Minister and the Chairman of the Parliament.

"For a long time, the Prime Minister,

the Chairman of the Parliament, our successful football players, and the entire team were presented with the Order of Honor, and no one objected. After I

made a statement expressing regret that the president had not awarded athletes for so long, they told me they issued the decree in May and they were not disclosing. Many people have been left out of the decree. It's up to the national team to decide how much these orders, colleagues, and people who fought alongside them contributed to this victory, who were left out and who else should be awarded," said Kaladze.

The 'EU4Youth: Youth Engagement and Empowerment' project supported Youth NGOs operating in Georgia to participate in an international seminar on evolving youth organisations through youth involvement and participatory approaches.

The training took place from 3 to 9 June in Georgia and involved around thirty representa-

**EU4Youth and Danish Youth Council hold international seminar in Georgia to empower Youth NGOs**

tives of Youth NGOs from the Eastern Partnership Countries and Denmark.

Building capacity among youth organisations remains one of the main tools to strengthen youth participation and support youth initiatives within local communities.

The aims of the capacity building were to:

Learn tools for motivating members of youth organizations and increasing their engagement.

Foster the development of a democratic organisational culture within youth organisations and promote inclusive environments.

Facilitate intercultural dialogue and the exchange of experiences between youth organisations in Denmark, Moldova, Georgia, and Ukraine.

The capacity building was organised by the Danish Youth Council (DUF) in partnership with the 'EU4Youth: Youth Engagement and Empowerment' project, co-funded by the European Union and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ), and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

([euneighbourseast.eu](http://euneighbourseast.eu))



Weather

Monday, June 17

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 33°C

Night Partly Cloudy  
Low: 21°C

Tuesday, June 18

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 32°C

Night Mostly Cloudy  
Low: 20°C

Wednesday, June 19

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 33°C

Night Partly Cloudy  
Low: 21°C

Thursday, June 20

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 30°C

Night Mostly Cloudy  
Low: 20°C

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