

## Georgian Dream Launches Election Campaign and Opens New Central Office

By Liza Mchedlidze

Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze announced the official opening of Georgian Dream's election campaign and the inauguration of their new central office. Speaking at the event, Kobakhidze expressed confidence in the party's future, stating, "Twelve years after the founding of the party, Georgian Dream will have its own, modern office, which is an unmistakable sign that we are not going to lose any election for at least another twelve years."

Kobakhidze highlighted the achievements of Georgian Dream since its inception, emphasizing efforts to distance the country from the practices of previous regimes. "The Georgian Dream has left the torture of people, violence against businesses, seizure of the media, and many other crimes committed by the authoritarian regime in the past," he said.

The Prime Minister also thanked Bidzina Ivanishvili, the honorary chairman of Georgian Dream, for his role in the party's development. "The removal of agents and authoritarian rule from power was a decisive victory, for which I would like to thank Mr. Bidzina Ivanishvili, as an ordinary citizen of this country, once again," Kobakhidze stated.

Discussing the party's accomplishments over the past twelve years, Kobakhidze noted economic growth and development in various sectors.



economic growth and development in various sectors.

"Over the course of twelve years, the rule of Georgian Dream brought Georgia, along with the democratic one, an economic transition: the country's economy grew from 28 billion to 80 billion, the pace of infrastructure construction, financing of

health and social protection, agriculture, education, culture, sports, and other areas increased several times. Almost 700,000 of our citizens overcame poverty."

He also referenced the previous government's actions during the 2008 conflict, saying, "Georgian Dream left the war party in the past, whose actions in 2008

cost the lives of more than 400 soldiers and civilians, displaced more than 30 thousand of our fellow citizens, and lost 20 percent of the country's territories."

Kobakhidze reaffirmed Georgian Dream's commitment to continuing its progress and achieving further success in the upcoming parliamentary elec-

tions. "We will walk on the Georgian road, where there will be an equal chance and a guarantee for the peaceful development of the country, de-occupation, preservation of faith, national identity and traditions, and the worthy membership of our country in the European family!" Kobakhidze concluded.

## Ivanishvili Calls for Strong Victory to End Radicalism and Ensure Peace in Georgia

By Liza Mchedlidze

Bidzina Ivanishvili, honorary chairman of Georgian Dream, has called for a decisive victory in the upcoming elections to end radicalism and ensure Georgia's peaceful development. Speaking at the opening of the new central office of Georgian Dream, Ivanishvili emphasized that a strong victory, equal to a constitutional majority, is necessary to end the influence of what he terms the "war party" and its agents in the country.

Ivanishvili expressed concern that involvement in a war would have devastating consequences for Georgia, worse than those experienced by Ukraine. He criticized the "global war party" for supporting the old and new United National Movement, accusing them of being willing to involve Georgia in conflict if given the opportunity.

"The desire of the global war party is clear. After seeing that

we will not get involved in the war and cannot sacrifice Georgia to share the fate of Ukraine, they have a last attempt to return to power the agents, the collective National Movement, which will take this step as soon as it receives the task," Ivanishvili said.

He highlighted the achievements of Georgian Dream, including maintaining peace, doubling the country's nominal economy in dollars, and receiving EU candidate status despite significant challenges. Ivanishvili stressed that the upcoming elections are crucial for consolidating peace and ensuring Georgia's European perspective.

"In the October 26 parliamentary elections, Georgia will certainly beat the forces that have been trying to bring chaos to Georgia and drag the country into a war for the past 4 years," Ivanishvili stated.



CONTINUED ON Page 2

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6952; Euro - 2.9378; GBP - 3.4943; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.0437; Swiss Franc - 3.0090

# Ivanishvili Calls for Strong Victory to End Radicalism and Ensure Peace in Georgia

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

He also underscored the need for accountability, stating that the collective United National Movement must answer for their past actions, particularly those related to the 2008 war and its

consequences. "After the elections, they will have to answer for all the crimes they committed during their time in power, especially the execution of the order in 2008 and the country's involvement in the war, which cost our country the

temporary loss of two historic regions," Ivanishvili said. Ivanishvili concluded by noting that the influence of the "global war party" over American and European bureaucracy could change once the war in Ukraine ends, potentially altering

Georgia's international position. "We have a maximum of one year to endure, after which global and regional political interests, as well as interests towards Georgia in particular, will fundamentally change," Ivanishvili said.

Ivanishvili expressed confidence that Georgian Dream will achieve the necessary majority in the upcoming elections, ensuring the country's continued peaceful development and alignment with European standards.

## The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

### Georgian Dream and People's Power Announce Joint Participation in Parliamentary Elections



Mamuka Mdinardze, Executive Secretary of Georgian Dream, confirmed that the affiliated group People's Power will join Georgian Dream in a common list for the upcoming parliamentary elections. This announcement was made during his speech at the opening of the election campaign and the new central office of Georgian Dream.

Mdinardze emphasized the significance of this year's elections, describing them as decisive and comparable to the pivotal 2012 elections. He underscored the challenges posed by what he referred to as "agents of global war forces" using false

narratives against the government.

"I greet the invited guests, I greet each member of Georgian Dream, starting with Mr. Bidzina Ivanishvili, our honorary chairman and founder, and ending with each soldier of Georgian Dream. I also greet a group of our friends, an af-

filiated group called People's Power, and this greeting, among them, is not accidental, because you will hear from me probably for the first time today, I will confirm that they will participate in the parliamentary elections with a common list with us," said Mdinardze.

Mdinardze expressed confidence in Georgian Dream's victory in the upcoming elections, highlighting their commitment to the peaceful development of the country, de-occupation, preservation of national identity and traditions, and achieving membership in the European family.

### US State Department: Georgian Government's Actions Diverge from Euro-Atlantic Aspirations



US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller reiterated the United States' support for the Euro-Atlantic aspirations of the Georgian people while expressing concern over the Georgian government's recent actions. Speaking at a briefing, Miller highlighted the divergence between the government's actions and the country's democratic trajectory. "We continue to support the Euro-Atlantic aspirations of the Georgian people, but as we have seen, the Georgian gov-

ernment has taken a different path," Miller stated. "We've seen the government of Georgia pass laws that move Georgia away from its democratic trajectory. You know how the law they passed

could affect civil society and enable the government to crack down on legitimate democratic rights."

Miller emphasized that these actions by the Georgian government have fundamentally altered its relationship not only with the United States but also with other European countries. "It is the Georgian government's actions that have fundamentally altered its relationship with the United States, but not just with the United States, but with other countries in Europe as well," he noted.

### Tenth anniversary of MH17: BUK system beloged 'beyond doubt' to Russia, Borrell says

In its statement issued on the



eve of the 10th anniversary of the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17, commemorated on 17 July, EU High Representa-

tive Josep Borrell has reiterated the EU's call on Russia "to accept its responsibility in this tragedy and to cooperate fully in serving justice".

On 17 July 2014, 298 people, including 80 children, of 17 nationalities lost their lives in the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17.

"The ten-year commemoration brings back very painful memo-

ries," Borrell says. "We renew our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of the victims."

Borrell reiterated the EU's full support for "all efforts to establish truth, justice and accountability", in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2166. He also said that the evidence presented by the Joint Investigation Team in the proceedings before the Dutch District Court, and submitted to the European Court of Human Rights

(ECHR) and the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), makes it "abundantly clear" that the BUK surface-to-air missile system used to bring down flight MH17 from the territory of Ukraine belonged "beyond doubt" to the Russian armed forces.

"No Russian disinformation operation can distract from these basic facts, established by a court of law," Borrell said.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

## Weather

Wednesday, July 17

Day ☀️ Clear  
High: 34°C

Night 🌧️ Mostly Cloudy  
Low: 23°C

Thursday, July 18

Day 🌧️ Mostly Cloudy  
High: 32°C

Night 🌧️ Mostly Cloudy  
Low: 21°C

published by  
**The Messenger**

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

**The Messenger** welcomes your contributions. If you are interested in submitting an article or news item please contact. All contributions should be submitted by e-mail.

**The Messenger** Georgia's English language daily is an independent newspaper, and,

therefore, the opinions expressed in some articles do not necessarily coincide with those of the newspaper. We take no responsibility for any claims made in advertisements.

**The Messenger** preserves the style of a source written in English where possible.