

Giorgi Mskhiladze: Suspension of Judicial Appointment is Unprecedented Interference in Presidential Powers

By Liza Mchedlidze

Giorgi Mskhiladze, Parliamentary Secretary to President Salome Zourabichvili, condemned the suspension of the constitutional act appointing a member of the High Council of Justice as an unprecedented interference in presidential powers. He called on the diplomatic corps, international community, and international organizations to respond.

"An unprecedented event has occurred in Georgia's history. The judiciary has illegally interfered with the President's constitutional powers by suspending the appointment of a High Council of Justice member. The President has full authority under the Constitution to independently decide and appoint a member," Mskhiladze stated during a briefing.

He emphasized the violation of the separation of powers and highlighted the judiciary's refusal to accept dissent within the High Council of Justice. "This is an unprecedented interference in the constitutional powers of the President, unacceptable for Georgia's constitutional order. It is a tragedy for the entire country. No one has the right to deprive the democratically elected head of state of constitutionally granted powers," he said.

Mskhiladze appealed to the diplomatic corps, international community, and organizations like OSCE/ODIHR, which observed the candidate selection process, to respond appropriately to the issue.

He also reminded the public that the court case was filed on



July 22, and the court accepted the claim the same day. The newly appointed member of the High Council of Justice was set to take office on July 23.

The Tbilisi City Court decided to suspend President Zourabichvili's decree of July 15, 2024, which appointed Kakha Tsikarishvili as a member of the High Council of Justice. Additionally, the court prohibited the President from holding a new competition and appointing an-

other member until the case is resolved. The court's decision was prompted by a lawsuit filed by M.K.

Kakha Tsikarishvili responded to the City Court's decision, stating, "The system chose this way to protect itself - it was clear to me that they would not welcome me there." He accused the judge of acting on behalf of a clan within the judicial system. "The judge did not act on his individual decision but on behalf of the sys-

tem. This form was chosen by the clan controlling justice. Some judges obey clans directly, while others simply obey circumstances," Tsikarishvili said.

Tsikarishvili, who planned to introduce a dissenting vote in the High Council of Justice and conduct an in-depth study of the judicial system's problems, expressed disappointment at the swift action taken against him. "I was going to start working at the Council of Justice from tomor-

row, make announcements, and introduce my plan to the public. My main plan was to introduce a dissenting vote in the High Council of Justice. Today, there are no dissenting voices, no arguments, no discussions in the Council; everyone is of the same opinion and votes for the same decision. It was clear that they would take measures against me, but I did not expect the clan to block this issue so quickly and promptly," he added.

Tina Bokuchava Denounces Ivanishvili's Claims About U.S. Relations and Trump

By Liza Mchedlidze



Tina Bokuchava, chairperson of the United National Movement, has sharply criticized Georgian Dream's claims that the U.S.-Georgia relations could improve if Donald Trump is elected president. Speaking at a briefing, Bokuchava called these assertions "a complete lie."

Bokuchava, who recently attended the Republican Party's major pre-election congress in the U.S., said that Trump's potential presidency won't mend relations between the U.S. and Georgia. "Ivanishvili's propaganda suggesting that Trump could restore relations is false and misleading," she stated.

She revealed that the push for sanctions against Ivanishvili and his team came from a congressman who supports Trump, with backing from the entire U.S. Congress Foreign Relations Committee. "The U.S. policy towards Ivanishvili has bipartisan support from both Democrats and Republicans. Improved relations with the U.S. will depend on a change in Georgia's government, not on who is elected in the U.S.," Bokuchava explained.

Bokuchava also highlighted Trump's stance on Russia and China, noting that Trump's policies are at odds with Ivanishvili's. "Trump has been

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7104; Euro - 2.9516; GBP - 3.5064; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.0889; Swiss Franc - 3.0533

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clear about his strict stance on Russia's actions and his opposi-

tion to Chinese influence, whereas Ivanishvili has supported Chinese interests and has been friendly with Russia," she

said. Bokuchava urged Georgians to vote for a pro-democratic, pro-Western government in the Oc-

tober 26 elections to restore relations with the U.S. "The only way to improve relations is through a change in Georgia's

government. I believe the Georgian people will see through Ivanishvili's lies and make the right choice," she added.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Roman Gotsiridze: Salome Zourabichvili's Presidential Campaign Could Boost the Opposition



Roman Gotsiridze, head of the parliamentary political group, stated that Salome Zourabichvili, as the general opposition presidential candidate, should start her presidential campaign soon. He believes that this will bring new energy to the opposition.

Gotsiridze suggested that Zourabichvili's involvement in the election process, with a program outlined in her charter, could boost the opposition. "Her participation can be very energiz-

ing for the opposition wing," he said.

He also highlighted the importance of expanding the opposition as much as possible. "A cohesive structure of four political blocs has emerged. This is preferable to division, though further expansion of the opposition would be even better,"

Gotsiridze noted.

According to Gotsiridze, it would be beneficial if the opposition could unite two major coalitions. He emphasized that there is still time for each bloc to strengthen itself with parties, political groups, and politically active individuals currently outside the main alliances.

"It is crucial that no party, even those with only a small amount of support, is left out. One or two percent can make a significant difference," Gotsiridze added.

Georgian PM: Trump's Victory Could Lead to Quicker Peace in Ukraine and Better Relations with Georgia



Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze suggested that if Donald Trump wins the U.S. presidential election, the war in Ukraine could end sooner, which would subsequently lead to a calmer regional situation and a more favorable attitude toward Georgia.

In response to a reporter's question about potential changes in the U.S. election outcome, Kobakhidze stated, "If Trump wins, the war in Ukraine will end sooner. Conse-

quently, our region will calm down, and the attitude toward Georgia will also change. There will be more justice for Georgia."

Kobakhidze emphasized that while

Georgia cannot interfere in U.S. elections, especially those involving such a significant country as the United States, the Georgian government is hopeful for a positive shift. "Of course, we cannot interfere in anyone's elections. The only thing we can say is that if Trump wins, the region's peace will improve, which will positively impact Georgia. This is the extent of our comments on the matter. The rest is up to the American people," he added.

Culture Moves Europe: organisations from Armenia and Georgia among 93 residencies selected

The EU-funded Culture Moves Europe programme, part of the wider Creative Europe programme, has selected 93 cultural organisations in the third call for residency hosts that closed on 15 May 2024. The lists of nominees include one organisation from Armenia and one organisation from Georgia.

The total estimated grant is more than • 1.1 million, with in-



dividual grants per project depending on its duration (between 22 and 180 days) and the number of invited artists.

Selected organisations plan to host 309 artists and cultural professionals coming from different Creative Europe countries, who will be selected in the second phase of the procedure.

Visual arts,

music and performing arts are the sectors with the most projects selected. Cultural heritage, design and fashion design, literature, and architecture account for a little over 25% of selected projects all combined.

Armenia is represented by the Armenian Centre for Contemporary Experimental Art/NPAK, a non-governmental organisation operating in the performing arts sector and located in Yerevan and New York.

The 'WE SEE ITEMS' organisation represents Georgia. It works in the visual arts sector.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Tuesday, July 23

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 34°C

Night Clear
Low: 21°C

Wednesday, July 24

Day Clear
High: 32°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 20°C

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