

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

On the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the August 2008 Russian aggression against Georgia, Joseph Borrell, the High Representative of the European Union and Vice-President of the European Commission, reaffirmed the EU's strong commitment to peace in Georgia. In his statement, Borrell emphasized the EU's unwavering support for Georgia's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

"On August 7, it will be 16 years since the beginning of the war between Russia and Georgia in August 2008. The EU's commitment to the peaceful resolution of conflicts in Georgia remains unwavering," Borrell stated.

Borrell condemned the ongoing presence of Russian military forces in the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, calling it a violation of international law and Russia's obligations under the six-point agreement reached on August 12, 2008.

"We condemn the continued presence of Russian military forces in the occupied self-proclaimed regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which violates international law and contradicts Russia's obligations under the six-point agreement reached on August 12, 2008," he said.

He expressed concern about human rights violations in these areas, including the "borderization" policy, the closure of crossing points, and illegal detentions by Russian forces and local authorities. Borrell stressed the need to lift restrictions on freedom of movement, investigate human rights abuses, and ensure justice for all victims. "Human rights violations of the conflict-affected population in Georgia continue, including as a result of the 'borderization' policy, the closure of crossing points, and illegal detentions by the Russian military and de facto authorities. Restrictions on freedom of movement must end, investigations into human rights violations must be carried out, and justice must be ensured for all

## EU Reaffirms Support for Georgia on 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 2008 War



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### Georgia/Russia: Statement by the High Representative on the 16th anniversary of the aggression against Georgia

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On 7 August, it will be 16 years since the war between Russia and Georgia began in August 2008. The European Union's commitment to peaceful resolution of the conflicts in Georgia remains firm.

We reiterate our condemnation of Russia's continued military presence in the occupied breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia in violation of both international law and of Russia's commitments under the 12 August 2008 six-point agreement. The human rights of conflict-affected communities in Georgia continue to be violated, including through 'borderisation' policies, closures of crossing points and

victims," Borrell stated.

The EU continues to work towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict through its involvement in the Geneva International Discussions, the activities of the EU Special Representative for the Crisis in the South Caucasus and Georgia, and the efforts of the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia. Borrell called on all participants in the Geneva talks to engage constructively to fully implement the six-

point agreement. "We remain fully committed to the peaceful resolution of conflicts, including through the EU's involvement in the Geneva International Discussions (GID) as co-chair, the activities of the EU Special Representative for the Crisis in the South Caucasus and Georgia, and the continuous work on the ground of the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in Georgia," he said.

Borrell reiterated the EU's firm sup-

port for Georgia's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. "The European Union continues to firmly support the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Georgia within the country's internationally recognized borders," he affirmed. His statement serves as a reminder of the EU's dedication to peace and stability in the region, 16 years after the conflict began.

## Parliament Chairman Criticizes EU Diplomats and President Zourabichvili

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Shalva Papuashvili, Chairman of the Georgian Parliament, has accused some EU officials and diplomats of increasing polarization in Georgia, leading to a situation where President Salome Zourabichvili undermines state institutions.

Papuashvili criticized Zourabichvili for allegedly breaking the constitution by participating in pre-election activities. "What Salome Zourabichvili is doing is going against the constitution - she is directly involved in the pre-election agitation, which is a violation of the constitution," he said. Papuashvili accused the president of showing a lack of respect for the constitution and said her actions suggest she does not recognize the legitimacy of state institutions.

He also mentioned international pres-

sure during the impeachment process against Zourabichvili. Papuashvili claimed that EU officials and diplomats pressured the Georgian Parliament not to support the impeachment, arguing it would increase polarization.

"High political officials of the European Union, diplomats, and politicians put direct pressure on the Parliament of Georgia not to support the impeachment," he stated. According to Papuashvili, this intervention helped Zourabichvili stay in office, with support from Mikheil Saakashvili and the United National Movement.

Papuashvili called Zourabichvili's recent statements "frivolous" and criticized the lack of response from NGOs and election observers regarding her actions. He warned that the Parliament will not support any actions that break the constitution and urged Zourabichvili to follow the rules. "No one is going to encourage them to violate the Constitution once again. She should stay within the framework of the position she has and respect the Constitution of Georgia," Papuashvili concluded.





The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Amnesty International Urges Georgia to Halt Extradition of Azerbaijani Journalist

ern Europe and Central Asia, emphasized, "Few doubt that extraditing him to Azerbaijan would put him at significant risk of serious human rights abuses, including torture, arbitrary detention, and

CDC Suspends Research Projects and Trainings in Georgia

National Center for Disease Control. Imnadze explained that the Lugar Center, a key facility for disease control



Amnesty International has called on the Georgian government to immediately terminate the extradition proceedings of Afghan Sadygov, the Azerbaijani journalist and editor-in-chief of Azel.TV. The organization raised concerns over the serious human rights risks Sadygov may face if sent back to Azerbaijan.

Denis Krivosheev, Amnesty International's deputy director for East-

an unfair trial," Krivosheev underscored that Sadygov's case is part of a wider trend aimed at silencing independent media in Azerbaijan.

Amnesty International also called on Azerbaijani authorities to cease politically motivated persecution of journalists and critics, urging the immediate release of all individuals detained for exercising their right to freedom of expression.



Paata Imnadze, Deputy Director of the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, announced that research projects and training programs funded by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have been suspended. Imnadze confirmed this in a statement to Interpressnews, addressing concerns about the halt of several ongoing projects at the

in Georgia, is financed by the state budget and will continue its operations. "The research projects of the US CDC have been paused, and the participation of our young specialists in CDC-funded trainings has also been suspended," he said. He added that projects funded by other agencies and private foundations will proceed as planned.

Advertisement for the 'Night Serenades' festival. It features a violinist playing and lists dates and venues: 21 August Borjomi (Borjomi Likani Hotel), 23, 25 August Batumi (Batumi Drama Theater), and 15, 17, 18, 20 September Tbilisi (Tbilisi State Conservatoire). It also mentions the founder Liana Issakadze and artistic director Giorgi Issakadze, along with the Alliance Art logo.

Weather forecast for Wednesday, August 7. Day: Partly Cloudy, High: 33°C. Night: Clear, Low: 21°C.

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