

Prime Minister Kobakhidze Accuses Previous Government of Avoiding Accountability for 2008 War

By Liza Mchedlidze

Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze accused the previous Georgian government of taking deliberate steps to avoid accountability for their actions during the 2008 war. Speaking at a briefing, Kobakhidze emphasized the importance of thoroughly investigating the events surrounding the war, linking them to ongoing concerns about national security.

In response to a question about a recent statement by a Russian representative at the United Nations, Kobakhidze said, "We are not interested in what others say on this topic; it is important for us to establish the truth about the betrayal that was committed in 2008. This is fundamentally important, especially considering that these people are still trying to drag our country into war. They have been trying to do this for over two years now."

Kobakhidze accused the former government of strategically removing legal provisions that could have held them accountable for their actions during the war. "It is an interesting detail that probably also needs to be investigated—shortly before the war, they initiated a bill to remove the record of treason from the Criminal Code, and shortly after the end of the war, about a month later, they passed this law," he explained.

According to the Prime Minister, these legal changes were motivated by fear of prosecution. "They were so afraid of their own



committed crime and responsibility for this crime of treason that they removed the record of treason both from the Criminal Code and, by the way, from the Constitution. Imagine how much fear they had for the betrayal

they had committed against their own people and their own country," Kobakhidze remarked. "These details are definitely worth investigating."

He further argued that the investigation is crucial not only

for understanding the past but also for preventing future conflicts. "Punishing this political force for a crime is especially important for prevention, so that if they do not commit a similar crime in the future, they will not

have the resources to do so," Kobakhidze stated. He expressed confidence that the Georgian people would not allow such actions to be repeated, saying, "In no case will the Georgian people grant them this mandate."

Meta Takes Down Russian-Linked Network Targeting Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan

By Liza Mchedlidze

Meta has announced the removal of a coordinated inauthentic behavior (CIB) network originating from Russia that was targeting Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. The network, which was dismantled after an internal investigation, included 76 Facebook accounts, 30 Pages, and 11 Instagram accounts. The operation was reportedly designed to manipulate public opinion in these countries through fictitious news websites and fake social media profiles.

According to Meta's report, the network operated by creating and promoting fake news websites tailored to the specific countries they targeted. These websites, which had distinct branding to appear legitimate, spread politically charged content across various platforms, including Facebook, Instagram,

YouTube, Telegram, and TikTok.

In Georgia, the network focused on recent protests against the controversial "foreign agent law," with posts that criticized the demonstrators and supported the ruling Georgian Dream party. In Armenia, the operation posted content supportive of Russia, criticized Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, and commented on the detention of a former Armenian official in Azerbaijan. Meanwhile, in Azerbaijan, the network shared posts critical of the West and focused on local events.

The individuals behind this network used fake accounts to manage pages, post content, and direct users to their off-platform websites. Although some of these accounts were detected and disabled by Meta's automated systems before the investigation,

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6928; Euro - 2.9648; GBP - 3.4613; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.0266; Swiss Franc - 3.1084

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the network managed to build a following. Approximately 3,800

accounts followed one or more of these Facebook Pages, while around 1,850 accounts followed the Instagram profiles associated

with the network.

Meta's investigation revealed that the network was linked to individuals associated with a Mos-

cow-registered marketing firm called IMA Digital. The operation spent about \$77,000 on ads, primarily paid for in U.S. dollars, to boost their reach and visibility.

Meta discovered this network as part of an ongoing internal investigation into repeated attempts by actors associated with previously removed inauthentic behavior, initially flagged by the International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED), a Georgian non-profit. The earlier efforts were more basic in nature but

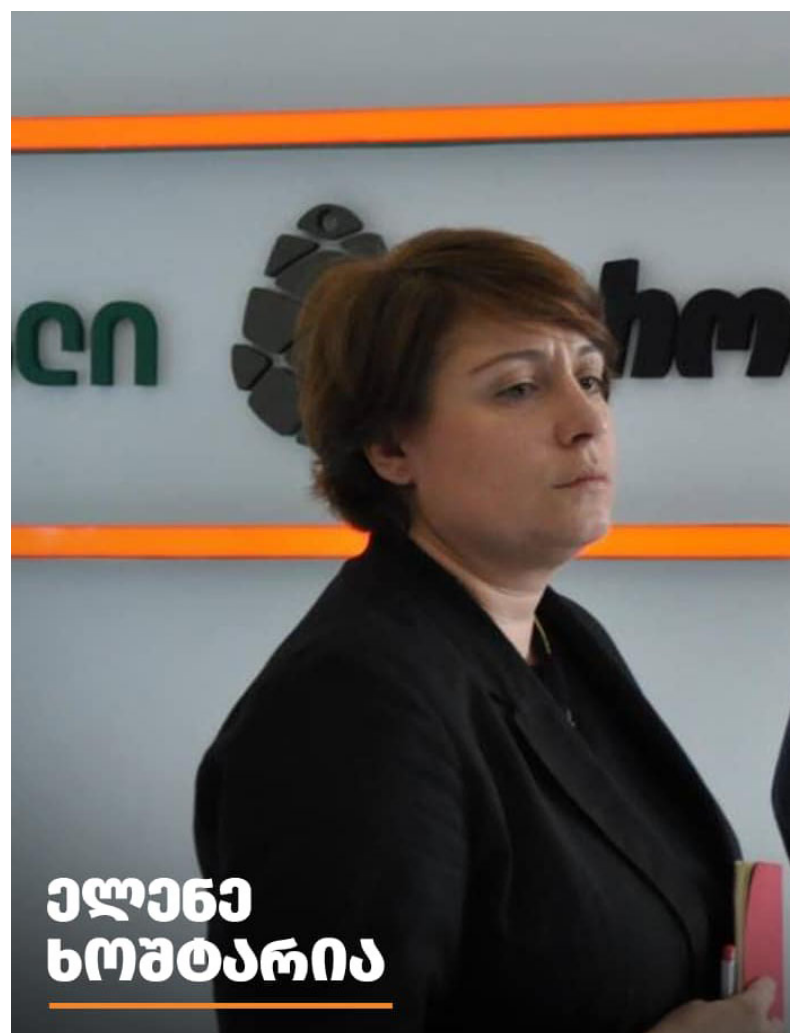
targeted multiple platforms, including Facebook, TikTok, and Telegram.

Despite efforts by the operators to conceal their identities and coordination, Meta's investigation successfully uncovered the links to the Moscow-based firm. The company has since removed the network's presence from its platforms but noted that the fictitious news websites created by the network are still operational and continue to post content.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Droa Leader Elene Khoshtaria Criticizes Government's Stance on 2008 War, Reveals New Policy Plans



Elene Khoshtaria, a leader of the Droa party and the For Change Coalition, has sharply

criticized the Georgian government's current stance on the 2008 war. Khoshtaria condemned the government's position, accusing it of wrongly blaming Georgia for the conflict and its strategic partners for failing to support the country.

"This is really a treasonous

Khoshtaria announced a new plan set to be implemented from October 27, aiming to reverse these issues and strengthen Georgia's international stance. The key elements of the plan include:

United Nations Engagement: Convening the UN Security Council whenever Russia threatens Georgia's territorial integrity to ensure a political response.

Restoring IDP Rights: Prioritizing the restoration of property rights for internally displaced persons (IDPs) both within Georgia and internationally, including efforts towards reparation and restitution.

Legal Action: Utilizing the International Court of Justice to address Russia's actions against Georgia and seeking legal redress for the aggression.

Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze Introduces 22 Regional Delegates for Georgian Dream

Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze announced the appointment of 22 delegates who

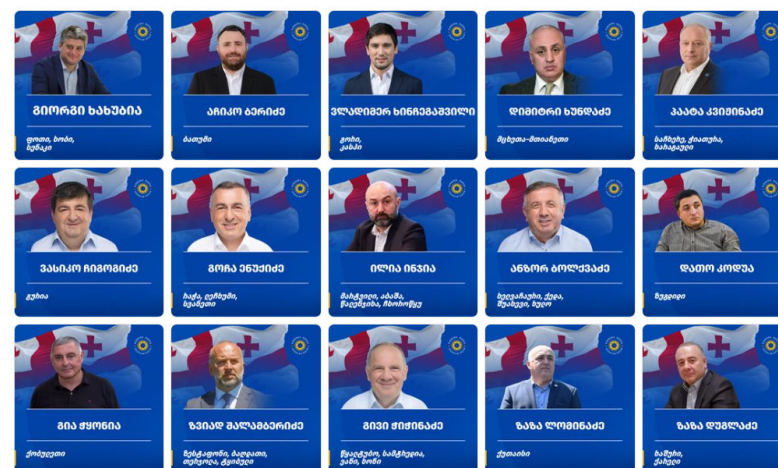
will spearhead the Georgian Dream party's regional election campaigns.

At a briefing, Kobakhidze explained that while Georgian Dream will have delegates in all 30 electoral constituencies for the upcoming October 26 parliamentary elections, only 22 delegates were introduced today. These delegates will campaign in specific districts and, if elected,

represent local interests in Parliament.

Kobakhidze noted that the shift to a fully proportional voting system has reduced the direct connection between voters and their candidates. To address this, the role of delegate has been introduced to improve voter engagement and ensure that regional concerns are effectively represented.

ქართული ოცნება / Georgian Dream



ქვეყნის ხმები

statement," Khoshtaria said. "It is difficult to remember a state that accuses itself of dealing with an aggressor, of starting a war, and also blames our strategic partners, who are responsible for the preservation of our state and our territorial integrity. This undermines specific international legal mechanisms, including the policy of non-recognition and our overall territorial integrity."

Weather

Friday, August 16

Day Partly Cloudy High: 30°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: 17°C

Saturday, August 17

Day Partly Cloudy High: 27°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: 18°C

published by

The Messenger

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23, 25 AUGUST
BATUMI | Batumi Drama Theater

15, 17, 18, 20
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