

OCCRP Refutes Georgian Dream's Denial of Ivanishvili Family's Alleged Russian Properties

By Liza Mchedlidze

On August 9, 2024, the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), in collaboration with Georgian media partners, published an investigation alleging that the wife of Bidzina Ivanishvili, founder of the ruling Georgian Dream party, owns properties in Russia. This report has sparked a heated response from the ruling party.

The Georgian Dream party quickly denied the allegations, stating that since 1998, neither Ivanishvili nor his family members had purchased any property in Russia, and they asserted that none of them had traveled to Russia after that year. The party dismissed the investigation as "sheer lies" and criticized the media outlets involved for spreading what they described as misinformation.

In response to these denials, OCCRP issued a statement reaffirming the accuracy of their investigation. The organization highlighted that their report was based on public records and independent verification. "These

are matters of public record and not politics," said OCCRP Publisher Drew Sullivan. "We're not interpreting the information, just reporting it. We stand by the facts we presented."

The OCCRP investigation revealed that Ivanishvili's wife, Ekaterine Khvedelidze, had acquired additional properties near Moscow in 2021 and 2024, with the total value of these assets estimated at around \$14.7 million. The report also uncovered financial activities involving a Russian company linked to the Ivanishvili family, which has been involved in significant transactions despite international sanctions on Russia.

To support its claims, OCCRP published a document showing that one of the properties was transferred to Khvedelidze by Ivanishvili's cousin earlier this year. Despite the ruling party's strong denials, OCCRP maintains that its reporting is grounded in verified sources and remains committed to its mission of providing accurate, timely information to the public.



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(Photo: PhotoXpress/ZUMAPRESS.com/Alamy Stock Photo)

By OCCRP

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On August 9, OCCRP and several Georgian and Russian media partners reported that the wife of Bidzina Ivanishvili, the founder of Georgia's ruling party, had acquired properties in Russia.

Memorial Column Unveiled in Honor of Georgian National Hero Giorgi Antsukhelidze

By Liza Mchedlidze



On August 18, a memorial column dedicated to Giorgi Antsukhelidze, a national hero of Georgia, was unveiled at the Abano Pass in Tusheti. The event, organized by the Ministry of Defense of Georgia, was attended by Deputy Commander of the Defense Forces Brigadier General Irakli Chichinadze, Chief Sergeant of the Defense Forces Giorgi Gogochuri, family members of Antsukhelidze, and representatives of the Defense Forces.

Brigadier General Chichinadze spoke at the ceremony about Antsukhelidze's legacy: "August 18 is the birthday of our national hero, Giorgi Antsukhelidze. Today, in his native Tusheti, at Abano Pass, a memorial dedicated to his memory was opened under the organization and leadership of the Ministry of Defense. It is a great honor for me to have been given the opportunity to participate in this process. Georgia stands on heroes like Giorgi Antsukhelidze."

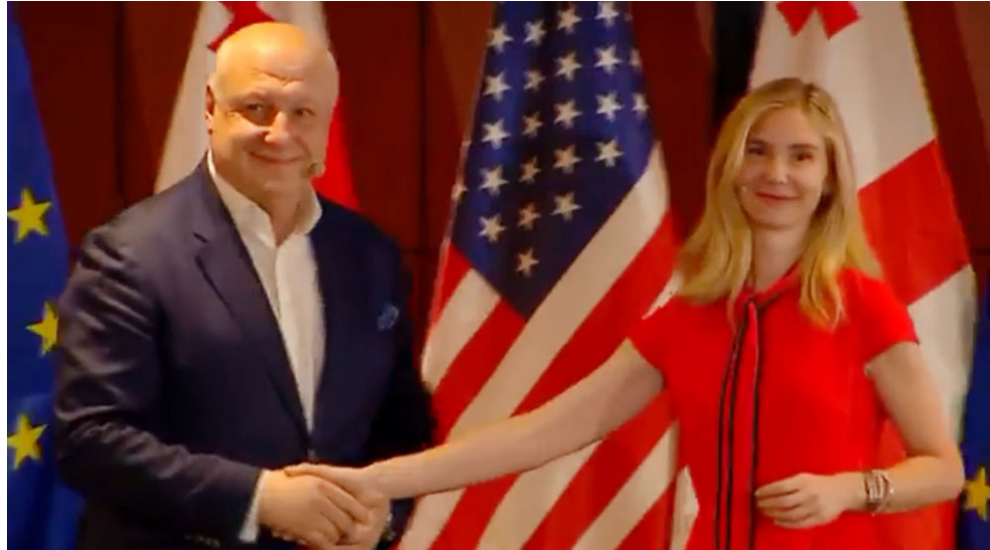
President Salome Zourabichvili honored Antsukhelidze on her personal Facebook page: "Giorgi Antsukhelidze and our national heroes are the country's source of energy. They revive and stir up the huge national charge accumulated over the centuries. Eternal memory be yours! May God give us the strength to be worthy of you and justify your way!"

Minister of Defense Irakli Chikovani also paid tribute on social media: "It is on Giorgi Antsukhelidze, brave soldiers, and heroes like him that the freedom and independence of our country rest. In the war of August 2008, Giorgi Antsukhelidze defended the state flag of Georgia and the honor of the country at the cost of his life. August 18 is the birthday of the national hero of Georgia, Giorgi Antsukhelidze! We bow before the distinguished and unbroken hero of the modern history of our country. For future generations, he became an example of devotion to the motherland, spiritual strength, and patriotism. The freedom and independence of our country rest on Giorgi Antsukhelidze, brave soldiers, and heroes like him. Glory to the heroes."

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

European Georgia Joins Forces with Unity - National Movement



The European Georgia coalition has officially joined the Unity - National Movement, as confirmed during the National Movement's congress. Gigi Tsereteli, a member of European Georgia, emphasized that this is not about parties merging, but rather forming a coalition.

said. Additionally, the National Movement announced the creation of a national committee, which will be led by Koba Nakopia. His candidacy was approved at a session of the Political Council.

These developments come after changes in European Georgia, including the departure of Giga Bokeria as chairman on August 1 and the founding of a new party, Federalists, on August 15.

Republican Party and Activists for the Future Join Coalition for Change

The Republican Party and the Activists for the Future organization have of-



icially joined the Coalition for Change, which includes the Ahali, Girchi, and Droa parties. Khatuna Samnidze, leader of the Republican Party, highlighted the importance of a coalition government for Georgia's future.

tions, based on dialogue and consensus. I stand with people with whom we can discuss, argue, agree, and manage the country together, ensuring that the people are the main focus," said Samnidze. Oktai Kazumov, representing the Activists for the Future organization, emphasized the importance of diversity in Georgia.

EU provides Ukraine with modern mine-clearing machines and demining equipment



The EU has donated two GCS-200 mine-clearing machines and other specialised demining equipment worth over Euro 1.8 million to Ukraine.

This is the latest delivery in the framework of the European Union's Euro 25 million support package for humanitarian demining announced at the EU-Ukraine Summit of February

hope and contributes to a better future for Ukraine," said Rémi Dufлот, from the EU Delegation to Ukraine. Due to Russia's war of aggression, Ukraine is among the countries most contaminated by mines and explosive remnants of war worldwide.

Earlier this year, the State Special Transport Service received a first DOK-ING MV-10 mine-clearing system, which was named "Nadiya" - hope. In keeping with the tradition, the two new machines will be called "Vira" - faith and "Lyubov" - love. Demining of areas liberated

from Russian occupation is essential for Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction. It allows for the safe return of the civilian population and relaunch of economic activities, notably in the transport, trade, and agricultural sectors. (eunighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Monday, August 19

Day Partly Cloudy High: 32°C

Night Clear Low: 20°C

Tuesday, August 20

Day Clear High: 34°C

Night Clear Low: 21°C

2023. The package is designed to meet the urgent needs of Ukraine's state mine action operators, ranging from basic equipment for demining teams to pyrotechnic vehicles and robotic demining systems.

"The EU supports Ukraine in meeting the challenges posed by mine contamination, including through the provision of urgently needed equipment. Our work together saves lives, gives

Advertisement for the festival 'Night Serenades' with dates and locations: 21 August Borjomi, 23, 25 August Batumi, 15, 17, 18, 20 September Tbilisi.

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