

Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze Supports Potential Bans on Opposition Parties

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

On August 20, the political council of the ruling party Georgian Dream issued a statement urging the public to participate in the upcoming October 26 elections. The party emphasized the need to secure a constitutional majority to pursue its political agenda.

According to the statement, if Georgian Dream achieves a constitutional majority, it plans to initiate legal processes aimed at declaring the opposition parties, particularly the United National Movement (UNM) and its affiliates, unconstitutional. The statement warned, "As soon as the constitutional majority is obtained, a legal process will be initiated, as a result of which the United National Movement and all its satellite or successor parties will be declared unconstitutional."

Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze supported the party's stance, framing the potential banning of political parties as a democratic process. He argued that such actions are justified when there is a legal basis, stating, "When there is a legal basis, it should be done in a democratic state."

Kobakhidze compared the situation to party bans in Ukraine and Moldova, stating that these actions were positively evaluated by the European Union. "Saakashvili's regime is



not a Georgian state. We are talking about the trial of Saakashvili's regime, and of course, this process cannot pose any threat to our national inter-

ests," Kobakhidze said.

He further justified the potential banning of what he described as "illegitimate, unconstitutional" parties by saying, "This

is a normal democratic procedure, when all legal grounds are in place. When a political party creates problems for the national interests of the state, or is anti-

constitutional, anti-democratic in its content, its ban is the responsibility of the state to uphold its democratic system."

Public Defender of Georgia Meets with Striking Employees of Evolution Georgia

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Public Defender of Georgia Levan Ioseliani and Deputy Public Defender Irine Chikhladze recently met with striking employees of Evolution Georgia LLC to discuss their ongoing labor dispute. The meeting, aimed at addressing the workers' concerns, was reported by the Public Defender's office.

The strikers, who have been on strike since July 12, highlighted several serious issues, including violations of labor rights, unhygienic and health-threatening working conditions, and degrading treatment by management. Additionally, four of the strikers are on a hunger strike, with one having undergone lip sewing as a form of protest.

Levan Ioseliani acknowledged that the issues raised are deeply tied to labor conditions and the

enforcement of labor norms. However, he noted that the Public Defender's office, due to its limited mandate over the private sector, does not have the authority to mediate the dispute directly. "Each issue in this collective labor dispute is directly related to labor conditions and the effective use of labor norms. Given our limited mandate, we are unable to lead the mediation process," Ioseliani said.

The Public Defender's office has called on Evolution Georgia to comply with labor legislation and engage in timely and effective conciliation procedures with the striking employees. Ioseliani emphasized, "From the first day of the protest, we began examining their issues on our own initiative and have issued several public statements urging both the employer and the labor



CONTINUED ON Page 2

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7099; Euro - 3.0196; GBP - 3.5562; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.9806; Swiss Franc - 3.1821

Public Defender of Georgia Meets with Striking Employees of Evolution Georgia

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

inspectorate to address the concerns.”

The striking employees are

demanding several changes, including wage increases, improvements in working conditions, the immediate dismissal of managers accused of bullying,

racism, and sexism, and the signing of lifetime contracts with new hires. They have also called for government intervention and placed full responsibility on both

the company and the government for the ongoing situation.

The Public Defender’s office continues to monitor the situation and advocates for a resolu-

tion that addresses the workers’ demands while urging Evolution Georgia and relevant authorities to take appropriate action.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Public Defender Levan Ioseliani to File Friend of the Court Brief in ‘Foreign Agents’ Law Case



Public Defender Levan Ioseliani has announced plans to file a friend of the court brief with the Constitutional Court

regarding the “Foreign Agents” law. The brief aims to provide additional legal perspectives and insights to assist the court in its deliberations.

Ioseliani explained, “What we’ve really decided at this point is that we’re going to file a friend-of-the-court opinion that will be attached to the lawsuits,

which I think will further help the court make the right decision.” He further elaborated, “A friend of the court opinion applies

to absolutely every lawsuit filed in court. This is not an opinion presented in favor of any party; it is a document created in accordance with international standards, which responds to the court in making a more correct decision and makes it easier to find and justify legal arguments.”

The lawsuits against the “Foreign Agents” law have been filed by the President, 121 non-governmental and media organizations, and opposition deputies. Additionally, Gela Mtvlishvili, founder and editor of Mtis Ambebi, has independently appealed to the Constitutional Court.

The plaintiffs are seeking a temporary suspension of the law until the court issues a final decision. On July 29, Constitutional Court Chairman Merab Turava announced that all the lawsuits would be consolidated into one proceeding.

President Salome Zourabichvili Awards Order of National Hero to Alexander Oniani’s Family

On August 11, 2021, Presi-

dent of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili awarded the Order of the National Hero of Georgia to the family of Alexander Oniani, who was honored for his role in the 2008 Shindisi battle in the village of Jakhunderi in Lentekhi.

Alexander Oniani, a Junior

President Zourabichvili visited Oniani’s native village, laid a wreath at his grave, and attended a memorial service at St. George’s Church. The event was also attended by representatives from the Georgian Defense Forces, including Deputy Commander Major General Zaza



Sergeant in the Armed Forces of Georgia, was recognized with the Order of the National Hero for his exceptional bravery, heroism, and self-sacrifice in defending the nation. During the ceremony,

Chkhaidze.

The award honors Oniani’s significant contributions and his enduring legacy as a national hero.

Weather

Friday, August 23

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 36°C

Night Partly Cloudy

Low: 23°C

Saturday, August 24

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 34°C

Night Partly Cloudy

Low: 22°C

Sunday, June 25

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 33°C

Night Mostly Cloudy

Low: 21°C

Monday, June 26

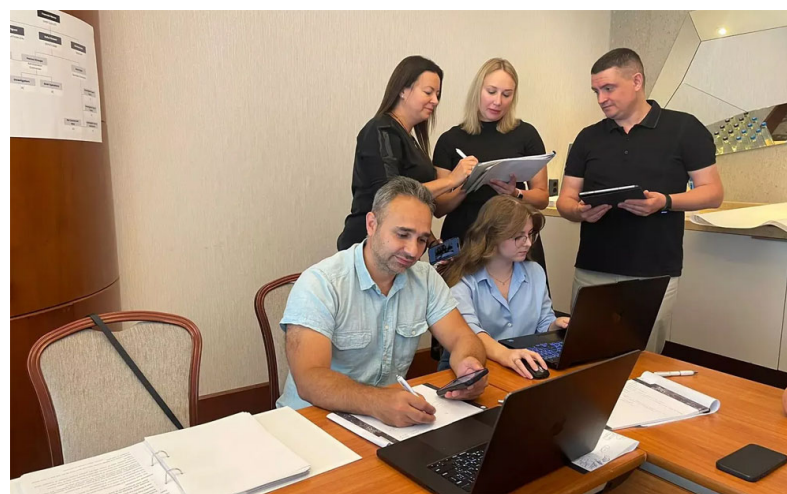
Day Partly Cloudy

High: 32°C

Night Partly Cloudy

Low: 21°C

Training on intelligence-led policing for Ukrainian law enforcement



The European Union Advisory Mission (EUAM) Ukraine recently organised a two-week training on intelligence-led policing (ILP) in War-

saw for Ukrainian analysts from the National Police of Ukraine, the Economic Security Bureau of Ukraine, and academic institutions under the Ministry of

Internal Affairs.

Intelligence-led policing serves as the cornerstone of modern law enforcement, emphasising proactive and preventative strategies over reactive measures. This approach ensures that police forces remain “one step ahead” of criminal activity. For ILP to be effective, the information gathered by police must be carefully collected, collated, thoroughly analysed, and effectively disseminated. This systematic process, which is also known as an Intelligence Cycle, allows law enforcement to respond appropriately and allocate resources where they are most needed.

The training was designed to equip participants with essential

skills in intelligence analysis. It provided an in-depth exploration of the Intelligence Cycle, practical application of 20 Structured Analytical Techniques, and a thorough understanding of the analytic spectrum.

Participants reported a broader understanding of analytical techniques and an improved ability to apply these methods, especially in generating and testing hypotheses and scenarios, foreseen through teamwork.

EUAM Ukraine continues to support law enforcement agencies in Ukraine, including in the realm of intelligence-led policing, particularly evidence-based decision-making via thorough analysis.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

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.

Festival "Night Serenades"



Nina Tsagareli - Director of the festival

This year marks the 16th edition of the festival since its renewal and will be held in three cities: Borjomi, Batumi, and Tbilisi.

The festival opening took place on August 21, with an open-air gala concert in Borjomi at Borjomi Likani Hotel.

On August 23, at 8:00 PM, Batumi Professional State Drama Theater will host Mario Stefano Pietrodarchi (Bandoneon, Italy) and the festival Base Orchestra (concertmaster Lela Mtchedlidze). They will perform masterpieces of world-renowned composers: Ennio Morricone – Three themes, Nino Rota – Ommagio a Federico Fellini, Khaled Mouzanar – Medley, Carlos Gardel – Volver; Por una Cabeza, Astor Piazzolla – Melodia in La minore; Adios

Nonino; Vuelvo al Sur; Milonga del Angel; Le, Grand Tango.

On the second day of the festival, August 25 at 8:00 PM, Batumi Ili Chavchavadze theater will host Elvin Hoxha Ganiyev – Violin, Azerbaijan / Turkey and the Festival Base Orchestra GEORGIAN VIRTUOSI (concertmaster Lela Mtchedlidze). The concert program includes Antonio Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons," Astor Piazzolla's "The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires," and Niccolò Paganini's "Caprice No. 24."

Starting September 15, "Night Serenades" will proceed to Tbilisi. Beatrice Venezi (conductor, Italy), Sandro Nebieridze (piano, Georgia), and Georgian Philharmonic Orchestra will perform Ottorino Respighi's "Pines of Rome" and

Sergei Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor, Op. 30.

On September 17 at 8:00 PM, an evening of Brazilian music will take place at Tbilisi State Conservatoire Grand Hall. The concert will feature young, renowned Georgian soloists Lizi Ramishvili (cello), Mariam Roinishvili (soprano) and Giorgi Oikashvili (clarinet), with the Festival Base Orchestra GEORGIAN VIRTUOSI led by first violinist Lela Mtchedlidze. The program includes works by Brazilian composers such as Alberto Nepomuceno's String Quartet No. 3 "Brasileiro," Heitor Villa-Lobos' Five Songs, Chiquinha Gonzaga's "Corta Jaca," Zequinha de Abreu's "Tico-Tico no Fubá," etc.

"Night Serenades" will also feature a Czech music concert on September 18 at 6:00 PM at Recital Hall of Tbilisi State Conservatoire. In celebration of the 200th anniversary of Bedřich Smetana, Giorgi Shaverzashvili (piano, Georgia) and Giorgi Khaindrava (violin, Georgia) will perform works by Bedřich Smetana and Antonín Dvořák. Attendees can look forward to many musical surprises throughout the concert.

This year's festival will be wrapped up on September 20 at 8:00 PM at Tbilisi State Conservatoire Grand Hall. Andres Gabetta – Violin / Conductor, France and Maurice Steger – Recorder, Switzerland with Festival Base Orchestra GEORGIAN VIRTUOSI (concertmaster Lela Mtchedlidze) will perform special program VIVALDI and Friends. The concert program includes: Evaristo Felice Dall'Abaco's – Concerto a più strumenti in D major, Op.5 No.6 – Ciaconna, Pietro Locatelli – Concerto Grosso in C minor, Op.1 No.11, and concertos of Greatest Master Antonio Vivaldi.

Along with the concert program, within the framework of the festival, special attention will be paid to the cognitive-educational program for students and young people, including the disabled people, which includes master classes, workshops, open lectures and traditionally exhibitions by Georgian artists.

Tickets can be purchased at tkt.ge

It is worth mentioning that Georgian violinist and conductor, the founder of the festival, Liana Issakadze passed away on July 5, 2024 at the age of 77. As well as a prominent soloist in Georgia, she conducted the Georgian State Chamber Orchestra and in 1988 was recognized as a People's Artist of the USSR, at the time the youngest artist to be so named.

The festival is supported by the Ministry of Culture and Sport of Georgia, Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports of Adjara, Tbilisi City Hall, Batumi City Hall, Borjomi City Hall, Embassy of Italy, Embassy of Brazil, Embassy of Czech Republic.

The festival is also supported by the furniture house "Nita", perfumery store chain "Lutecia", Yves Rocher, Company "Sarajishvili", Brothers Khutsishvili Wine Cellar, HOTSAL.GE, "PSP" pharmacy, GPC Pharmacy, "Piel Naturals", Wine Company „GEORGIAN LEGEND”.

Media partners: Public Broadcaster Adjara, Georgian Public Broadcaster, Rustavi 2, Imedi Media Holding, POSTV, Euronews Georgia, Media holding "Georgian Times", Ertsulovneba TV, Media And Digital Communications Agency "Clip Art", Ambebi.ge, "Prime Time" news agency, "Today", "The Messenger", Journal "Sarke", "Adjara" newspaper, online media "Ajara Times", radio "Fortuna", website "Fortuna.ge".

Tickets: tkt.ge

21 AUGUST
BORJOMI | Borjomi Likani Hotel

23, 25 AUGUST
BATUMI | Batumi Drama Theater

15, 17, 18, 20
SEPTEMBER
TBILISI | Tbilisi State Conservatoire

Founder of the Festival
LIANA ISSAKADZE

Artistic Director
GIORGI ISSAKADZE

ლანის სერენადები
NIGHT SERENADES

ALLIANCE ART
არტ ალიანსი

