

The Messenger

"Impartial, Informative, Insightful"

GEL 3.00

#161 (5722)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024

WWW.MESSENGER.COM.GE

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Russia Accuses US of Plotting Color Revolution' in Georgia Ahead of Elections

The Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) has issued a statement claiming that the United States is preparing to orchestrate a "color revolution" in Georgia ahead of the country's parliamentary elections scheduled for October 26, 2024. This is the second time the SVR has made such an accusation, having previously released a similar statement on July 9, 2024.

According to the SVR, the White House is allegedly dissatisfied with the current political situation in Georgia and is supporting pro-Western Georgian non-governmental organizations in their efforts to monitor the upcoming elections. The Russian intelligence agency claims these NGOs are mobilizing volunteers to document supposed government misuse of administrative resources during the voting process.

The SVR further alleges that these actions are part of a broader strategy, dubbed "Tbilisi Maidan" to publish "evidence of fraud," reject the election results, and ultimately push for a change in government. The agency also warns of potential provocations aimed at forcing law enforcement to use force against protesters, which could then trigger a "ruthless" political and economic response from the United States against the Georgian government.

In its statement, the SVR also speculates that the ruling party, Georgian Dream, is likely to se-



ecure strong support in the upcoming elections due to divisions within the opposition, despite alleged American efforts to influ-

ence the outcome. The SVR suggests that this potential victory for Georgian Dream could allow the party to pursue a more inde-

pendent foreign policy, contrary to Western interests.

These accusations are widely seen as part of Russia's ongoing

propaganda campaign, which often portrays Western influence in former Soviet states as destabilizing and malicious.

Natsvlishvili Accuses Bidzina Ivanishvili of Planning to Recognize Abkhazia for Political Gain

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Ana Natsvlishvili, a leader of the opposition coalition Strong Georgia, has accused Bidzina Ivanishvili, the founder of the ruling Georgian Dream party, of plotting to recognize Abkhazia in exchange for securing his hold on power.

Natsvlishvili claims that Ivanishvili is targeting Georgia's constitutional provisions on independence and territorial integrity, which she says he plans to alter through proposed constitutional amendments. According to Natsvlishvili, these changes are part of a broader strategy to align with Russian interests by recognizing Abkhazia and betraying Georgia.

"Bidzina Ivanishvili and his Georgian Dream serve Russia," Natsvlishvili stated. "After Ivanishvili, on Russia's instructions, closed the door to the European Union that was open to Georgia and halted negotiations

on full EU membership, he is now moving to the next stage of the plan. It is clear that he intends to recognize Abkhazia in exchange for a guarantee of staying in power."

She added, "Talking about constitutional changes, for which, as he says, he needs a constitutional majority — this is exactly part of this insidious, treacherous plan. The Constitution of Georgia clearly and unequivocally records the independence and territorial integrity of Georgia. It is this record that Ivanishvili is targeting when he talks about constitutional amendments."

Natsvlishvili criticized Ivanishvili's actions, describing them as a betrayal of Georgia. "With the country's independence, territorial integrity, and sovereignty at stake, such actions are a betrayal of the country. That is why Georgian

CONTINUED ON Page 2



Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6998; Euro - 3.0159; GBP - 3.5613; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.9390; Swiss Franc - 3.1897

Natsvlishvili Accuses Bidzina Ivanishvili of Planning to Recognize Abkhazia for Political Gain

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Dream will be defeated in the October 26 elections. Ivanishvili serves the Kremlin, the occupier of this country, and not Georgia

and its state interests.” She also outlined Strong Georgia’s alternative vision for the country. “We, Strong Georgia, have a peaceful, concrete plan to restore the territorial

integrity of Georgia. This plan includes accelerating Georgia’s accession to the European Union and constructing the Anaklia port. These measures will create real conditions for the peace-

ful restoration of territorial integrity and reintegration.” “Georgia is an independent state. Its territorial integrity has already been recognized both by the Constitution and the in-

ternational community. No matter how much Ivanishvili tries to rewrite it on the instructions of the Kremlin, he will not succeed against Georgia,” Natsvlishvili stated.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Georgian Government Dismisses Ambassadors to UK, Switzerland, NATO, and UN



The Government of Georgia has announced the dismissal of several key diplomats, including ambassadors and representatives in Switzerland, the United Kingdom, NATO, and the United Nations offices in Geneva. The government has submitted relevant proposals to the President and published the corresponding decrees.

The following diplomatic positions are affected:

- Ramaz Lominadze, Ambassador to Switzerland, will leave his post on October 1, 2024.
- Aleksandre Maisuradze, Permanent Representative to the UN offices in Geneva and other international organizations, will also step down on October 1, 2024.
- Sofia Katsarava, Am-

bassador to the United Kingdom, will have her authority terminated on October 15, 2024.

- Viktor Dolidze, Representative to NATO, will leave his position on September 21, 2024.

All four diplomats were appointed in 2020. The Ministry of

Foreign Affairs stated that their dismissals are due to the expiration of their rotation periods.

Additionally, on August 20, the government requested the dismissal of Zurab Pataradze, the Ambassador to Azerbaijan since 2018, also citing the end of his rotation period.

Tbilisi Mayor Responds to Russian Intelligence Claims: Criticizes Opposition and Danish Government

Kakha Kaladze, the Mayor of Tbilisi party, responded to recent claims by the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) that the United States is preparing a “color revolution” in Georgia. While addressing the SVR’s statement, Kaladze claimed that the Georgian opposition itself has been openly promoting revolutionary ideas, questioning the need for Russian intelligence to make such statements.

“Why does this need a statement from Russian intelligence? The oppositionists came out and directly preached revolution,”



Kaladze remarked, claiming that opposition figures have been openly discussing and instructing on how to carry out a revolution in the country. He added, “Why are you so attached to the statements of the Russian special services? This also raises many questions regarding you and the opposition in general.”

Kaladze further criticized the involvement of foreign governments in Georgia’s internal affairs, specifically pointing to the Danish government. He accused Denmark of financing opposition activities, including their visits to regions and their direct involvement in the election campaign. “Neither Russia, America, nor the West can interfere in Georgia’s affairs. An attempt to do this is funded by non-governmental organizations. The Danish government, which finances the trips of the opposition spectrum to the regions and is directly involved in the election campaign, is this normal?” Kaladze said.

Weather

Tuesday, June 27

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 34°C

Night Clear
Low: 21°C

Wednesday, June 28

Day Clear
High: 33°C

Night Clear
Low: 20°C

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/

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

ლიანის
სერენადები
NIGHT SERENADES

ART
არტ ალმანახი

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.