

## Georgian Prime Minister Threatens to Reevaluate U.S.-Georgia Relations After Sanctions, Meets with U.S. Ambassador

By MESSENGER STAFF

Following the U.S. State Department's announcement of sanctions, Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze met with U.S. Ambassador to Georgia, Robin Dunnigan.

According to information released by the Georgian government, Kobakhidze expressed to the ambassador that the U.S. is approaching a "critical threshold" and warned that another similar decision could lead to a "fundamental reassessment of Georgian-American relations."

The government's statement further mentioned that Kobakhidze "expressed personal respect for the ambassador" but also voiced concern over the State Department's recent sanctions.

"[Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze] pointed out that with this decision, the American side has approached a critical threshold, and another similar move could lead to a fundamental reassessment of Georgia's stance on Georgian-American relations. It was noted during the meeting that the U.S. State Department's decision is aimed at improving the opposition's chances ahead of the elections, but it is entirely counter-productive. In reality, it will neither benefit the opposition's electoral results nor intimidate the ruling party."

The Prime Minister also asserted that, on the contrary, the decision by the State Department "will further strengthen the public's motivation to stand firmly in defense of Georgia's independence and



sovereignty on October 26," according to the government's release.

The U.S. State Department recently imposed sanctions on over 60 members of the Georgian government and parlia-

ment, including their family members, for undermining democracy. Additionally, the U.S. Treasury Department sanctioned senior officials from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, including Zviad

Kharazishvili and his deputy, Miller Lagazauri, as well as two members of the pro-Russian and violent group Alt-Info, Zura Makharaidze and Konstantine Morgoshia.



## Significant Progress Made in Talks Between Mamuka Khazaradze and Giorgi Gakharia, Says Badri Japaridze

By MESSENGER STAFF

Badri Japaridze, Chair of the Political Council of Lelo for Georgia, has announced that significant progress was made today in negotiations between Mamuka Khazaradze and Giorgi Gakharia. However, the talks will continue until a final agreement is reached.

Speaking on TV channel Formula, Japaridze expressed hope that "the agreement will be successfully concluded."

"During today's meeting between Mamuka Khazaradze and Giorgi Gakharia, significant progress was achieved. Negotiations of this nature are not concluded in just one meeting. I be-

lieve it is premature to pause; these talks will likely continue until a final agreement is reached. Once that happens, the public will be informed, as there is nothing to hide. When the agreement is finalized—hopefully, successfully—the key points will be shared with the public to avoid any ambiguity or uncertainty," Japaridze stated.

He further clarified that the position Khazaradze presented during the meeting with Gakharia at the Orbeliani Palace is aligned with the coalition "For a Strong Georgia."

"Mamuka Khazaradze is negotiating after consultations

CONTINUED ON Page 2



Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6998; Euro - 3.0060; GBP - 3.5672; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.9577; Swiss Franc - 3.1962

# Significant Progress Made in Talks Between Mamuka Khazaradze and Giorgi Gakharia, Says Badri Japaridze

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

with coalition members. Therefore, the position he presents to Giorgi Gakharia is the coalition's position. Naturally, we are informed about the content of the negotiations and the issues that require further discussion with the other side. There are no internal obstacles within the coalition regarding the stance Khazaradze has voiced. We need to continue consultations with

the other side to reach a common decision. We are ready to proceed with these talks," Japaridze said.

He emphasized that the coalition's approach to the agreement is driven by national interests.

"We are pursuing this agreement in the interest of the country. Defeating the Georgian Dream is the key mission to save the country. We understand and see who is in charge today. We've

heard statements from the Prime Minister and other Georgian Dream spokespeople, and we see the danger facing the country with these individuals in power. This threat must be removed on October 26, and we must face it head-on. All differences, personal grievances, and other issues must be set aside in favor of the country's interests. This is the spirit in which these negotiations have been conducted," Japaridze concluded.

## The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

### U.S. Helsinki Commission Declares Sanctions Against Georgians as a Show of Solidarity

The U.S. Helsinki Commission has announced that the recent sanctions imposed by the State Department on Georgian officials are a demonstration of American solidarity with the Georgian people.

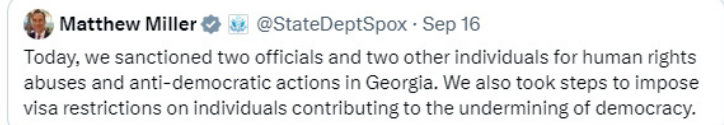
The commission emphasized that actions going against the will of the Georgian people violate the country's constitution.

In a statement, the commission said: "The sanctions imposed yesterday by the State Department on representatives of the Georgian government are a clear show of American solidarity with the Georgian people. The citizens of Georgia should be able to exercise their right to peaceful assembly without fear for their health and safety. The Georgian people deserve a government that upholds its own laws and respects their freedoms. Acting against the will of the Georgian people contradicts the nation's constitution."

The U.S. State Department has imposed sanctions on over 60 members of the Georgian government and parliament, including their family members, for undermining democracy. Additionally, the U.S. Treasury Department sanctioned high-ranking officials from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, including Zviad Kharazishvili and his deputy Miller Lagazauri, as well as two



Yesterday's State Department sanctions of Georgian government officials are a demonstration of Americans' solidarity with Georgians. The people of Georgia should be able to exercise their right to peaceful assembly without fearing for their health & lives.



8:23 PM · Sep 17, 2024 · 1,727 Views

members of the pro-Russian and violent group Alt-Info, Zura Makharaidze and Konstantine Morgoshia.

### Russian Forces Illegally Detain Two Georgian Citizens Near Occupation Line, Says State Security Service

Two Georgian citizens were unlawfully detained by Russian

the EU Monitoring Mission's "hotline" upon receiving the information. The Geneva International Discussions (GID) Co-Chairs and international partners have also been notified.

The SSSG stated that "all available mechanisms have been

## STATE SECURITY SERVICE OF GEORGIA



occupation forces near the village of Mejvriskhevi in Gori municipality, according to a report by the State Security Service of Georgia (SSSG) on September 17.

Following standard protocol, the SSSG immediately activated

activated" to ensure the swift release of the detained individuals, emphasizing that "the occupying power bears full responsibility for all destructive actions carried out in Georgia's occupied territories and along the occupation line."

## Weather

Wednesday, September 18

Day Mostly Cloudy High: 23°C

Night Mostly Cloudy Low: 16°C

Thursday, September 19

Day Mostly Cloudy High: 20°C

Night Mostly Cloudy Low: 15°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/

**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.



# Tbilisi concerts of "Night Serenades" have started

International festival named after Li Lana Issakadze "Night Serenades" continues with concerts in Tbilisi.

On September 15, the Italian conduc-

tor, Beatrice Venezi, the National Philharmonic Orchestra and pianist Sandro Nebieridze performed in the grand hall of the Vano Sarajishvili Tbilisi State

Conservatoire. One of the outstanding pieces of Italian symphonic music was performed - Ottorino Respighi's "Pines of Rome". Together with Sandro Nebieridze,

a well-known pianist with a successful international career, Beatrice Venezi performed Rachmaninoff third piano concerto.

