

## Prime Minister Kobakhidze Condemns U.S. Sanctions on Georgian Official, Calls It "Insult to the State"

By MESSENGER STAFF

Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze has responded to the recent U.S. sanctions imposed on senior Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs official Zviad Kharazishvili, labeling the move as "an insult to the state." Kobakhidze expressed his concern over the decision and warned that if the U.S. imposes further sanctions, Georgia's government will have to engage in "principled discussions regarding the review of certain positions."

In his statement, Kobakhidze highlighted the negative impact of such actions on U.S.-Georgia relations:

"Such steps, such decisions, do not contribute to the reset of relations. Over the past four years, these relations have faced serious difficulties, largely due to the activities of the previous ambassador. In such conditions, resetting relations is extremely important. This requires a healthy and fair approach, but such sanctions and decisions do not help with the reset of relations, especially when sanctions are imposed on high-ranking police officers, people who fought in the August war. This is an extreme insult to our state. This is fundamentally unacceptable for us."

Kobakhidze also stressed that Georgia may be forced to reassess its stance if the situation escalates:

"I expressed my concerns to the U.S. ambassador and clearly stated one thing – if another step is added to this, we will be forced to engage in principled discussions regarding the review of certain positions."

The Prime Minister criticized the approach of the United States, calling for rational and fair actions to support the U.S.-Georgia relationship:



"It is fundamentally unacceptable to have a non-partner-like attitude from a country that is not only called a partner but a strategic partner. Therefore, I call on everyone to act rationally and fairly. This will benefit Georgian-American relations. As for the sanctions, they are

aimed at destroying Georgian-American relations. You can judge for yourselves who benefits from this."

The comments come in the wake of sanctions imposed on September 16 by the U.S. Treasury Department against Zviad Kharazishvili, his deputy Miller

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

The U.S. imposed these sanctions in response to what it described as restrictions on fundamental freedoms in Georgia, including freedom of expression.

## Negotiations Between Mamuka Khazaradze and Giorgi Gakharia Expected to Reach Final Agreement Tomorrow

By MESSENGER STAFF

Mamuka Khazaradze, leader of Lelo for Georgia, and Giorgi Gakharia, leader of For Georgia, are on the verge of reaching a final agreement following ongoing negotiations facilitated by President Salome Zourabichvili. The two political figures met at the Orbeliani Palace, with discussions set to continue tomorrow, aiming for a resolution that would unite pro-Western opposition forces.

After leaving the presidential palace, Khazaradze spoke to journalists, emphasizing the importance of the negotiations for Georgia's European trajectory:

"The whole process is directed toward one goal – for Georgia to embark on the path to Europe, for the full consolidation of pro-Western and opposition forces, so that we can lead the country toward a peaceful, stable, and free world. It's not

an easy negotiation. We are close in principle. I want to make it clear that there is no talk of positions or lists, despite the rumors I've heard. The discussion is about how to defeat Georgian Dream, how to prevent the return of the old government, and how to create a new reality so that our country can soon implement the reforms outlined in the charter that we have."

Khazaradze expressed gratitude toward President Zourabichvili and Gakharia, describing the discussions as difficult but constructive:

"I want to thank the president, and thank Giorgi for a tough but constructive negotiation. Tomorrow, we will continue in a working state again with the president. As you know, time is very short; the preparation period ends in just



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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7136; Euro - 3.0211; GBP - 3.5868; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.9547; Swiss Franc - 3.2194

# Negotiations Between Mamuka Khazaradze and Giorgi Gakharia Expected to Reach Final Agreement Tomorrow

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one week, so we hope to finish everything by tomorrow.”

Gakharia also provided insights into the progress, acknowledging that while certain agreements have been reached, final details remain unresolved. He voiced optimism that a complete agreement would be reached by tomorrow:

“We haven’t finished yet. I had high hopes that it would be done today, but it’s not over yet – it will be finalized tomorrow. Certain agreements have been

made, but some issues still need resolution. I won’t discuss them here... Yesterday, I mentioned there was one issue left concerning parity, which unfortunately wasn’t settled as it should have been, though we did find some sort of solution. Now, there are a few more specific matters that should, in principle, be finalized by tomorrow, and I’m hopeful that an agreement will be reached,” stated Gakharia yesterday, September 18th.

Both leaders have left the Orbeliani Palace, with tomorrow expected to be a decisive day for concluding the talks.

## The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

### Georgian Transgender Activist Kesaria Abramidze Found Dead in Tbilisi Home



Tbilisi – Kesaria Abramidze, a well-known transgender activist, has been found dead in her home in Tbilisi. The incident, which has shocked the local community, is currently under investigation by authorities. Initial reports indicate that the crime occurred in Abramidze’s residence, with law enforcement agencies actively conducting on-site investigations.

The Georgian police have launched a criminal case under Article 108 of the Criminal Code, which addresses premeditated murder. Kesaria Abramidze, who was 37 years old at the time of her death, was a prominent figure in the LGBTQ+ commu-

nity and openly identified as transgender.

The investigation into the case as the community is anxiously awaiting more information regarding the circumstances surrounding her death.

This case has already sparked conversations about safety and the vulnerability of marginalized groups in Georgia, with many calling for a thorough investigation and justice.

### Michael Roth Hails Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili as a “True Heroine”



Tbilisi – Michael Roth, Chair of the Bundestag Foreign Affairs Committee, has publicly praised Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili following their meeting. Roth took to X (formerly known as Twitter) to share his thoughts, stating: “If you are looking for a brave politician, you will find her in Georgia! Thank you for the intensive conversation, Madam President.”

He emphasized Zourabichvili’s role as a “guarantor of Georgia’s Euro-Atlantic future” and her resilience in standing up to authoritarianism, calling her a “true heroine.”

Roth’s remarks have resonated with supporters of Zourabichvili, reinforcing her image as a leader committed to strengthening Georgia’s Western alliances.

Roth highlighted Zourabichvili’s key role in navigating Georgia’s political landscape amidst challenges from authoritarian forces.

### Mamuka Khazaradze: Consultations with Giorgi Gakharia Continue, Coalition Entry Offered

Mamuka Khazaradze, one of the leaders of the Lelo for Georgia coalition, has stated that consultations with former Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia are ongoing. Speaking to journalists after their meeting, Khazaradze emphasized that he will not make any independent moves without reaching an agreement with Gakharia.



Khazaradze revealed that Gakharia has been offered entry into the coalition as an “equal partner.”

“No one is against cooperation. We have offered Mr. Giorgi Gakharia to join this coalition as an equal partner. I can’t go into further details because these are our private negotiations. Equal partnership means equal rights and responsibilities,” Khazaradze said.

He further mentioned that

consultations will continue and thanked Gakharia for his constructive approach.

“What I want is to show citizens before the elections what the coalition looks like and the weight and importance of each member within is not the most important thing,” Khazaradze added.

The discussions remain ongoing as the leaders work toward forming a cohesive coalition ahead of the upcoming elections.

## Weather

Thursday, September 19

Day Mostly Cloudy  
High: 19°C

Night Mostly Cloudy  
Low: 15°C

Friday, September 20

Day Mostly Cloudy  
High: 19°C

Night Mostly Cloudy  
Low: 14°C

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**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

დასიის სერენადები  
NIGHT SERENADES

ლიანა ისაკაძე  
LIANA ISSAKADZE