

President Zourabichvili Questions Collection of Personal Data in Schools; Ministry Responds



In response, the Ministry of Education, Science, and Youth of Georgia refuted the President's claims, stating that the accusations that children's personal data is being collected for specific purposes "is a lie and does not correspond to the truth." The Ministry described the distribution of such disinformation as "a deliberate action aimed solely at discrediting the education system."

The Ministry explained that schools periodically update contact information for parents or legal representatives, including phone numbers, email addresses, and residential addresses. This practice is intended to ensure "quick and easy communication with the parent/legal representative, if necessary."

They emphasized that the collection, storage, processing, analysis, and administration of data within the general education management information system complies with the requirements of the Law of Georgia "On Personal Data Protection." The system is authorized to receive and use personal data from other public entities under the Ministry's jurisdiction.

The Ministry urged individuals to refrain from spreading misinformation, stating, "We call on specific individuals to refrain from spreading disinformation, which serves to deliberately mislead the public."

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE
On October 14, President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili took to social media to express concerns about schools allegedly asking children to provide their parents'

personal data. "If schools ask children for such data, this is a violation of personal data! A child should not give his parents' personal number! The identification of these schools is interesting!" Zourabichvili wrote.

Kakha Kaladze Slams EU Criticism, Compares Union to Soviet Union

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE
Kakha Kaladze, the general secretary of the ruling Georgian Dream party and mayor of Tbilisi, heavily criticized the European Union during a recent statement regarding discussions on Georgia's status at the meeting of EU foreign affairs ministers in Luxembourg.
"What does it matter whether it is the status of the Soviet Union or the European Union?"

Kaladze remarked, emphasizing that Georgia's fight for independence was rooted in a desire to be free from external control. "What did we fight for? To be independent. We were in the Soviet Union and we didn't want to be; we were all stamped states, we all had the same line. We wanted to be free and independent."
He further argued that the current treatment of Georgia by

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7263; Euro - 2.9804; GBP - 3.5600; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.8367; Swiss Franc - 3.1782

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the EU mirrors its past under Soviet rule. "What they frame and do today is no different from

the Soviet Union. We want freedom, independence, our sovereignty. Why does Europe have a price? By the fact that there are different states that have their own culture and traditions. This diversity makes the European Union and Europe in general interesting. If we cross out all this and we have to be labeled the same, what does it matter whether it is the status of the Soviet Union or the European

Union?" he added. He labeled this attitude as "unbelievable" and unacceptable.

Kaladze also fired back at German Minister of European Affairs Anna Lührmann, who criticized the current Georgian government for creating obstacles to EU integration. Dismissing her comments, Kaladze labeled them as having "zero value" and referred to her as "an ordinary Kubilius in a dress," a

job at MEP Andrius Kubilius. "Today, the Georgian people are represented by the government of Georgia. This is a sad reality for them. We have heard a lot of this type of statement, and these statements have zero value. I don't know who this lady is; she's just an ordinary Kubilius in a dress. This is my current attitude towards them," Kaladze stated.

The News in Brief

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Georgian Prime Minister Criticizes Opposition's Proposal for Technical Government



Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze has criticized the opposition's proposal for forming a technical government, calling the idea a "farce". Kobakhidze said that the suggestion is impractical and could have negative consequences for the country.

According to the Prime Minister, implementing a technical government would halt the country's progress for a year and potentially increase the risk of Georgia becoming involved in wider regional conflicts.

He reiterated that regular parliamentary elections would take place as planned in November, followed by the formation of a "normal government," as he described it.

Kobakhidze suggested that the opposition's plan would lead to disorder and instability:

"Actually, you know that our rating is about 60%. Under such conditions, talking about an opposition technical government is a farce. Elections will be held as usual. In November or early December, the first session of Parliament will take place, and a normal government will be formed, not the so-called technical government, which ensures the development of the country."

statement published on 11 October. Viktoriya Roshchyna was a renowned Ukrainian journalist, covering Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. She is the thirteenth journalist to be killed since the start of the full-scale war. According to the available information, she died while being transferred to Moscow from a prison in Taganrog.



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The plan that is being presented, though not intended to be implemented, would completely stop the country for a year. During this time, it would involve even more countries in the war and create disorder within Georgia. This is their plan, their task, and their goal, which has not yet been implemented," said Kobakhidze.

Afgan Sadigov's Health Deteriorates on 24th Day of Hunger Strike, Wife Claims



Sevinch Sadigova, the wife of imprisoned Azerbaijani journalist Afgan Sadigov, has reported a significant decline in her husband's health on the 24th day of his hunger strike. Sadigov, who was arrested in Tbilisi on August 3, began his

hunger strike on September 21 in protest of his detention.

"Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, gives an order for this, and Georgia carries out this order and kills Afgan in prison," she said, expressing her belief that her husband's detention is politically motivated. She added, "If the law and the court worked properly, Afgan would have been released a long time ago. They are taking political orders and killing people because of it."

Sadigova also expressed deep distrust in the authorities handling her husband's

case, including medical staff. "I don't believe in the results of the analyses, nor the doctors or prison authorities. I believe only in God and hope that He will help Afgan, because he is very sick and weakened," she stated.

EU demands thorough and independent investigation of Victoria Roshchyna's death in Russian captivity

The European Union is appalled by the reports about the death of Ukrainian freelance journalist Victoria Roshchyna while in illegal arbitrary Russian detention, EU High Representative Josep Borrell said in a

Weather

Tuesday, October 15

Day Overcast

High: 18°C

Night Mostly Cloudy

Low: 12°C

Wednesday, October 16

Day Mostly Cloudy

High: 22°C

Night Cloudy

Low: 14°C

clarifies all the circumstances of Victoria Roshchyna's death "as soon as possible". He also said that by arbitrarily detaining Roshchyna in the temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories in August 2023, the Russian authorities assumed full responsibility for her safety, health and physical integrity.

"The EU remains deeply concerned about Russia's ongoing harassment, intimidation and violence against journalists and media workers covering war zones and frontlines. For them, safety and protection must be ensured at all times," Borrell said.

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