

Zourabichvili Urges Constitutional Court to Address Election Violations Amid Political Crisis

By Messenger Staff

President Salome Zourabichvili has stated that in the coming days, the most crucial matter will be for the Constitutional Court to begin reviewing the appeal filed regarding election violations. Zourabichvili made this remark after meeting with parties that have signed the Georgian Charter.

According to Zourabichvili, the Constitutional Court now has a unique opportunity to resolve the country's political crisis.

"As for the direction political parties and society are collectively heading, what has become clear today and will become even clearer in the coming period as we hold further meetings, is that we are not only remaining within the constitutional framework, but the first step and action, which must begin even this evening, is to exert pressure on the Constitutional Court. The Constitutional Court and its judges have an extraordinary and historically unique opportunity to resolve this deep national



crisis within the political and constitutional framework, a crisis whose direction and outcome remain uncertain.

Instead of taking action, the Constitutional Court has not yet

even scheduled a hearing.

Thus, the efforts of political parties, society, activists, judges, and lawyers in the coming days must focus on ensuring that a hearing is scheduled and that

the Constitutional Court reviews the appeal. A positive resolution of this matter will return us to a constitutional framework," Zourabichvili stated.

On November 19, President

Salome Zourabichvili submitted an appeal to the Constitutional Court regarding violations of the principles of electoral secrecy and universality.

Tensions Rise as Protesters Demand Changes at Georgian Public Broadcaster

By Liza Mchedlidze

On December 1, protests in front of the Georgian Public Broadcaster (GPB) intensified as demonstrators blocked traffic

after the channel's leadership refused to meet with them. The protesters, calling for the resignation of GPB's Director Tinatin Berdzenishvili and Board Chair Vasil Maglaperidze, demanded

that the broadcaster provide equal airtime for opposition leaders and President Salome Zourabichvili. GPB responded by stating that it was willing to allow President Zourabichvili to

speak "even today."

The conflict between the GPB and the protesters escalated after the channel issued an official statement, accusing opposition TV channels of putting "unprec-

edented pressure" on the broadcaster, which it said hindered its ability to perform its duties. The GPB also condemned the use of violence and disproportionate force against journalists during the protests, calling on authorities to investigate and ensure journalists' safety.

This protest follows months of growing discontent over what many see as the GPB's biased coverage, with accusations that it predominantly airs content favoring the ruling Georgian Dream party. Maglaperidze, a former deputy chair of Georgian Dream, has faced criticism for his role in allegedly censoring opposition voices.

Earlier on November 30, journalists and activists had camped outside the GPB building, demanding that the channel broadcast a broader spectrum of political opinions. This led to a special live broadcast where opposition figures, journalists, and ordinary citizens involved in the protests spoke out.

The GPB is publicly funded, with an annual budget allocation of GEL 110.3 million for 2024. Tensions between the broadcaster and the ruling party flared in November 2023 over changes to its funding scheme, although the issue was later resolved. Despite these efforts, accusations of censorship and government bias remain a significant issue for the channel, especially amidst the ongoing protests.



The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

U.S. Helsinki Commission Expresses Solidarity with Georgian Protestors, Condemns Government Repression



WASHINGTON—Today, U.S. Helsinki Commission Chairman Representative Joe Wilson (SC-02) and Ranking Member Representative Steve Cohen (TN-09) issued the following statement expressing their solidarity with the Georgian people as they continue to peacefully protest to save their democracy and European future in the face of violent government repression:

On November 29, U.S. Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Joe Wilson and Ranking Member Rep. Steve Cohen issued a statement in support of Georgian citizens who have been protesting against the Georgian Dream (GD) party's decision to suspend the country's European Union accession process.

Cohen emphasized that the Georgian government's actions, such as appointing a new government without opposition participation or presidential approval, were "in contravention of Georgia's constitution," thus rendering it "illegitimate".

The U.S. representatives expressed

their continued support for the Georgian people's efforts to restore democracy, urging both the current and incoming U.S. administrations to assist in "the fight to restore democracy and freedom."

GYLA Reports Over 200 Arrests and Violations During Tbilisi Protests Against Georgian Dream's EU Suspension

The Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA) reported over 200 arrests during protests in Tbilisi from November 28 to December 1, following the Geor-

gian Dream party's decision to suspend the country's bid for European Union membership until 2028. The arrests included minors, women, journalists, and members of the cultural sector and non-governmental organizations.

phones. The group condemned the disregard for legal standards during trials, making it difficult for lawyers to effectively represent their clients.

In response to these violations, GYLA has called for the immediate release of



არასამთავრობო ორგანიზაციების სამართლებრივი დახმარების ქსელის განცხადება დაკავებული პირების შესახებ

GYLA's statement highlighted disturbing conditions during the protests, including reports of police brutality, psychological violence, and a lack of adequate medical care for detainees.

all detainees, the cessation of proceedings against them, and full legal protection of detainees' rights.

Euro166 million boost for youth volunteering in 2025

On November 29, the European Commission published the 2025 European Solidarity Corps call which supports the participation of young people in volunteering activities in communities across the EU and beyond.

ery of funds from COVID-19 years, when many volunteering activities could not take place. The 2025 call will again support

volunteering projects and activities promoting environmental sustainability, digital skills and literacy, inclusion and diversity,

active citizenship, and more.

Dedicated actions will continue to provide relief to people fleeing Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Participants can engage in a wide range of inspiring solidarity activities focusing on priority areas such as social inclusion, green and digital transition, democratic participation, and health-related issues. Together with the call,

the Commission has released the European Solidarity Corps 2021-2023 Report, which showcases the programme's impact in those years, and how it contributed to fostering solidarity across the globe.

The Corps is open to people between 18 and 30 years old, extended to between 18 and 35 years old for volunteering in support of humanitarian aid activities outside the EU.

(euneighbourseast.eu)



Weather

Monday, December 2

Day Showers High: 6°C

Night Showers Low: 3°C

Tuesday, December 3

Day Cloudy High: 7°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: 1°C

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