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Mdinaradze Criticizes Opposition for Disregarding OSCE/ODIHR and Key Institutional Assessments

By Messenger Staff

Mamuka Mdinaradze, the Executive Secretary of the Georgian Dream party, has criticized the opposition for disregarding the assessments of key institutions on various national issues. He accused them of ignoring the OSCE/ODIHR's evaluations concerning election legitimacy, the Patriarchate's stance on religious matters, economic policies such as the imposition of sanctions, and judicial decisions from both Georgian and Strasbourg courts.

They are not concerned with the position of OSCE/ODIHR regarding the legitimacy of the elections, the stance of the Patriarchate on religious matters, economic policies such as imposing sanctions, or the opinions of Georgian and Strasbourg courts. “The executive secretary of Georgian Dream, Mamuka Mdinaradze,” criticized this mindset, accusing it of disregarding logic.

Mdinaradze was responding to remarks by Beka Liluashvili, a member of the Gakharia for Georgia party. According to Mdinaradze, he stated that “The legitimacy of the parliament is a political issue and OSCE/ODIHR is not a political organization.” According to Mdinaradze, OSCE/ODIHR is the primary authority on election conclusions, yet the opposi-



tion dismisses its stance on the legitimacy of elections.

He continued, “The legitimacy of the Parliament is a political issue,” one member of “Gakharia for Georgia” argues. The OSCE/ODIHR is not a political organization. So, who cares about the legitimacy of the OSCE/ODIHR? They disregard its position on elections, the Patriarchate’s

stance on religion, the economy, or the impact of sanctions. They disregard the judiciary’s conclusions—be it Georgian or Strasbourg courts. This mindset erases logic entirely. They act as though OSCE/ODIHR’s conclusions on legitimacy are irrelevant. Yet, this body organizes election observation missions globally, assesses whether elec-

tions are competitive, and determines if authorities in specific countries are legitimate.”

Mdinaradze emphasized that until now, the global community has recognized OSCE/ODIHR as the authority on these matters. “Beka Liluashvili has turned this narrative on its head. The civilized world accepts the principles and conclusions of OSCE/

ODIHR, but Liluashvili does not. I urge those at the rally to decide: do you trust the civilized world and its institutions, including OSCE/ODIHR, or Beka Liluashvili, the second ‘little Gakharia’? How can we take this seriously? OSCE/ODIHR conclusions form the basis of legitimacy,” Mdinaradze concluded.

Three Protesters Imprisoned as Preventive Measures Amid Ongoing Investigations in Tbilisi



BY MESSENGER STAFF

On November 29, three young men were arrested on charges of attacking policemen and damaging other people’s property during a protest and were imprisoned as a preventive measure.

Tbilisi City Court Judge Nino Epitashvili ordered the detention of a 21-year-old accused of assaulting a police officer as a preventive measure.

During today’s session, the prosecution requested the strictest preventive measure against the detainee, while the defense requested his release in exchange for a 10,000 GEL bail. Judge Epitashvili granted the prosecution’s request.

The defendant exercised his right to remain silent and did not state his position in court. His lawyer plans to appeal the

court’s decision in the Tbilisi Court of Appeal.

Regarding the 17-year-old detainee, he is accused of throwing a burning object into the legislative building during the November 29 protest, which resulted in a fire in one of the rooms of the parliament building. Judge Arsen Kalatozishvili sentenced him to prison as a preventive measure.

Another detainee, accused of setting fire to the monitoring system of the emergency situation management center “112” installed on the facade of the parliament building, was also sentenced to preventive detention by Judge Nana Shamatava.

For context, the ongoing investigation is being conducted under Articles 187 and 353 of the Criminal Code, which pertain to dam-

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.8746; Euro - 3.0252; GBP - 3.6438; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.7011; Swiss Franc - 3.2478

Three Protesters Imprisoned as Preventive Measures Amid Ongoing Investigations in Tbilisi

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age to another person's property and assault on a police officer.

Currently, five individuals have been detained under these articles. Additionally, administrative proceedings are under-

way under Articles 166 and 173 of the Code of Administrative Offenses, addressing disobedience to lawful police orders and

petty hooliganism.

Meanwhile, the Special Investigation Service has launched an investigation into allegations of abuse

of official authority by law enforcement officers, including acts of violence against rally participants and media representatives.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

President Zourabichvili: "It Is My Responsibility to Lead Georgia to New Elections"



"The government is left with one constitutional, legitimate institution, and that is me, on the other side is Ivanishvili, who has completely usurped power in this country and established a violent regime," said the President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, at the briefing.

Zourabichvili said that it is her responsibility to lead the country to new elections, which will legitimately elect a new government.

"The government has one constitutional, legitimate institution left, and that is me. It is a very big responsibility and there remains on the other side one per-

son who has completely usurped power in this country. I do not say the word government, power and imposed a violent regime. This is Ivanishvili and we must find a solution for this country that will

be peaceful. It will be his responsibility to return his regime to non-violent mode, to listen to the people. My responsibility is to lead this country to new elections, which will legitimately elect its government tomorrow's government," stated the President.

Irakli Kobakhidze Calls the Protests in Georgia "Natsmaidan", Thanks the Police

According to Irakli Kobakhidze, the relevant services of the Ministry of Internal Affairs acted at a higher standard

than the American and European standards during the protest action on Rustaveli Avenue.

As he said at the press conference, "on one side of the action there were non-European violent groups and on the other side there were police acting in a European manner and with a higher standard

fairs operated at a higher standard than the American and European ones. During the first two days, there were unfortunate incidents, and during the last three days, appropriate actions were taken without any incidents. The Ministry of Internal Affairs operated with a higher standard than the American and



than the European one, which is very appreciable."

"I want to summarize the five-day cycle of the failed "Natsmaidan". I would like to thank the Ministry of Internal Affairs once again. I would like to personally thank the Minister of Internal Affairs; I want to thank every policeman. During these days, the Ministry of Internal Af-

European ones, and police officers operated. Thank them for that. On one side, there were non-European violent groups and on the other side there was a European and higher-than-European police force, which is very appreciable," said Irakli Kobakhidze, noting that "Natsmaidan" failed.

News Release



Türk calls on Georgian authorities to protect freedoms of expression and assembly amid violence

GENEVA (2 December 2024) – UN Human Rights Chief Volker Türk today called on the Georgian authorities to respect and protect the rights to freedoms of expres-

sion and peaceful assembly following four nights of protests that were marred by violence, and dispersed using disproportionate, and in some cases unnecessary, force by the police in the capital, Tbilisi.

Dozens of protesters and media workers have reportedly been injured during demonstrations against an announcement by the Prime Minister to postpone negotiations on joining the European Union. Security forces reportedly used pepper spray, water cannons and chemical irritants against protesters and journalists. Some were also reportedly chased and beaten by unidentified individuals.

"The use of unnecessary or disproportionate force against protesters and media workers is extremely worrying," said Türk. "All Georgians from across the political spectrum should be able to ex-

press their views about the future of their country freely and peacefully."

International human rights standards stipulate that States must promote an enabling environment for the exercise of the right of peaceful assembly without discrimination. Any use of force by security personnel must remain an exception and comply with the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality, precaution and non-discrimination.

The High Commissioner also called on protesters to exercise their rights peacefully. Reports indicate that a number of them have thrown rocks, fireworks and bottles at security forces, in addition to causing damage to the parliament building. The Ministry of Interior said at least 113 of its staff were injured.

The Special Investigation Service of Georgia – an independent institution accountable to the Parliament that investigates allegations against law enforcement officials – announced that it has

launched a probe into the abuse of official authority by police officers. "All those found responsible for violations should be held accountable, and allegations of ill-treatment of detainees should also be investigated," the High Commissioner said.

One challenge facing such investigations is the lack of individual identification numbers or nametags on the uniforms of riot and special police forces. "These incidents underscore once again the need to address this longstanding concern when it comes to establishing individual responsibility of law enforcement officers in Georgia," the High Commissioner said. According to the Guide on Less Lethal Weapons in Law Enforcement, issued by the UN Human Rights Office in 2020, authorities should ensure that "law enforcement officials be identifiable, for example by wearing nametags or individually assigned service numbers".

Latest figures from the Ministry of Interior indicate that at least

224 people have been detained during the four nights of protests. They face charges of petty hooliganism and disobeying lawful police orders. "Reports that a number of children are among those detained are particularly worrying," Türk said. "All their rights must be fully respected."

"All those detained for the legitimate exercise of their rights to freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly must be released immediately and unconditionally," said the UN Human Rights Chief. "Those facing other charges should be guaranteed all their rights to due process, presumption of innocence, legal counsel, as well as the right to challenge the lawfulness of their pre-trial detention, and adequate medical care if needed."

"I encourage all segments of society to maintain a peaceful environment and resolve any disagreement through a transparent and an inclusive dialogue, and use established legal procedures based on the rule of law," the High Commissioner said.

Weather

Wednesday, December 4

Day Partly Cloudy High: 9°C

Night Clear Low: 0°C

Thursday, December 5

Day Partly Cloudy High: 10°C

Night Clear Low: 0°C

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