

German Embassy Condemns Legal Proceedings Against Protesters, Raises Alarm Over Amaghlobeli's Health

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The German Embassy in Georgia has criticized the legal treatment of protesters, calling attention to what it sees as intimidation tactics and an uneven legal process. In a statement issued on February 12, the Embassy highlighted concerns over the legal handling of individuals in pre-trial detention, noting that provisions allowing for release should be properly considered in court practice. The Embassy expressed concern that "people exercising their fundamental rights are being intentionally intimidated."

The statement also underscored the need for fair and equal legal treatment, pointing out that the same standards should apply to both demonstrators and law enforcement officers when criminal offenses are involved. "The same standards should apply to both demonstrators and law enforcement officials in cases of potential criminal offenses," the Embassy emphasized.

The German Embassy further noted that no substantial investigation has been carried out into



the violations allegedly committed by state structures. It reiterated its ongoing monitoring of the trials of detainees, alongside European and American partners, while stressing the importance of upholding the principles of the rule of law, including equality before the law and the protection of freedoms.

A major concern in the statement was the deteriorating health of Mzia Amaghlobeli, an imprisoned journalist and director of Batumelebi/Netgazeti, who has been on hunger strike for 32 days in protest. Despite her declining condition, Amaghlobeli remains in detention. The Embassy expressed particular worry over her situation.

In light of Georgia's declining democratic practices, Germany suspended development cooperation with the country in December 2024. The German Foreign Ministry also imposed travel bans on nine individuals involved in violence against peaceful demonstrators. "The right to peaceful protest is a universal human right, and it is our responsibility to protect it," the Ministry stated.

Federalists Party Submits List of Alleged Individuals Involved in Repressive Measures Against Georgian Citizens

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Federalists Party has submitted a list to Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili, naming individuals allegedly involved in implementing repressive measures against Georgian citizens. Tamar Chergoleishvili, a representative of the party, revealed that over 100 people have already been identified and included on the list.

The list includes 22 judges, 14 prosecutors, and 91 police officers, all accused of involvement in the cases of 57 victims. Chergoleishvili stated that these individuals—ranging from officials to ordinary citizens—have been accused of carrying out illegal tasks on behalf of the government, systematically violating the rights of protesters during their detention or searches. The data collection process is ongoing, with more individuals expected to be added.

The Federalists Party and the Liberty Institute are calling on those whose rights have been violated to come forward with information about the prosecutors, investigators, judges, and police officers involved. Chergoleishvili emphasized the importance of this data, saying, "The only proportionate force that we can use against them before the regime changes is to help our partners impose restrictions on them, both visa and financial restrictions." She also stressed the need for protests to continue, as they are seen as a catalyst for democratic change.

Salome Khvadagiani, the director of the Freedom Institute, echoed these calls, urging citizens who have been persecuted for political reasons to provide documentation of their youcases. She noted that approximately 100 administrative cases are also being reviewed. "If have information about police officers involved in violence and possess identifying documents, please provide it to us," Khvadagiani urged.



The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Public Defender Provides Update on Azerbaijani Journalist Afgan Sadigov's Hunger Strike

During the visit, the Ombudsman's team met with the deputy chief physician and Sadigov's treating doctor. They reviewed Sadigov's medical records, which indicate significant weight loss. The Ombudsman's Office highlighted the concern over his health condition, although

transferred to a civilian clinic.

According to the Ombudsman, the doctor informed Sadigov about the expected consequences of his hunger strike. The Public Defender's Office has requested Sadigov's full medical documentation to monitor his condition closely.

regularities in Georgia's October parliamentary elections, describing an "uneven playing field, entrenched polarization, pressure, and threats against voters." She also condemned violence against peaceful protesters in Georgia, calling it "unacceptable" and advocating for EU sanctions against those responsible. Sweden's stance reflects growing international concerns about democratic backsliding in Georgia.

Sweden Condemns Georgia's Democratic Backsliding and Advocates for EU Enlargement



საქართველოს
სახალხო დამცველი
PUBLIC DEFENDER
(OMBUDSMAN) OF GEORGIA

The Public Defender's Office has issued a statement regarding Azerbaijani journalist Afgan Sadigov, who is currently on hunger strike in a Georgian prison. The statement follows a visit on February 12 by an Ombudsman representative and a staff doctor to Sadigov, who has been protesting his ongoing extradition proceedings to Azerbaijan.

the attending doctor assured that, at this stage, the data does not suggest immediate danger, despite the risk of potential complications.

The statement further reveals that Sadigov has been receiving medical treatment for several days with his consent due to the deterioration of his health. However, he continues to refuse being



On February 12, 2025, Swedish Foreign Minister Maria Malmer Stenergard addressed the Riksdag (Swedish Parliament) to present the 2025 Statement of Foreign Policy. During her speech, she strongly criticized the Georgian government, asserting that its actions contradict the values and principles upon which the European Union (EU) is founded. This marked a significant rebuke of Georgia's recent political developments.

Minister Stenergard highlighted ir-

Despite these criticisms, Stenergard reaffirmed Sweden's support for democratic and pro-European movements in Georgia. She emphasized that EU enlargement remains a "geostrategic investment" vital to European security and prosperity. However, she made it clear that Sweden's support for candidate countries like Georgia is "strong but not unconditional," signaling that adherence to democratic principles remains a prerequisite for closer ties with the EU.

European Parliament's Conference of Presidents express their support for Ukraine

The European Parliament Conference of Presidents has strongly condemned Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine with deliberate targeting of civilian and critical infrastructure, and the atrocities committed against the Ukrainian population, all serious violations of international law and international humanitarian law.

In a statement released on 11 February, they reaffirmed their



"steadfast solidarity with the people of Ukraine, who continue to demonstrate extraordinary resilience and courage in defending their sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity".

The EP Conference of Presidents also called on the EU and its Member States to increase and speed up the delivery of support, in particular military sup-

port and establish a legal regime allowing for the confiscation of Russian-owned assets frozen by the EU.

They also expressed full support for Ukraine's European integration aspirations: "The European Parliament remains committed to advancing Ukraine's path towards EU membership, recognising its significant progress in reforms under the most challenging circumstances."

The Conference of Presidents is the political body in the European Parliament responsible for the organisation of Parliament's business and legislative planning and for relations with other EU institutions, the national parliaments and non-EU countries. It consists of the President of the European Parliament and the political group chairs.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Thursday, February 13

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 8°C

Night Mostly Cloudy

Low: -2°C

Friday, February 14

Day Cloudy

High: 9°C

Night Mostly Cloudy

Low: 0°C

published by

The Messenger

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