

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Zourabichvili Holds Briefing Following Resistance Platform Meeting

The fifth President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili held a briefing following a meeting of the Resistance Platform. According to Zourabichvili, the discussion focused on two key issues: the initiative of the families of prisoners and the recent statements from the international community, particularly regarding sanctions on judicial officials.

Zourabichvili stated that the Resistance Platform expresses solidarity with the parents of prisoners. She emphasized that their main objectives remain unchanged: preparing for new elections and advocating for the release of what she described as "prisoners of conscience."

"I must also emphasize that this topic of prisoners of conscience, their situation, torture, and ill-treatment is our constant topic with foreign partners, both in the format of separate parties and now through coordinated efforts," Zourabichvili said.

She also pointed to the international community's response, describing it as a significant development. "This has already yielded results, and yesterday was a very strong blow to the ruling party, the regime. There were harsh and serious reactions from



different quarters," she noted.

Zourabichvili highlighted Britain's recent decision to impose sanctions on Georgia's ju-

dicial system for the first time, calling it a noteworthy moment.

"These statements, this reaction of our partners, is already one

step towards victory. This is how we are moving towards elections, this is how we are moving towards the collapse of the regime. This is

a difficult and long path, which, in terms of our coordination, is the only path that will lead us to the end," she stated.

U.S. State Department Addresses Political Situation in Georgia

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The U.S. State Department recently issued a written response to www.globalnews.ge regarding the current political situation in Georgia. The question, posed to State Department

Spokesperson Tammy Bruce during a briefing, asked about the United States' communication with Georgia's ruling party in light of the ongoing political crisis. Specifically, the inquiry addressed the lack of recognition of election results by both the Georgian public and the inter-

national community, as well as the arrest of peaceful protesters and an independent journalist.

In response, the State Department highlighted that the U.S. is evaluating its approach to Georgia to further its interests in the region. The statement noted

that the United States has made it clear what steps Georgia's government can take to improve its relationship with the U.S.

"We continue to evaluate our approach to Georgia to advance American interests. The United States has made clear the steps Georgia's government can take to demonstrate it is serious about improving its relationship with the United States," the statement said.

The U.S. also addressed concerns about what it described as "anti-democratic actions" taken by the Georgian Dream government. The statement referenced comments made by Vice President Vance at the Munich Security Conference, where he said that a democratic mandate cannot be earned through the silencing of opponents or the imprisonment of political figures.

"Regarding continuing anti-democratic actions taken by the Georgian Dream government—as Vice President Vance said in Munich, you cannot win a democratic mandate by censoring your opponents or putting them in jail, nor can you win one by disregarding your basic electorate on questions like who gets to be a part of our shared society," the statement continued.

Additionally, the U.S. reaffirmed its long-standing support for Georgia, emphasizing the country's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

"The United States has been a partner to Georgia and the Georgian people for 33 years, and a strong supporter of Georgia's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity throughout that time," the statement reads.



The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Dutch Foreign Minister Warns of ‘Alarming Regression’ in Georgia



The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Caspar Veldkamp, has voiced serious concerns about recent political developments in Georgia. Speaking to journalists in Brussels ahead of the NATO Foreign Ministers’ meeting, Veldkamp described the situation as “very alarming.”

“The regression taking place in Georgia is very alarming,” he stated. “You have seen the statement issued by the EU High

Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Kaja Kallas, and the EU Commissioner for Enlargement, Marta Kos. We, the Netherlands, as one of the key members of the European Union, fully support this statement.”

Veldkamp emphasized that the majority of Georgians aspire to a European future, and the Netherlands remains committed to supporting them.

“We are very concerned about the developments in Georgia because we see that the majority of the Georgian people are pro-European, they aspire to a European future, and we want to support them so that they can continue to defend their position,” he added.

Estonian Foreign Minister Calls for EU to Revoke Georgia’s Visa Liberalization

Estonian Foreign Minister Margus Tsahkna has urged the European Union to begin the process of revoking Georgia’s visa liberalization, stating that the issue is already under discussion.

against Georgian officials:

“Estonia has imposed personal and national sanctions on dozens of individuals, including Bidzina Ivanishvili and the Prime Minister. We also call on the EU to start the process of revoking visa liberalization.”

When asked to confirm whether the issue is actively being considered,



“We call on the EU to start the process of revoking visa liberalization – this issue is on the table,” Tsahkna said in Brussels ahead of the NATO Foreign Ministers’ meeting.

He also highlighted Estonia’s actions

Tsahkna reiterated:

“Yes, this issue is on the table, and starting the process requires 15 member states to show the regime that it must change its behavior.”

New laws will negatively impact Georgia’s EU path and further tighten repressions, says EU

The new legislation, including the Foreign Agents Registration Act and Law on Broadcasting, adopted by the Georgian Parliament on 2 April, without due public consultations, “gives additional tools to the Georgian authorities to suppress dissent and tighten the policy of repression”, senior EU officials have said in a statement.

EU High Representative Kaja Kallas and European Commissioner for Enlargement Marta Kos said in a joint state-

ment that “these laws risk stigmatising the work of civic activists, threatening the survival of civil society and independent media, rolling back human rights protections, unduly restricting fundamental freedoms, and eroding democratic decision-making”.

“These steps further erode the foundations of democracy in Georgia,” the statement says. “Such actions are funda-



mentally incompatible with EU values of democracy, rule of law and media pluralism, and far from anything we would expect from a candidate country. They will negatively impact Georgia’s EU path. Adherence to these EU values is not negotiable.”

They also added that a vast majority of Georgian people want Georgia to join the European Union and called on the Georgian authorities to demonstrate “a genuine and irreversible commitment” to returning to the EU path.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Friday, April 4

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 22°C

Night Partly Cloudy

Low: 11°C

Saturday, April 5

Day Overcast

High: 20°C

Night Mostly Cloudy

Low: 9°C

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Kyogen Demonstration & Ballet Rehearsal Held at the Georgian National Opera and Ballet Theater

On April 3, 2025, a *Kyogen* Demonstration with Masterclass and Ballet Rehearsal took place at the Tbilisi Opera and Ballet Theater, co-organized by the Embassy of Japan in Georgia and the State Ballet of Georgia. This special cultural event was held in the scope of Japan Weeks 2025 in Georgia and brought together members of the Ballet Troupe, ballet students, and

esteemed guests for an immersive exchange of artistic traditions. *Kyogen*, a form of traditional Japanese comic theater, dating back to the 14th century, provides humorous interludes between *Noh* plays. It is known for its lively, exaggerated style and satirical commentary on human nature. Both *Noh* and *Kyogen* were inscribed in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage

List and some of the actors are certified as Japanese Living National Treasures. First, guests observed the Ballet rehearsal of George Balanchine's "Serenade" performed by soloists of the State Ballet of Georgia, Mr. Goto Masaaki and Ms. Mariam Eloshvili under the supervision of Ms. Nina Ananiashvili, after which members of the Ballet Theatre, along with more than 30 students had a chance to

watch *Kyogen* performance and to participate in the Masterclass, experiencing traditional Japanese culture firsthand. The Embassy of Japan in Georgia continues to promote cultural exchange program through organizing relevant events including this masterclass and other various activities, fostering greater cultural exchange and friendship between Japan and Georgia.



