

Nika Melia Charged After Refusing to Appear Before Investigative Commission

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Nika Melia, one of the leaders of the Coalition for Change, was officially charged after failing to comply with a request from the Georgian Parliament's Temporary Investigative Commission.

Speaking before the session, Melia stated, "All active people who have been involved in the peaceful struggle against the Georgian Dream regime in recent years have their paths from time to time passing through the so-called prosecutor's office, courts and prison cells – everything they do is absurd and illegal. I think we will meet in another building in a few hours."

He also said that the honorary chairman of Georgian Dream, Bidzina Ivanishvili, is being forced to intensify repression. "Ivanishvili understands that a semi-democratic system, or a semi-autocratic



regime, is very dangerous for him, because he may incur the wrath of the people to the point of losing power, so he is forced to increase repression. The more repressive steps Ivanishvili takes, no matter how pessimistic the people may be about the change of Ivanishvili's government, this regime will change. A citizen of Georgia cannot become a citizen of Soviet Georgia," Melia said.

Melia was summoned to provide explanations at a commission session but failed to appear. His absence triggered charges under Article 349 of the Criminal Code, which addresses failure to comply with a request from the Temporary Investigative Commission of Parliament. The offense is punishable by a fine, imprisonment for up to one year, or disqualification from holding a position or engaging in an activity for up to three years.



GYLA Files Complaint with ECHR on Behalf of Journalist Mzia Amaglobeli

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA) has filed a complaint with the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) on behalf of Mzia Amaglobeli, founder of Batumelebi and Netgazeti.

According to GYLA, the complaint argues that Amaglobeli's fundamental rights under the European Convention on Human Rights have been violated, including the right to liberty and security, the right to a fair trial, and the right to respect for private and family life.

"Today, the Georgian Young Lawyers Association filed a complaint with the European Court of Human Rights on behalf of the

founder of Batumelebi and Netgazeti, Mzia Amaglobeli, who is in illegal detention," the organization said.

"The complaint submitted to the European Court of Human Rights substantiates that the fundamental rights of the European Convention on Human Rights, such as the right to liberty and security (Article 5 of the Convention), the right to a fair trial (Article 6 of the Convention), the right to respect for private and family life (Article 8 of the Convention), freedom of expression (Article 10 of the Convention), Article 13 of the Convention in conjunction with Articles 8 and 10 (right to an effective remedy), the limitation on

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7496; Euro - 3.1227; GBP - 3.6682; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.3435; Swiss Franc - 3.3144

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use of restrictions on rights (Article 18 of the Convention), were violated against Mzia Amaglobeli," it continued.

GYLA also noted that the com-

plaint currently covers only part of the alleged violations.

"Considering that the consideration of the case on some of the violations has not yet been completed, the complaint sent today does not include the aforementioned violations and a dispute over them in the Strasbourg Court, depending on the results, will be possible after the completion of the consideration of the case at the national level," reads the organization's statement.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Papuashvili: Georgia Ready for New Page in Strategic Relations



Shalva Papuashvili, the Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia, stated that Georgia is committed to its Western alliances and ready to move forward in its international relations.

"Meetings have begun, signs of dialogue have appeared — Georgia remains in the Western orbit, its door is open, it is committed to its 30-year strategic partnership with its friends and is ready to turn a new page," Papuashvili stated.

He further noted that attempts by hostile external forces to isolate Georgia or intimidate it with sanctions have not been successful. He pointed out that the changing international landscape has allowed

the government to assert its fair and national interests more strongly.

"In the wake of the changed international situation, the government forced its opposing partners to account for its fair, legitimate and national interest-based demands. Meetings have begun, signs of dialogue have appeared, and attempts by hostile external groups to isolate Georgia and intimidate it with sanctions have failed," he added.

Looking ahead, Papuashvili emphasized

sized the importance of Georgia's "upcoming elections" in the fall, stating that the public must carefully judge political parties based on national interests. He urged voters to avoid parties with foreign influence and support those aligned with Georgian values.

Legal Issues Committee Supports Legislative Package on Banning Political Parties



The Legislative Package on the Ban of Political Parties was considered and supported by the Legal Issues Committee in the second reading.

The planned amendments to the Law on Political Unions of Citizens and the Law on the Constitutional Court will be submitted to the plenary session this week.

According to the draft, the Constitutional Court will be able to ban a party whose declared purpose, essence of activity, and personnel composition repeats the declared purpose, essence of activity, and personnel composition of a party already banned by the court.

With the same amendments, the deadlines for the Constitutional Court to make a decision on the constitutionality of a party's activities are being tightened. According to the draft, the deadline for

issuing a decision on a lawsuit concerning the constitutionality of a political party should not exceed nine months from the date of filing. During an election period, the decision must be made within 14 days.

The legislative package was submitted to the Parliament by the Georgian Dream faction.

EU and Azerbaijan to resume negotiations on a new partnership and cooperation agreement

The European Union and Azerbaijan have agreed to resume negotiations on a new

partnership and cooperation agreement, EU High Representative Kaja Kallas announced at a press conference in Baku on 25 April.

During her visit to Azerbaijan, she met with President Ilham Aliyev and Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov.

"This is a relationship to grow

based on mutual respect, including respect for our Member States and on fundamental principles, including the respect for the rule of law and human rights," Kallas said, commenting on the future renewed cooperation agreement.

She called Azerbaijan "an important partner in the region": "Together, the EU and Azerbaijan have made significant progress in strengthening their ties. We discussed ways to further increase trade and improve connectivity."

The EU High Representative thanked Baku for helping the EU to diversify its energy supplies, for humanitarian support for Ukraine, and for Azerbaijan's leadership in hosting the COP29

climate summit last year. "Multilateral efforts like these show that when countries work together, we can make a real impact on the global stage," Kallas said.

The EU and Azerbaijan also had a "good exchange" regarding the normalisation of Azerbaijan's relations with Armenia.

"The European Union supports the efforts of both sides to reach sustainable and lasting peace. Armenia and Azerbaijan now have an opportunity to achieve this," Kallas said.

She also welcomed the agreement reached on the text of the Peace treaty, adding that the EU is looking forward to the next steps.

(euneighbourseast.eu)



Weather

Tuesday, April 29

Day Rain High: 8°C

Night Mostly Cloudy Low: 7°C

Wednesday, April 30

Day Overcast High: 18°C

Night Mostly Cloudy Low: 10°C

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