

Resistance Platform: Kobakhidze's Letter Opposes Georgia's Democratic and Western Path

BY MESSENGER STAFF

The Platform of Resistance has issued a strong response to an open letter by Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze, accusing the ruling party of opposing Georgia's strategic partner, the United States, and undermining the country's democratic future.

"Irakli Kobakhidze's open letter once again reveals the truth: the regime that opposes our strategic partner – the USA – is actually opposing democracy, Western course, freedom and choice of the Georgian people," the statement reads.

The Platform argues that Kobakhidze's letter does not reflect the will of the Georgian people and calls for national unity: "Today, more than ever, unanimity is needed! – We will not allow anyone to destroy the trust and friendship built over decades with America."

Highlighting the role of the United States, the group stated: "The US has been and remains our strongest supporter on the path of independence, territorial integrity, security and development."

The people and government of the United States stand by us while Ivanishvili's regime is deliberately blocking the European perspective, destroying institutions, killing democracy and dragging the country into Russian isolation."

They cited the recently



adopted MEGOBARI Act as a symbolic affirmation of support: "A clear example of this is the MEGOBARI Act – a historic act adopted with unprecedented support, which says an unequivocal 'yes' to the Georgian people and 'no' to authoritarianism."

The Resistance Platform declared that "Georgia is not a hostage to Ivanishvili and his illegitimate group. Georgia's future, security and safety are linked to a strong Europe, a strong America. Leaving our country

alone and defenseless is in the interest of the enemy."

Rejecting the government's rhetoric, the statement continued: "Kobakhidze's letter does not represent the will of the Georgian people. It represents the interests of a small group of power-grabbers who are trying to survive in isolation from the democratic world."

We reject the conspiracies, false accusations, and the anti-Western campaign that the regime is conducting in a coordi-

nated manner."

The Platform emphasized that preserving ties with Western allies is essential: "Our goal is to prevent the deterioration of relations with the United States and our European friends, so that the Georgian people can return to their unaltered future and development prospects, which are associated with EU membership and strategic partnership with the United States."

We, the Platform of Resistance, express the centuries-old

and unwavering choice of the Georgian people!"

The statement concludes with a call to action: "Today, more than ever, we need unanimity! We will not allow anyone to destroy the trust and friendship with America that have been built over decades."

There is only one peaceful way out of this crisis, which is deliberately created by the regime – new, free, fair parliamentary elections and the release of prisoners of conscience."

Papuashvili Criticizes Germany for "Double Standards" on Anti-Government Groups

BY MESSENGER STAFF



შალვა პაპუაშვილი • Shalva Papuashvili

5h

გერმანიაში გერმანიის ხელისუფლება კრძალავს ე.წ. "რაიხსბიურგერების" ჯგუფს იმ საფუძველზე, რომ ისინი "არ აღიარებენ გერმანიის არჩეული ხელისუფლების ლეგიტიმურობას", "ქმნიან პარალელურ სახელისუფლებო სტრუქტურებს", "ბოიკოტს უცხადებენ ხელისუფლების გადაწყვეტილებებს", "ხელს უშლიან პოლიციას მუშაობაში", "ამტკიცებენ, რომ გერმანია ოკუპანტი ძალის მიერ იმართება".

საქართველოში გერმანიის ხელისუფლება აფინანსებს იმ ჯგუფებს, რომლებიც არ აღიარებენ საქართველოს არჩეული ხელისუფლების ლეგიტიმურობას, ქმნიან პარალელურ სახელისუფლებო სტრუქტურებს, ბოიკოტს უცხადებენ ხელისუფლების გადაწყვეტილებებს, ხელს უშლიან პოლიციას მუშაობაში, ამტკიცებენ, რომ საქართველო ოკუპანტი ძალის მიერ იმართება.

ეს ხდება ერთ დროს და ერთ პლანეტაზე.

Shalva Papuashvili has accused the German government of applying double standards when it comes to supporting groups that challenge elected authorities.

In a social media post, Papuashvili compared Germany's domestic policy to its actions abroad:

"In Germany, the German government prohibits the so-called Reichsbürger group on the grounds that they 'do not recognize the government – in Georgia, the German government finances groups that do not recognize the elected government,'" he wrote.

"In Germany, the German government bans the so-called Reichsbürger group on the grounds that they 'do not recognize the legitimacy of the elected government of Germany,' 'create parallel government structures,' 'boycott government decisions,' 'obstruct the work of the police,'

CONTINUED FROM Page 2

Papuashvili Criticizes Germany for “Double Standards” on Anti-Government Groups

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

‘claim that Germany is ruled by an occupying force.’

In Georgia, the German government finances groups that do not recognize the legitimacy of the elected government of Georgia, create parallel government structures, boycott government decisions, obstruct the work of the police, and claim that Georgia is being ruled by an occupying force.

This is happening at the same time and on the same planet,” Papuashvili added.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Batumi Mayor Archil Chikovani Resigns



არჩილ ჩიკოვანი • Archil Chikovani
17K followers • 2 following

On May 13, Archil Chikovani announced his resignation as Mayor of Batumi in a Facebook post, marking another high-profile departure amid ongoing changes within the ruling Georgian Dream (GD) party’s ranks in the Autonomous Republic of Adjara.

“It has been a great honor and an important responsibility to serve as the leader of the city. I would like to thank the citizens of Batumi for their expressed trust and support, and thank the team with whom I worked for years for the welfare of our city,” Chikovani wrote, also extending gratitude to the “big Georgian Dream family” and pledging loyalty to the ruling party.

Chikovani, 43, was elected mayor in 2021. He previously served as deputy mayor in 2020 and assumed the role of acting mayor following the resignation of Lasha Komakhidze. From 2018 to 2021,

he headed the administration of the government of Adjara.

His resignation follows the recent departure of Tornike Rizhvadze as head of

the local government of Adjara. Rizhvadze was replaced by Sulkhan Tamazashvili, a UK-sanctioned Ministry of Internal Affairs officer, who was nominated to the post by GD-elected President Mikheil Kavelashvili.

It remains unclear who will succeed Chikovani as mayor.

TV Pirveli Crew Attacked in Martvili

A crew from TV Pirveli was attacked today in Martvili. The attackers confiscated equipment belonging to the station and physically assaulted journalist Mariam Makasarashvili and cameraman Nukri Kapiashvili.

According to Makasarashvili, the crew was reporting in Martkopi, investigating the reasons behind the resignation of Giorgi Shinjikashvili, the First Deputy

of the State Representative in Kvemo Kartli. They went to his residence, where they were attacked by Shinjikashvili’s father.

“We were at Giorgi Shinjikashvili’s house. We went there after the Vice-Governor announced on social media that he was stepping down. Naturally, there were questions to be asked, so we went to his home, where members of his family were present. We communicated with his father and recorded an interview, in which he said he had just learned that his son had resigned. As we were leaving the area and filming additional footage, Giorgi Shinjikashvili’s father suddenly became aggressive toward me and my cameraman,” the journalist said.

“He proceeded to physically assault us — first, he took the station-owned camera we had used for the interview. Then, when he saw me standing next to the cameraman with my personal phone in

hand, he grabbed that as well and physically assaulted me. He even slapped me,” she added.

The journalist required on-site medical assistance. Later in the day, it was confirmed that she suffered a concussion and will need to remain in the hospital for several days.

TV Pirveli reports that the police arrived at the scene with a delay of one hour and twenty minutes. In response to questions about the delay, police officers reportedly said: “We came as soon as we could to avoid another possible incident.”

According to the Special Investigation Service, an investigation has been launched under Article 154 of the Criminal Code, which refers to the unlawful interference in a journalist’s professional activities. The offense is punishable by a fine, 120 to 140 hours of community service, up to two years of corrective labor, or house arrest for six months to two years.



Cyber-attacks: European Union extends sanctions and legal framework

On 12 May, the Council of the European Union decided to prolong the EU’s sanctions over cyber-attacks threatening the

EU and its member states for a further year, until 18 May 2026. The legal framework for these measures is extended for three years until 18 May 2028.

The legal framework allows the EU to impose targeted restrictive measures on persons or entities involved in cyber-attacks which cause a significant impact, and constitute an external threat to the EU or its member states. Restrictive measures can also be imposed in response to cyber-attacks against



third states or international organisations.

“Today’s decision confirms the willingness of the EU and its member states to provide a strong and sustained response to persistent malicious cyber activities targeting the EU, its member states and partners,” says a press release by the Council of the EU.

Restrictive measures currently apply to 17 individuals (mainly officers from the GRU, the foreign military intelligence agency of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation) and four entities (two GRU entities from Russia, one from China and one from North Korea).

The sanctions include an asset freeze and the provision of funds or economic resources, directly or indirectly, to them or for their benefit is prohibited. Additionally, a travel ban to the EU applies to the natural persons listed.

These individual listings will continue to be reviewed every 12 months.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Wednesday, May 14

Day Mostly Cloudy
High: 16°C

Night Showers
Low: 9°C

Thursday, May 15

Day Rain
High: 14°C

Night Showers
Low: 9°C

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