

## Georgian Dream Files Complaint Against Critics Over Alleged Public Insults

By Liza Mchedlidze

The Georgian Dream party has filed a formal complaint with the Interior Ministry against individuals it accuses of insulting party members in public and on social media. MP Irakli Kirtskhalia announced the move during a briefing on June 6.

"Foreign-funded extremists do not shy away from swearing, intimidating, bullying, insulting our family members and relatives," Kirtskhalia said, describing the criticism as part of an "externally funded hate speech campaign." He claimed the remarks targeted officials and their families and called the response "an obligation."

The complaint cites February amendments to administrative law that criminalize insulting public officials. The legislation has been widely criticized, including by the Venice Commission, which warned that its vague language grants excessive discretion to authorities and risks misuse.

Kirtskhalia said the complaint covers "the filthiest phrases and insults" expressed in public settings and online. He accused NGOs, foreign donors, and some embassies of encouraging "organized terror" and undermining state institutions.

The announcement follows a series of recent fines and detentions. Among them, TV Pirveli cameraman Lasha Jioshvili was fined GEL 3000 on May 1 for a Facebook post allegedly insulting a police officer.

Nona Kurdovanidze, head of the Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA),



called the move "concerning," arguing it confirms fears that the new law will be used to suppress dissent. "Relating this to phrases voiced on social media is a step backward and once again aims to restrict

freedom of expression," she said.

Kirtskhalia claimed the campaign against GD officials is part of a broader effort to destabilize Georgia and erode state sovereignty. "Hate speech, be it or-

chestrated insults, a targeted campaign, or the encouragement of political violence, cannot be part of Georgian politics," he said.

## Abkhazia's So-Called Foreign Minister Calls for Binding Non-Use of Force Agreement, Affirms Participation in Geneva Talks

By Liza Mchedlidze



Oleg Bartsits, the so-called foreign minister of occupied Abkhazia, recently spoke in an interview with Russian media about a shift in rhetoric coming from Georgia.

"When high-ranking officials, such as ministers, declare their readiness to apologize, repent, and improve relations with neighboring countries like Abkhazia and South Ossetia, there is nothing wrong with that — in fact, it is positive. However, for these statements not to remain empty, we need to move toward real steps. For example, signing a legally binding agreement on the non-use of military force would be a practical step to help strengthen trust between our countries," Bartsits said.

He also confirmed that occupied Abkhazia will continue to participate in the Geneva talks, though the possibility of transferring the talks to another country is under consideration.

"We will continue to participate in the Geneva format with the support of our Russian colleagues. This is the only platform where we can express our point of view and demand certain actions. This format is important, necessary, and currently the only one. However, the Swiss approach is often biased, so it is possible to transfer the talks to a country that will be more objective," Bartsits explained.

Looking ahead, Bartsits said he expects new states to "recognize" occupied Abkhazia in the future.

"There will be recognitions. We are actively working in this direction with the help of our Russian colleagues. We believe time is on our side. We receive signals from countries in different regions expressing interest in dialogue with us," he added.



The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER  
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Anna Dolidze's For  
People Party Leaves  
Strong Georgia  
Coalition



Anna Dolidze's political party, For People, has withdrawn from the coalition Strong Georgia, which the party joined last summer ahead of the parliamentary elections. Dolidze announced it on June 6, stating that her party

would now return to its own political agenda. "Many thanks to every person who placed their trust in us, those who voted for the Anna Dolidze For People party in the elections, and also trusted Strong Georgia," she said in a statement

posted on social media. Dolidze explained that the party had joined the coalition to counter the influence of Bidzina Ivanishvili and to protect Georgia's European aspirations. "It's now time for the For People

party to return to its goals and purposes," she added. The party was part of Strong Georgia alongside Lelo, Citizens, and the Freedom Square movement. The coalition received 8.81% of the vote in the election, according to official results, and won 14 seats in Parliament. These seats were later renounced as part of the opposition's boycott. Dolidze launched For People in 2021 to promote progressive reforms.

Two Georgian Citizens  
Illegally Detained by  
Russian Occupation  
Forces Released

Tariel and Leonide Tenadze, brothers who had been held unlawfully by Russian occupation forces, have been freed and are now back in territory controlled by Tbilisi, according to a June 6 announcement from the State Security Service of Georgia (SSSG). The pair was apprehended

near Plavismani, a village in Gori Municipality close to the administrative boundary. On March 11, the SSSG confirmed the detention of three individuals from the same location. One was released soon after, while

Mission's hotline system and other available tools used by Georgian authorities. The SSSG emphasized the government's ongoing commitment to securing the freedom of all citizens detained in regions



the Tenadze brothers remained in custody until the recent development. Their return was made possible through the involvement of the European Union Monitoring

outside its control. The statement also reiterated that responsibility for destabilizing activities near and within the affected areas rests with the occupying side.

The "Open Air Cinema" Festival has begun!

On Thursday, June 5, the "Open Air Cinema" Festival was solemnly opened at the Amiran Cinema, with the support of Cavea. The festival is organized by the French Institute of Georgia and the Embassy of France in Georgia. The opening evening featured the screening of the documentary film "Notre-Dame brûle" - an impressive story about the people who heroically saved the cathedral at the cost of their own lives. Don't miss it, the festival is in full swing! A diverse program awaits you: classic and modern feature films, comedy, drama, documentaries and animated films. Throughout June and July, screenings will be held every Thursday at 8:30 PM on the territory of the French Embassy, Khazina St. 4 (<https://shorturl.at/evgZk>.) Attendance is free.



Weather

Monday, June 9

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 29°C  
Night Partly Cloudy  
Low: 18°C

Tuesday, June 10

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 29°C  
Night Partly Cloudy  
Low: 17°C

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