

# NEWS DIGEST ON GEORGIA

July 9-12

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## ❖ Foreign Affairs

### 1. Number of Georgian asylum seekers decreased in EU

"We are working with Germany to put Georgia on the list of secure countries. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Internal Affairs are very actively cooperating with German colleagues. There is a political will, although procedures need a certain period. The process has started and hopefully it will be over soon," Khulordava, Chairwoman of the Parliamentary Committee on European Integration, said.

According to her, the steps taken by the Georgian authorities, including the information campaign resulted in some results and reduced the number of people who are seeking an asylum in the EU (*IPN.GE, July 9, 2018*).

### 2. Georgian citizen with 45 passports arrested in Germany

The Federal Police of Dresden in Germany has detained a 51-year-old Georgian citizen who had 45 passports issued on different names, - German media reports.

When checking the man's document, police found that he was searched by the foreigners' service of the city of Essen.

As it turned out, the detainee was involved in 12 cases of robbery in 1997-2018. He was expelled from the territory of Germany four times. After being refused to get an asylum, the citizen of Georgia returned to Germany with a different passport (*IPN.GE, July 9, 2018*).

### 3. RIA Novosti reports Georgia may join NATO without MAP

"Presumably, the NATO summit will still confirm its position towards Georgia and emphasize that the third countries should not be involved in the Alliance's expansion process. At the summit, it might be said that Georgia can become a NATO member without MAP. At least such discussions are going on. Annual National Programs (ANP) and Substantial NATO-Georgia Package (SNGP) may be considered as the primary instruments of integration," says the RIA Novosti source (*IPN.GE, July 9, 2018*).

### 4. NATO Secretary General – Georgia has a good progress. Georgia will join NATO

"We will continue to support Georgia. We are also grateful to Georgia for the support that NATO has in international missions and operations. Georgia has good progress. As for Georgia's membership in the Alliance, I cannot name a specific date, but the fact that Montenegro is a member of NATO and we are negotiating to join Macedonia shows that NATO's doors are open. We will continue to support Georgia on the path of NATO membership. The leaders of the NATO member states will reaffirm the 2008 decision that Georgia will become a NATO member," said Jens Stoltenberg (*IPN.GE, July 10, 2018*).

### 5. NATO summit declaration supports territorial integrity of Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova

"We urge Russia to abolish the recognition of the regions of Georgia - Abkhazia and South Ossetia - as independent states and to comply with the August 12, 2008 ceasefire agreement, specifically to withdraw Russian troops from Georgia and stop militarization of these regions," the declaration reads. "We support our partners' right to make an independent choice on foreign and security policies, without foreign pressure. We support the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia and their efforts for peaceful resolution of conflicts in the South Caucasus," the declaration reads (*IPN.GE, July 11, 2018*).

#### **6. NATO Summit Declaration says Georgia's relationship with Alliance contains all practical tools to prepare Georgia for membership**

"We welcome the progress achieved since 2008. We welcome the important role played by the NATO-Georgia Commission and the Annual National Program. We recognize the significant progress achieved by Georgia in terms of reforms, which should be continued. It helps Georgia, an aspirant country, to make progress in getting ready for membership and strengthen Georgia's defense capabilities. Georgia's relationship with the Alliance contains all practical tools to prepare Georgia for membership. We welcome the development of cooperation between NATO and Georgia on the Black Sea security. We highly appreciate Georgia's significant contribution to NATO missions. This effort reveals the commitment and the capability of Georgia to contribute to Euro-Atlantic security," the declaration reads (*IPN.GE, July 11, 2018*).

#### **7. Georgia is ranked 70th according to air pollution-related deaths worldwide**

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) report in 2018, Georgia is ranked 70th according to the number of air pollution-related deaths worldwide, - the press service of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture says.

The Ministry said that last year Georgia was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> based on inaccurate data analysis and outdated statistics (*IPN.GE, July 10, 2018*).

## **❖ Internal Affairs**

#### **8. Person accused of murder committed in Khada Gorge faces life imprisonment**

The person accused of murder committed in the Khada Gorge faces life imprisonment, - Mamuka Chelidze, a representative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, said at a briefing held at the Ministry of Internal Affairs today.

According to him, psychiatric examination will be conducted to check the mental condition of the defendant (*IPN.GE, July 9, 2018*).

#### **9. Lawyer of person accused of killing American family says defendant pleads not guilty**

"I cannot talk about the details, but I can say that the stories spread by the media is different from what he tells. It can be said that he does not plead guilty", the lawyer said (*IPN.GE, July 9, 2018*).

#### **10. FBI assisting Georgia in the investigation of the murder committed in the Khada Gorge**

The FBI is assisting Georgia in the investigation of the murder committed in the Khada Gorge, - United States Embassy in Georgia told InterPressNews.

The embassy has not at this stage provided any additional details, but according to PalitraNews, the Americans will be taking part in the technical examination of the camera and mobile phone found at the crime scene (*IPN.GE, July 11, 2018*).

### **11. Huge increase in domestic violence cases reported in Georgia**

Natia Mezvrishvili, Deputy Internal Affairs Minister, said at a briefing on Tuesday that investigation has begun into 2804 cases of domestic crime, and criminal prosecution launched against 1933 persons. According to the deputy interior minister, 1328 persons were detained within 6 months of the current year. The domestic crime rate during the past 6 months equals the data of whole last year.

As for the restrictive orders, the number of the orders issued in 6 months (3292) in 2018 is twice as high as during the whole 2017 year.

Ministry of Internal Affairs publishes statistics of crimes of 2017. According to the agency, crime statistics have increased by 5.4% compared with 2016 and 38 thousand cases are registered (*IPN.GE, July 9, 2018*).

### **12. More than half of the population think that the court is under the influence of the ruling party - Oliko Shermadini**

"We have indicated that our conclusions are not based on views of specific lawyers or former judges. However, our survey reflects the results of March 2018 interviews too, according to which, 58% of the population believe that the judiciary is under the influence of the ruling party and 51% think that the court is biased. 35% think that the court is corrupt. This is a random sampling survey. The survey also includes the NDI data. In addition, I am sure you are well aware of the IRI survey results. And the EU ambassador has recently said that they have an alarming information about corruption in the court," said Oliko Shermadini researcher of the TI Georgia.

### **13. Minister of Justice confirms she is godmother of child of one of prosecutorial candidates**

"Tadumadze is not my relative, I am the godmother of his son. He met with me in a political battle in 2012, when a group of lawyers gathered around Bidzina Ivanishvili. In this group were Archil Kbilashvili, Shalva Tadumadze, Aleksandre Baramidze, Zakro Kutsnashvili and me. It was a very impressive group of lawyers," Tsulukiani said. According to him, all three candidates nominated for the Prosecutor Council are worthy people (*IPN.GE, July 9, 2018*).

### **14. Shalva Shavgulidze withdraws his candidacy in protest**

"I requested opening of the session for the media. It is important the society to listen to the candidates' responses live and evaluate it, but the Prosecutorial Council did not grant this request. I do not see any sense in participating in this process. Of course, Shalva Shavgulidze has the same position. We did not have an illusion that the Prosecutorial Council would elect Shavgulidze as a chief prosecutor," said Otar Kakhidze (*IPN.GE, July 11, 2018*).

### **15. Shalva Tadumadze elected as candidate for Chief Prosecutor's post**

The Prosecutorial Council selected Shalva Tadumadze's candidacy for the post of Chief Prosecutor. The members of the Council unanimously elected Tadumadze with 12 votes through secret ballot.

13 out of the 15 members of the Prosecutorial Council attended the session. The Minister of Justice did not participate in the voting procedure.

The Minister of Justice shall immediately submit the selected candidate to the government and eventually the Parliament shall approve the prosecutor (*IPN.GE, July 11, 2018*).

### **16. Minister Tsulukiani said that she would not take part in the selection process, and then what was she doing today? - Sulkhani Saladze**

"This result is a very good illustration of the fact that the system in which the chief prosecutor is being elected, does not work. When at the final stage of a one-month marathon, one of the candidates receives

12 votes and the other gets zero, this means that the chief prosecutor's system is to be changed at the constitution level. The only reason for the current situation is the lack of the government's political will, it did not stop the process and did not bring the current legislation in compliance with the new edition of the constitution", Saladze, Chairman of GYLA said.

#### **17. Tbilisi Sea, Turtle Lake and Lisi Lake are safe for bathing- National Environment Agency**

Turtle Lake, Lisi Lake and Tbilisi Sea are not polluted and bathing is safe. As InterPressNews was told by the Environmental Pollution Monitoring Department of the National Environmental Agency, according to the latest monitoring data, neither the lakes nor the Tbilisi Sea is polluted (*IPN.GE, July 10, 2018*).

#### **18. European Georgia and National Movement achieve agreement regarding presidential elections**

"We signed an agreement with the United National Movement together with the President of the European People's Party (EPP), Joseph Doul, in Brussels on three main points:

1. We will support each other's presidential candidate in the second round;
2. During the campaign, we will refrain from attacking and criticizing each other;
3. In the first and second rounds of elections, we will maximally mobilize the voters, since the elections are the way for changing the government, "- Gigi Ugulava posted on social network (*Facebook, July 10, 2018*).

#### **19. Akhmedov and Adashev, killed in anti-terrorism operations, were planning to attack businessman in Georgia**

Aslanbeg Solt Akhmedov and Ibrahim Adashev, killed in the special operation conducted on Gabriel Salos Street, were planning to attack and rob one of the businessmen, - Ramaz Margoshvili, who stands accused of supporting terrorism, said in his testimony to the court.

In the testimony obtained by InterPressNews, Margoshvili says that the two fighters, who arrived in Georgia together with Akhmed Chatayev, were planning to commit robbery along with Shavlakh Kavtarashvili.

According to Margoshvili's testimony, Kavtarashvili had a debt of Akhmed Chatayev. When Akhmed Chatayev sent Aslanbeg Solt Akhmedov and Ibrahim Adashev to Kavtarashvili to get back his money. In response, Kavtarashvili offered to rob a person who has business in the Lilo market. According to Margoshvili (*IPN.GE, July 11, 2018*).

#### **20. PM presents reshuffled Cabinet**

There are three new ministers in the government : Mikheil Batiashvili is the candidate for the Minister of Education, Ivane Machavariani has been named as the candidate for the Minister Finance and Giorgi Kobulia- for the Minister of Economy. There will be 10 ministries and 1 state ministry in the new government.

As well as post of head of administration of the Government will be taken by Kakhi Kakhishvili. former Minister of Penitentiary and Probation (*IPN.GE, July 12, 2018*)

## **❖ Economy and Social Affairs**






### **21. Number of vehicles of state agencies to be reduced**

"In certain agencies, the expense relating to the maintenance of vehicles is unacceptable and principal steps should be taken in this regard. Within the framework of the governmental changes, until the end of the year, the number of vehicles of various state agencies will be reduced. About 1000 cars will be transferred to the Ministry of Finance for sale and the received money will be used to purchase special vehicles for patrol officers, environmental operations and similar special needs in order to enable our agencies to work better. The circle of persons who have the right to use a personal car will also be significantly restricted," said Mamuka Bakhtadze (*IPN.GE, July 11, 2018*).

### Additional Information

**July 12, 2018**  
**OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATES**

1 USD - 2.4403 GEL	1 GBP - 3.2317 GEL	100 RUB - 3.9329 GEL
1 EUR - 2.8593 GEL	1 TRY - 0.5127 GEL	100 JPY - 2.1941 GEL

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
12 July	13 July	14 July	15 July	16 July
				
<b>23° 37°</b>	<b>21° 34°</b>	<b>20° 31°</b>	<b>20° 29°</b>	<b>20° 30°</b>

- **Movie Events - English Sessions - [Tickets](#)**
- **Friends of Museum (Membership to access Georgian National Museums For free of charge after one payment) - [Membership](#)**
- **Marjanishvili Theatre – [Events and Tickets](#)**
- **Rustaveli Theatre - [Events and Tickets](#)**
- **Opera and Ballet – [Events and Tickets](#)**
- **Concerts – [Events and Tickets](#)**
- **Sports – [Events and Tickets](#)**