

NEWS DIGEST ON GEORGIA

June 25-28

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❖ Occupied Regions

1. Two persons charged for Tatumashvili's case and Kanji-Oghli convicted for killing Otkhozoria are included on "Otkhozoria-Tatumashvili list"

Ketevan Tsikhelashvili, State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, said that the list approved by the government includes 33 people who have committed serious crimes against Georgian citizens in the occupied territories since 1991 up to date.

"These 33 persons are charged or convicted for serious crimes. Of course, there are two charged offenders involved in Tatumashvili's case and Kanji-Oghli, who was convicted for killing Otkhozoria, who is wanted by the Interpol, "- said Tsikhelashvili (*IPN.GE, June 26, 2018*).

2. Murat Jioyev criticizes Geneva Discussions

"Therefore, we offered to discuss the agenda prior to each round. In particular, we have repeatedly offered the phrase "and the international security measures" to be removed from the agenda. The agenda of the discussion is entitled - the "non-use of force and the international security measures". The non-use of force is the topical issue and the main task of the Geneva Discussions, as for another part - "international security measures", our counterparties and their Western partners and we understand it differently. In this regard, we believe that this formulation is not necessary, "- said Murat Jioyev, the representative of the breakaway South Ossetia's de facto president in post-conflict settlement issues (*IPN.GE, June 26, 2018*).

3. Occupation Museum opened in Khurcha

Giorgi Abashishvili, Head of the Administration of Georgian President, has opened the Occupation Museum in Khurcha, Zugdidi municipality.

InterPressNews was informed by the press office of the Administration of President, that the opening ceremony was attended by Director of the Management Center of Zugdidi Municipality Madona Makatsaria and village governor Badri Khunjgurua (*IPN.GE, June 26, 2018*).

4. 'Otkhozoria-Tatumashvili List' unveiled

Otkhozoria-Tatumashvili List" has been submitted to Parliament of Georgia. The following people are included on the 33-person list :

1. Davit Gurtsiev; 2. Alik Taboev; 3. Rashid Kanjioghli; 4. Slavis Badia; 5. Raul Kortava; 6. Zaur Chitanava; 7. Tsibrona (Eka) Akhalaia; 8. Otar Turnanba; 9. Alik Tsabria; 10. Ruslan Jopua; 11. Roza Mirtskhulava; 12. Dimitr Arshba; 13. Vladimer Gunia; 14. Alkhaz Mirtskhulava; 15. Gia Tuzhba; 16. Genrikh Chanba; 17. Vladimer Anua; 18. Zaur Tsetskhladze; 19. Genadi Ashkhatsava; 20. Gela Vanacha; 21. Otar Palavandzia; 22. Oleg Papaskiri; 23. Afrikan Bganba; 24. Vakhtang Ubiria; 25. Vladimer Nanach-Oghli; 26. Shurik Kokoskeria; 27. Lev Bichenob; 28. Gia Tuae; 29. Piso Vazagovi; 30. Tamaz Bestaev; 31. Ramchik Pukhaev; 32. Arkadi Dzeranov; 33. Zurab Dudaev

The blacklisted persons are convicted or charged with grave crimes committed against the citizens of Georgia in the occupied regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali (South Ossetia) since 1990 (*IPN.GE, June 26, 2018*).

5. De facto Foreign Ministry of occupied Abkhazia responds to Otkhozoria-Tatunashvili list

"Under the existing circumstances, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Abkhazia expresses serious concern about extremely destructive actions of the Georgian government, in particular, Prime Minister Mamuka Bakhtadze, which are of provocative nature and can fully undermine the Geneva International Discussions," the statement reads (*IPN.GE, June 27, 2018*).

6. Sergi Kapanadze says dead people are put on Otkhozoria-Tatunashvili list

"Unfortunately, none of the citizens of the Russian Federation was put on the Otkhozoria-Tatunashvili list. In particular, there are no representatives of the occupational forces who are directly involved in the effective control and are often responsible for not only the crime, but also for covering up the crimes. One of these irresponsible attitudes is that, unfortunately, there are dead people on the list. This shows their attitude to this topic. This is a very important list. This is a list that sends a specific message to people in the occupied territories who violate the rights of Georgian citizens or may violate in the future," said Sergi Kapanadze (*IPN.GE, June 27, 2018*).

7. PM says Otkhozoria-Tatunashvili list will be expanded

"The list is made up of 33 people and all of them are accused of serious crimes against Georgian citizens. This is a list that will definitely be expanded. Law enforcers work 24 hours on this issue. Not only direct executives, but also those who cover up crimes will be put on this list. This is the first step taken by the Georgian state in this direction. This list will be expanded and all executors will be put on it", Bakhtadze said (*IPN.GE, June 27, 2018*).

8. State Security Service: Gali meeting was disrupted after representatives of Russia and de-facto authorities of Abkhazia left it

The 57th Meeting of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism in Gali has been disrupted due to the fact that the Russian occupation regime and de-facto authorities of Abkhazia quit the format, - the State Security Service told InterPressNews.

According to the Service, 57th meeting of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism was held in Gali on June 27.

The Russian occupation regime and de-facto authorities of Abkhazia used the adoption of the Otkhozoria-Tatunashvili list by the Government of Georgia for politically motivated actions (*IPN.GE, June 27, 2018*).

9. De facto South Ossetian Foreign Ministry says Bolsheviks' decision to give eastern part of Ossetia to Georgia was illegal

Bolsheviks' decision to give the eastern part of Ossetia to Georgia was illegal and an annexation, - the de facto South Ossetian Foreign Ministry said. The statement reads that "East Ossetia was subjected to expansion by Georgia" (*IPN.GE, June 27, 2018*).

10. Occupied "South Ossetia" prepares "Sanctions List" in response to Georgian government

Petre Gasiev, member of the de-facto parliament of occupied Tskhinvali/South Ossetia, says that "South Ossetia is preparing sanctions list."

"The Parliament has elaborated a draft law, the list of South Ossetia, entitled – "Grigori Sanakoev List", who was killed by Georgians in 1992. The law will be adopted by the end of the year. It will

include the citizens of Georgia, US, Ukraine and other states, who participated in the genocide in South Ossetia," so-called lawmaker said (*IPN.GE, June 28, 2018*).

❖ Foreign Affairs

11. Ilham Aliyev : Azerbaijan is prepared to destroy all military and strategic objects of Armenia in Nagorno-Karabakh

"We want peaceful settlement of the conflict in Karabakh, but we will not tolerate occupation of our lands. The enemy must understand that there is no such military and strategic object that could not be destroyed by the Azerbaijan army, "Azerbaijan leader said at the military parade dedicated to the 100 th anniversary of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan. According to Ilham Aliyev, Nagorno-Karabakh is the land of Azerbaijan, where Azerbaijanis lived for centuries (*IPN.GE, June 26, 2018*).

12. United States to increase arms supplies to Georgia and Ukraine

The United States will increase arms supplies to Georgia and Ukraine in order to enable the countries to resist Russia, - Wess Mitchell, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, said at the hearing held in US Senate's Foreign Relations Committee.

"We provide military assistance to Georgia and Ukraine, which have recently been threatened by Russia with the use of military forces. We will increase the military means that are necessary for defense. We have lifted the prohibitions imposed by the previous administration in relation to military assistance and we are helping both countries in improving their defense capabilities," Wess Mitchell said (*IPN.GE, June 27, 2018*).

13. The act of bipartisan support to Georgia expresses the US position that Georgia should become a NATO member - Congressman Ted Poe

The act of bipartisan support to Georgia confirms full support of the United States of America to Georgia and our position that Georgia should become a NATO member, - Congressman Ted Poe said after meeting with Irakli Kobakhidze, Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia.

As InterPressNews was informed by the Parliament of Georgia, the Congressman also said that the United States does not support the occupation of one-fourth of Georgia's territories by Russia (*IPN.GE, June 27, 2018*).

14. Irakli Kobakhidze meets with Senator Ron Johnson

Parliament's Chairman Irakli Kobakhidze, together with his Ukrainian, Moldovan, Lithuanian and Polish counterparts, has met with Senator Ron Johnson, who chairs Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation.

At the meeting the sides discussed strategic partnership between the countries and perspectives of future cooperation. The focus was on the importance of intensive and coordinated cooperation in both bilateral and multilateral formats (*IPN.GE, June 28, 2018*).

15. Irakli Kobakhidze - Russia still remains the biggest challenge for Georgia's national independence

"Russia is still the biggest challenge for Georgia's national independence and despite the constructive and pragmatic approach of Georgia, Russia has never tried to take steps in response for reduction of security challenges in the occupied territories of Georgia. We see that innocent civilians die and a recent example of this is the violent deprivation of Archil Tatunashvili's life in Tskhinvali, under the puppet

regime," said Irakli Kobakhidze Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia Irakli Kobakhidze said during his speech at the event organized by the US Foreign Policy Council in Washington (*IPN.GE, June 28, 2018*).

❖ Internal Affairs

16. Bishop Shio criticizes media and social networks for lack of love, negligence, cruelty and obscenity

"No rituals are important if one is not a true Christian inside. The Lord will never fulfill your request or give you only little love due to his generosity. So, think about it. Think of what is to be changed in our life. It is unfortunate that we see lack of love, negligence, cruelty, unsubstantiated allegations, rudeness, obscenity and swearing in the media and social networks", Bishop Shio said (*IPN.GE, June 25, 2018*).

17. Majority MP says Tea Tsulukiani should resign

"Yes, I think she should step down. I have expressed this position several times, but this is up to the Prime Minister," - said Chichinadze (*IPN.GE, June 25, 2018*).

18. It seems Tea Tsulukiani is maintaining her chair by personal relations, says rights defender

"The penitentiary system belongs to the Ministry of Justice in the developed countries. The sentence is considered as an organic part of the court judgment, so it is logical to talk about the joint management of these two directions. It was necessary to separate the penitentiary department from the Ministry of Justice to manage thousands of convicts during the National Movement.

I think that the idea of the Ministry of Justice with larger functions is good, but if it is headed by Tea Tsulukiani, the crisis will start in prisons too.

It seems Tea Tsulukiani is maintaining her chair by personal relations. However, we will soon see if Mamuka Bakhtadze wants to carry this burden", Lia Mukhashavria said (*IPN.GE, June 25, 2018*).

19. PM presents structural changes in Cabinet

The Prime Minister announced that : the Ministry of Culture and Sports will merge with the Ministry of Education and Science; the Ministry of Penitentiary – with the Ministry of Justice; the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees will be abolished merging with three ministries : the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Health.

In addition, the Religious Agency will join the State Ministry for Reconciliation and Civic Equality. The Prime Minister said that the spatial development component of the Ministry of Economy will be transferred to the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure (*IPN.GE, June 26, 2018*).

20. Minister Subari will not be part of new Cabinet

Sozar Subari will not remain in his post of the Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees. "You will be informed later about my plans," Subari told reporters on Tuesday (*IPN.GE, June 26, 2018*).

21. GD lawmaker – I cannot take the responsibility on decision to merge the Ministries of Culture and Education

MP Kantaria told InterPressNews that during the consultations he suggested the Prime Minister to establish the part of the art as a separate state department or agency, which would directly be subordinated to the Prime Minister.

“I think, it will be very difficult to lose the art fields, including the Georgian theater, Georgian film, Georgian music, Georgian choreography, which express the national identity, into the ocean, which is called Education,” Nukri Kantaria said (*IPN.GE, June 26, 2018*).

22. Georgian economist living in US is likely to become Georgia’s finance minister

Davit Amaghlobeli, the Georgian economist living in the US, is likely to become the next finance minister of Georgia, Maestro TV reported. Mr. Amaghlobeli served as acting president of the National Bank of Georgia from November, 2007 through February, 2009.

At various times he served as a senior specialist at the Committee on Economic Policy and Reforms in the Parliament of Georgia, in 1999-2001, as a professor assistant at Oregon State University in parallel with her studies in the United States. In addition, since 2001, Davit Amaghlobeli has worked as the head of the department of the Ministry of Tax Revenue of Georgia; In 2002-2003, he held the post of expert at the Monetary and Fiscal Issues Sub-commission of the Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth Program (*IPN.GE, June 26, 2018*).

❖ Economy and Social Affairs

23. Prime Minister: We have a tangible economic growth in Georgia, but it lacks the inclusion component

“We tried to find out the challenges we have today and prepare the package of reforms according to the challenges as soon as possible and effectively. Today we have a tangible economic growth in Georgia, but it lacks the inclusion component, namely much of the population is not equally participating in the creation and distribution of economic wealth. This is a very important prerequisite for correcting this policy,” Mamuka Bakhtadze said (*IPN.GE, June 25, 2018*).

24. Today almost half of our population is engaged in agriculture, but the share of agriculture in our economy is below 10 percent - Mamuka Bakhtadze

According to Mamuka Bakhtadze, we need to change our approaches to agriculture. "Today almost half of our population is engaged in agriculture, but the share of agriculture in our economy is below 10 percent. The main source of poverty is this disproportion. This means that we need to change our approach to agriculture. Our economic model is totally oriented to imports and this is a very bad model. Not because free trade is not good, but because it is related to unfair rules of the game, which led to the decline of agriculture," said Mamuka Bakhtadze (*IPN.GE, June 27, 2018*).

25. Free Trade Agreement was signed between Georgia and Hong Kong

Georgia and Hong Kong signed a Free Trade Agreement today, - the Ministry of Economics and Sustainable Development said.

Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia Genadi Arveladze (from the Georgian side) and Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Edward YAU TANG-WAH (from Hong Kong) signed the document. The signing ceremony was held in the Belt and Road Summit in Hong Kong.

The agreement was based on a free trade agreement between Georgia and the People's Republic of China, in which Hong Kong was represented as an observer (*IPN.GE, June 28, 2018*).

❖ Sports and Culture

26.

Additional Information

June 25, 2018				
OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATES				
1 USD - 2.4553 GEL	1 GBP - 3.2442 GEL	100 RUB - 3.8797 GEL		
1 EUR - 2.8575 GEL	1 TRY - 0.5301 GEL	100 JPY - 2.2357 GEL		
Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
28 June	29 June	30 June	1 July	2 July
				
21° 36°	22° 36°	23° 38°	23° 40°	23° 39°

- 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](#)