

# NEWS DIGEST ON GEORGIA

July 3-5

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## ❖ Occupied Regions

### 1. Criminal prosecution launched against three persons due to violations of Law on Occupied Territories

Criminal prosecution launched against three persons due to violations of Law on Occupied Territories. According to the report of the National Statistics Office, the criminal prosecution launched under 322<sup>1</sup> of the Criminal Code of Georgia (breach of the procedure for entry into the occupied territories). According to the Criminal Code of Georgia, entry into occupied territories of a foreign citizen or stateless person with violation of the rule established by the Law of Georgia on Occupied Territories is punishable with fine or imprisonment for 2-4 years (*IPN.GE, July 3, 2018*).

## ❖ Foreign Affairs

### 2. Wizz Air launches Bucharest-Kutaisi direct flights

“The flights between Georgia and Romania have been launched as of today. This is the only direct flight between the two countries so far. However, I would like to note that starting from August 1, State Airline of Romania TAROM will perform regular flights to Tbilisi-Bucharest-Tbilisi,” said Ketevan Aleksidze, the director of the United Airports of Georgia (*IPN.GE, July 3, 2018*).

### 3. President Margvelashvili congratulates American people on US Independence Day

InterPressNews was informed by the Administration of President that President Margvelashvili sent an official congratulatory letter to US President Donald Trump, expressing gratitude for the US support for Georgia’s statehood, democratic development, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations (*IPN.GE, July 3, 2018*).

### 4. PM congratulates American people on Independence Day

“On behalf of the Government of Georgia, I wish to congratulate the United States of America and every American with the Independence Day! USA is a friend of Georgia. Kinship between the two countries is based on unique values, such as freedom, equality, rule of law and loyalty to democratic principles.” – reads the statement (*IPN.GE, July 4, 2018*).

### 5. Leaders of NATO member states to meet with President of Georgia and Ukraine

The leaders of the NATO member states will meet with President of Georgia Giorgi Margvelashvili and President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko on July 12. The meeting will be held on the sidelines of the NATO Summit.

“On July 12 NATO Council meeting will be held at the level of state leaders and President of Georgia and Ukraine will participate in it,” NATO Summit Program says (*IPN.GE, July 5, 2018*).

### 6. FM - Germany recognizes the progress we have in term of NATO integration

Germany recognizes our contribution and the progress we have in term of NATO integration, - Foreign Minister of Georgia Davit Zalkaliani said while summing up his visit to Germany.

InterPressNews was informed by the Foreign Affairs Ministry that the FM Zalkaliani stressed the importance of Germany's contribution to implementation of tools and mechanisms that support Georgia's NATO membership. The Foreign Minister emphasized Substantial NATO-Georgia Package and the Defence Institution Building School where Germany is very actively involved (*IPN.GE, July 5, 2018*).

## ❖ Internal Affairs

### **7. Ana Natsvlishvili - If Tea Tsulukiani nominates Chief Prosecutor, no matter who the Chief Prosecutor is**

“Based on the current legislation, the candidates for the post of the Chief Prosecutor are submitted by the Minister of Justice. Not a very long ago a very large group demanded the resignation of the Minister of Justice. She is a minister who has not implemented any successful reform. She is responsible for the difficult situation created in the justice system and many unsuccessful processes. The authorities should respond to this request and Tea Tsulukiani should not be involved in the process if she nominates the Chief Prosecutor, no matter who the Chief Prosecutor is, "said Ana Natsvlishvili (*IPN.GE, July 3, 2018*).

### **8. Murdered teenager's father suspends protest outside Interior Ministry building**

"We have talked about a particular issue and we revised all the testimonies against Mikhail Kalandia based on the case materials. We agreed that the radical steps should be taken by the end of the week and I will not stay here, I will go out...I do not want to interfere with the process," Saralidze said (*IPN.GE, July 3, 2018*).

### **9. Majority leader - Amount saved by the structural changes in the government will be spent on families below the poverty line**

“The next step of our reform will be to reduce the bureaucratic expenditure (% of GDP) and the mobilized financial resources will primarily be used for those families who have children below the poverty line," said Archil Talakvadze (*IPN.GE, July 4, 2018*).

### **10. Parliament approves legislative package on government's structural reorganization with first hearing**

The Parliament of Georgia has today approved the legislative package on structural reorganization of government with first hearing today.

The amendments to the Law on "Structure, Authority and Rule of Activity of the Government of Georgia" were approved with 84 votes. Three MPs voted against (*IPN.GE, July 4, 2018*).

### **11. Tbilisi Mayor -Tbilisi Land Use Master Plan replies almost all main challenges facing the city**

The work on Tbilisi Land Use Master Plan has come to an end. Tbilisi Mayor Kakha Kaladze said at a news conference on Wednesday that the document signed between the Tbilisi City Hall and the “City Institute” is ready to send to the City Council

“Today is the important day for Tbilisi Mayor as well as for entire Tbilisi. The works on Tbilisi Land Use Master Plan has come to an end. Tbilisi Municipality and the “City Institute” completed a basic

working process and the document is ready to send to the City Council for further discussions,” Kakha Kaladze said (*IPN.GE, July 4, 2018*).

#### **12. Chairman of Ajara AR Government resigned**

Today, I made a decision to leave the post of the Chairman of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara. This decision was made in a team; we discussed the issue within the team. I would like to emphasize that I have been and will always be the member of the "Georgian Dream", team member. I would like to express my gratitude to the "Georgian Dream", which gave me the opportunity to return to my native region, and to do many good things for the benefit of the people in my Adjara,” Pataradze said (*IPN.GE, July 4, 2018*).

#### **13. Ruling team says chairman of Adjara AR government resigned at his own will**

"Mr. Zurab left his post on his own decision. The fact that the changes are implemented is a normal process. Mr. Zura was and will be a member of our team. Consequently, I am convinced that in his future career he will be as active and successful as on this position. I wish him success, "said Anri Okhanashvili (*IPN.GE, July 4, 2018*).

#### **14. Several people poisoned at Tbilisi International Airport**

Several people were poisoned by asphyxiant gas at Tbilisi International Airport. The airport representatives confirmed this information in the conversation with InterPressNews, but they failed to talk about exact cause behind the intoxication (*IPN.GE, July 4, 2018*).

#### **15. Russian citizen detained for spilling liquid with harmful substance at Tbilisi International Airport**

The officers of Counterintelligence Department under the State Security Service of Georgia, as a result of operative-searching and investigative activities detained a citizen of the Russian Federation Dimitri B."Investigation established, that on July 2, 2018, Dimitri B. spilled liquid containing the harmful substance for health at the booking office of one of the airlines in the departure hall of the Tbilisi International Airport (*IPN.GE, July 4, 2018*).

Investigation is carried out by the Counterintelligence Department under the State Security Service of Georgia," the State Security Service said in July 4 statement (*IPN.GE, July 4, 2018*).

#### **16. Seven out of eight persons poisoned at Tbilisi International Airport discharged from clinic, one stays in hospital**

Seven out of eight patients, poisoned at Tbilisi International Airport on July 2, have been discharged from clinic.

Otar Dikhaminjia, doctor toxicologist at “Medical Corporation Evex”, told InterPressNews that the seven patients, who arrived at the clinic on July 2, were discharged on July 4. The doctor says the substance that has caused intoxication is uncertain for the poisoned citizens. Otar Dikhaminjia explains that the patients’ lives are not in danger (*IPN.GE, July 5, 2018*).

## **❖ Economy and Social Affairs**

#### **17. Monthly inflation rate was -0.6 %, annual inflation amounted to 2,2 % in June**

The monthly inflation rate was mainly influenced by price changes for the following groups: Food and non-alcoholic beverages: prices in the group decreased by 2.6 percent, contributing -0.79 percentage points to the overall CPI change. Prices decreased for the following subgroups: fruit and grapes (-14.6

percent), vegetables (-13.9 percent), milk, cheese and eggs (-2.3 percent), oils and fats (-0.8 percent). In the meantime, the prices increased for meat (0.9 percent); Transport: prices went up by 0.8 percent, contributing 0.1 percentage points to the overall index change. Prices increased for operation of personal transport equipment (1.5 percent).

The annual inflation rate was mainly influenced by price changes for the following groups: Transport: prices in the group were higher by 4.6 percent, with a relevant contribution of 0.63 percentage points to the overall index growth. Prices within the group increased for operation of personal transport equipment (8.3 percent) (*IPN.GE, July 3, 2018*).

### 18. Framework Agreement was signed between Georgia and Scandinavia Investment Bank

Finance Minister of Georgia Nikoloz Gagua and President of Scandinavia Investment Bank Henrik Normann has today signed a framework agreement between Georgia and Scandinavia Investment Bank.

InterPressNews was informed by the Ministry of Finance that the agreement involves the issues related to NIB activities in Georgia and it will promote the launch of an intensive cooperation between the Investment Bank and Georgia (*IPN.GE, July 4, 2018*).

## ❖ Sports and Culture




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### Additional Information

**July 5, 2018**  
**OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATES**

1 USD - 2.4474 GEL	1 GBP - 3.2328 GEL	100 RUB - 3.8684 RUB
1 EUR - 2.8485 GEL	1 TRY - 0.5197 GEL	100 JPY - 2.2148 GEL

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
5 July	6 July	7 July	8 July	9 July
				
19° 36°	20° 34°	20° 31°	22° 31°	22° 35°

- [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](#)