# **NEWS DIGEST ON GEORGIA**

### January 27-29

Compiled by: Aleksandre Davitashvili Date: January 30, 2020

## Occupied Regions

#### ❖ Abkhazia Region

#### 1. Aslan Bzhania to run in so-called presidential elections in occupied Abkhazia

Aslan Bzhania, Leader of the occupied Abkhazia region of Georgia will participate in the so-called elections of Abkhazia. Bzhania said that the situation required unification in a team that he would lead.

So-called presidential elections in occupied Abkhazia are scheduled for March 22. Former de-facto President of Abkhazia Raul Khajimba quit post amid the ongoing protest rallies. The opposition demanded his resignation.

The Cassation Collegiums of Judges declared results of the September 8, 2019, presidential elections as null and void (1TV, January 28, 2020).

# Foreign Affairs

#### 2. EU Special Representative Klaar Concludes Georgia Visit

Toivo Klaar, the European Union Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia, who visited Tbilisi on January 20-25, held bilateral consultations with Georgian leaders.

Spokesperson to the EU Special Representative Klaar told Civil.ge that this visit aimed to discuss the current situation in Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia, as well as "continuing security and humanitarian challenges on the ground," in particular in the context of the Tskhinvali crossing points, which "remain closed and security concerns are still significant."

Several issues discussed during the last round of the Geneva International Discussions (GID), which was held in December 2019, were also raised during his meetings. "This visit allows him to get a better understanding of the Georgian position as well as to pass key messages to his interlocutors," Toivo Klaar's Spokesperson told Civil.ge earlier last week (Civil.ge, January 27, 2020).

#### 3. Irakli Kobakhidze elected as Vice President of PACE

Irakli Kobakhidze, a member of the Georgian Parliament, has been elected as Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). 19 candidates have been elected as Vice Presidents of PACE.

The members of PACE only objected to the candidate proposed by the Russian delegation, Piotr Tolstoy. Maria Mezentseva, the representative of the Ukrainian delegation, raised an objection claiming that Tolstoy uses hate speech and anti-Semitic statements.

As regards the election of a Vice-President in respect of the Russian Federation, the Assembly decided to hold, this afternoon, a vote by secret ballot on the election of Piotr Tolstoy.

Twenty Vice-Presidents are elected annually at the beginning of an ordinary session and remain in office until the opening of the next session.

As a reminder, Georgia took over the chairmanship of Council of Europe's (CoE) Committee of Ministers for a six-month term starting November 27 (1TV, January 27, 2020).

#### 4. Import of live animals from China to Georgia banned

In order to prevent transmission and spread of a new type of coronavirus (2019-nCoV) on the territory of Georgia, The import of any type of live animal from the People's Republic of China to Georgia has been banned. The Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia reports in this regard.

According to the Ministry, the ban will be in effect until China is declarer the free zone of coronavirus by World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (1TV, January 27, 2020).

#### 5. GCAA suspends direct flights with China up to March 29, 2020

"As part of preventive measures to avert the spread of coronavirus in Georgia, direct flight with China has been temporarily suspended," the Georgian Civil Aviation Agency (GCAA) said earlier today (1TV, January 28, 2020).

#### 6. NCDC - Two Chinese travelers in Georgia are being observed

Two Chinese travelers in Georgia are being observed, the head of National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) Amiran Gamkrelidze stated.

Gamkrelidze said those travelers are not from Wohan where the novel virus originated, but from one of the provinces of China.

"Their body temperature is 37 degrees. They will be tested for all types of coronavirus. The test samples will be sent to the Lugar Laboratory in Tbilisi", Gamkrelidze said (1TV, January 28, 2020).

# 7. PM – Healthcare system is ready to efficiently respond to the challenge of coronavirus if it is revealed in Georgia

Georgian Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia talked about steps taken by Health Ministry with purpose to prevent Chinese coronavirus spread in the country during the governmental sitting today.

PM instructed various institutions to fully coordinate with Health Ministry in that direction. He underlined that the first effective measure already taken by Georgia was the suspension of direct flights with China temporarily.

"Also, Healthcare system is ready to efficiently respond to the challenge of coronavirus if it is revealed in Georgia," Gakharia claimed (1TV, January 29, 2020).

#### 8. Georgia's Ambassador Bakradze Assesses U.S. Congressmen's Letters

"The tone, in which the Congressmen supporting Frontera address the Georgian Prime Minister – the Prime Minister of the United States' strategic partner state – is absolutely unacceptable," he said, noting that "we have long experience of relations with the Congressmen supporting this company."

Ambassador Bakradze explained that Texas (home state to the Republican Michael McCaul, one of the signatories of the letter of four) and Oklahoma (home to the Republican Congressman Mullin) are the places of origin of Frontera Resources and "accordingly, these Congressmen have their own reasons to support the company, which has a legal dispute with Georgia."

"In this context, we have seen a lot of letters, draft resolutions, including draft legislative acts [that] had been submitted twice against the Georgian government, which received no follow-up in the U.S. Congress," the Georgian Ambassador said.

Concerning the letter sent by the Georgia Caucus, Bakradze noted that it contains "factual inaccuracies" regarding the country's economic growth, investments and country's foreign policy orientation. Ambassador Bakradze said certain people providing the congressmen with inaccurate information "are putting them in an awkward situation."

Bakradze noted that the Georgian side has already started working to provide the U.S. partners with comprehensive and accurate information, as well as to underline the inaccuracies outlined in the letter (Civil.ge, January 27, 2020).

#### 9. Georgian Officials Speak of U.S. Congressmen's Letters to PM Gakharia

On January 27, Georgian Foreign Minister Davit Zalkaliani said that the recent letters addressed to Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia from the United States Congressmen contain "subjective information" based on "factual inaccuracies" and that addressing them requires "accurate communication." He noted that Georgian leadership intends to provide each and every addresser with "a comprehensive information."

"For us, the position of the U.S., which is the main strategic partner of Georgia, is very important. For us, the position of each Congressman is the position shared [to us] by our friendly country," Zalkaliani said, noting that the Congressmen are very well aware of Georgia's recent "very high standards of democracy," and that the U.S.-Georgia strategic partnership has never been "on such a high-level." (Civil.ge, January 27, 2020)

#### 10. Georgian FM Addresses PACE as Chair of CoE Committee of Ministers

On January 27, Georgian Foreign Minister Davit Zalkaliani addressed the winter session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), in his capacity as the Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (CoE).

In his remarks, FM Zalkaliani spoke of the priorities of Georgia's six-month presidency, which include human rights and environmental protection, civil participation in decision-making process, child-friendly justice and strengthening democracy through education, culture and youth engagement (*Civil.ge, January 28, 2020*).

#### 11. President Zurabishvili Addresses PACE Winter Session

n her 47-minute address to the winter session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) on January 28, Georgian President Salome Zurabishvili said that "for centuries Georgia was the eastern frontier for Europe, bridging east and west, Asia and Europe."

"For centuries Georgia has shared and defended the very same values of freedom, tolerance that we have put as the guidelines of our organization," the Georgian President said, adding that "Georgia succeeded to turn itself from a post-soviet state into an emerging ever stronger and vibrant – sometimes some would say too vibrant – democracy."

Georgia "has turned into a modern European state with stronger institutions, free economy, sustained economic growth, developing social and healthcare systems, all in an environment of stability. This is a country that managed to pave its way towards its ultimate aim – the European Union and NATO, despite

conflicts frozen and open war, occupied territories, threats and attempts to destabilization," Zurabishvili stated (Civil.ge, January 28, 2020).

# 12. U.S. Congressman Slams 'Oligarch' Ivanishvili over Frontera Resources, 'Crushing Basic Human Rights'

On January 28, in his remarks made in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Pete Olson, [R-TX] slammed Georgia's ruling party chairman, ex-Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili over Frontera Resources, as well as for "crushing basic human rights."

"I have a question. What does Oscar the Grouch from Sesame Street has in common with Republic of Georgia's oligarch Bidzina Ivanishvili? What they have in common? Answer – they are both puppets who trash their own homes," Congressman said, adding that "Vladimir Putin's puppet [Bidzina Ivanishvili] has attacked the investment in Georgia and crushed basic human rights."

He then noted that "coming from Texas, Frontera Resources, has been drilling in Georgia for years and years and years. They've created great jobs in America, great jobs in Georgia. They've created freedom.... Now they are drilling zero wealth in Georgia."

Rep. Olson then stressed that "of course, .... Vladimir Putin is happy to control Georgia's oil. This puppet oligarch Ivanishvili is getting rich off the backs of the Georgian people."

"It's time to wake up as protesters in Georgia need our support. Join me in raising our voices for freedom in Georgia," he concluded (*Civil.ge, January 28, 2020*).

# 13. U.S. Senators Risch, Shaheen Concerned for 'Potential Backsliding of Georgian Democracy and Governance'

U.S. Senators Jim Risch (R-Idaho), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), ranking member of the Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation, sent letter to Georgian Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia on January 29, in which they expressed "concern over recent events that indicate a backsliding from Georgia's commitment to build the institutions of their democracy."

"In the 29 years since Georgia's independence from the Soviet Union, we have watched democracy take root, the economy grow, civil society flourish, and governance improve dramatically. Georgia's commitment to a peaceful transition of power and consensus-based politics has been an impressive example in your region," said the Senators, adding that "we both observed the 2012 parliamentary elections and were impressed with how Georgia had embraced these core tenets of democracy. For decades now, the United States has been eager to support Georgia as it developed." (Civil.ge, January 30, 2020)

#### 14. Beka Natsvlishvili addresses the US government on Frontera

Independent lawmaker Beka Natsvlishvili addresses the United States House of Representatives and Senate, as well as the US ambassador to Georgia Kelly Degnan.

Beka Natsvlishvili held a press conference with a former employee of Frontera Resources. Independent lawmaker said that 84 employees of the company were fired on December 17 and they did not receive an 11-month salary.

"In my letter, I am sending to the US representatives today, urge the US Congressmen and Senators to look closely at the ongoing developments in Georgia.

We demand respectful attitudes from the American Congressman because when it comes to the support of the Frontera company, they have to study the activities of this company.

When they release a statement in the name of democracy, they should urge their companies to respect human rights and the rule of law in Georgia.

We are proud people, we are not a colony where foreign companies can make money at the expense of the citizens of our country," Natsvlishvili said (1TV, January 27, 2020).

#### 15. Archil Talakvadze - We will inform congressman on our arguments regarding their letters

"We have a strategic partnership and a strong friendship with the United States, which cannot be questioned," the Chairman of the Parliament Archil Talakvadze said in an interview with Georgian First Channel.

"As for the letters from the congressmen, the government is ready to answer all the questions that the congressmen asked in their letters," Talakvadze said.

The Chairman of the Parliament noted that the decision on the electoral system is the subject of the political spectrum's agreement.

"The whole society did not demand the proportional system. Today, the bulk of the people think a mixed electoral system would be better. The lawmakers are among them," Archil Talakvadze stated (1TV, January 28, 2020).

#### 16. New U.S. Ambassador Degnan Arrives to Georgia

Kelly Degnan, who was unanimously endorsed by the U.S. Senate on December 19 to be the next Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Georgia, arrived in Tbilisi on January 29.

Announcing the arrival of Ambassador Degnan, U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi noted "we look forward to the work we will do together to strengthen the partnership between the United States and Georgia." (Civil.ge, January 29, 2020)

#### 17. U.S. Ambassador Degnan's Comments on Arrival to Georgia

"I'm delighted to be here finally. It's an honour to serve as the United States Ambassador to Georgia and I look forward to continuing the strong partnership America and Georgia have had," Degnan said.

She noted that "Over almost thirty years, we have been working together to help Georgia build its democratic institutions and processes, to diversify its economy, to improve the education and healthcare here, and of course, to strengthen Georgia's ability to defend its borders and protect its citizens."

"I think Georgia has made tremendous progress over the years, there are still more to do," she stressed, adding that she is looking forward to "helping Georgia with my team here at the embassy, and Washington behind us, to achieve its vision of a Georgia that is stable, prosperous and secure." (Civil.ge, January 29, 2020)

#### 18. PM – Government does not fear answering acute questions either in the country or abroad

Georgian Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia said regarding the letter of U.S. Congressmen addressed to Georgian Prime Minister that whatever are questions on part of the strategic partners, the Georgian government is ready to answer them in a dialogue regime.

According to Prime Minister, Georgia's Euro-Atlantic path and aspiration are irreversible and all questions will be answered both inside the country and abroad. PM said that Georgia's partners and foreign colleagues might have questions but "all questions will be answered calmly," Gakharia said.

As for the statements made by oppositional parties about the letter, Gakharia said: "We understand the excitement that comes from political context."

U.S. Congressman Brian Babin wrote a letter to Georgian Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia on January 23 to add his voice "to increasing concerns regarding Georgia's continued backsliding from democratic values and the associated deterioration of its economic prosperity." (1TV, January 29, 2020)

# 19. PM on Russian delegation's visit - This decision will be taken in accordance with Georgian law Clearly, such decisions are made in accordance with Georgian legislation. This decision will also be taken in accordance with the Georgian law — Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia said when commenting on the statement of the Georgian President, according to which, Georgia is ready to host the Russian delegation at the Council of Europe Ministerial due to be held in Tbilisi in May.

"No one can override the Georgian legislation. Georgia is the President of the Council of Europe, and unfortunately, it is a fact that Russia has regained the membership of the Council of Europe. Let's emphasize that no one will be able to violate the Georgian legislation, the time will come and everything will be done in accordance with the legislation," Gakharia said.

When asked whether the government seeks an option between fulfilling its international obligations and safeguarding national interests, the PM responded: "I am not looking for anything. We act in accordance with the laws of Georgia and if this legislation allows, we fulfill our international obligations. If it does not allow us to act so, we go to our partners and find another way out," - said the Prime Minister.

Georgia, as the President, is due to host the Council of Europe's Ministerial in May and the delegations of the organization's member states. According to reports, the Russian delegation is represented by Sergey Lavrov, who has repeatedly violated the Law on Georgia on the Occupied Territories (1TV, January 29, 2020).

## **❖ Internal Affairs**

#### 20. Batumi ex-Mayor Sent to Prison for 7 Years

On January 27, the court of Adjara Autonomous Republic has sent former Mayor of Batumi, Giorgi Ermakov (2014-2017) to seven years in prison for embezzlement. However, the latter denies the charges.

The prosecutor's office of Adjara arrested seven former and incumbent local officials, including Ermakov, on charges of embezzlement in May 2019.

Other detainees included Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Sport of Adjara, Bagrat Manvelidze; Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy of Adjara, Archil Vanadze; Deputy Mayor of Batumi, Tengiz Petridze; as well as three senior officials from the Batumi City Hall – Egarslan Lomadze, Vladimir Khintibidze and Beka Khalvashi.

According to the prosecutor's office, the investigation uncovered a corrupt scheme in Batumi Municipality's tender procedures for the so called "Cheap House" project in October 2015. All of the detained were members of the tender commission at the time.

The detained were charged with rigging the procurement tender for social housing in favor of a single company – "Convent Georgia" – which did not meet the legal and financial requirements (Civil.ge, January 27, 2020).

#### 21. Ex-Cop Speaks of Pressure for Detaining Intelligence Chief Izoria's Brother in 2014

Giorgi Dvalishvili, former police officer, who spoke of systematic pressure for detaining then Deputy Minister Levan Izoria's brother in 2014 with pro-opposition Mtavari Arkhi TV on January 23, held news briefing outside the Georgian State Security Service building on January 26, noting that secret surveillance is being carried out against him and his family.

Since September 2019, Levan Izoria serves as the new Chief of Intelligence Service. At the same time, Izoria is the Secretary of the National Security Council (NSC). Prior to this position, between the period of August 2016 – September 2019, Izoria served as Defense Minister. Earlier, from October 2012 to July 2016 he served as Deputy Interior Minister.

Speaking at the briefing outside the State Security Service building, Giorgi Dvalishvili, accompanied by Khatia Dekanoidze of the United National Movement, said that he is ready to cooperate with investigation and respond to all their questions. "I cannot protect my children and they suffer from a huge pressure. Thus, I call on law enforcement agencies to stop this illegality," he noted (*Civil.ge, January 27, 2020*).

#### 22. Levan Izoria Quits as Chief of Intelligence, Considered as Ambassador to Germany

On January 27, Levan Izoria, now former Chief of Intelligence told POSTV that he quit the position, stating that he is expected to become next Georgian Ambassador to Germany.

"In December it was decided to continue my work in Germany as the next [Georgian] Ambassador to Germany. In the beginning of January [2020], I already stated that on January 27 I would write a letter asking for resignation [from the Intelligence Chief position]," Izoria stated, adding that he is expecting to take on his new role in mid-February.

Izoria slammed recent allegations by Giorgi Dvalishvili, former police officer, as a "political show."

Levan Izoria was appointed as Chief of Intelligence Service last September, replacing Davit Sujashvili on this position. After Izoria's quitting, the post of the Secretary of the National Security Council will also become vacant, because Izoria also performed these duties in his capacity of Chief of Intelligence (Civil.ge, January 27, 2020).

#### 23. Former Intelligence Chief Izoria, Interior Minister Gomelauri on Ex-Cop's Allegations

Levan Izoria, outgoing chief of Georgian Intelligence Service, and Vakhtang Gomelauri, incumbent Interior Minister, made their first comments almost a week after pro-opposition Mtavari Arkhi TV aired a story about Giorgi Dvalishvili, former police officer, who provided a body-cam footage featuring the arrest of Levan Izoria's (then Deputy Interior Minister) brother, Vakhtang Izoria.

In the interview with POSTV on January 27, Levan Izoria spoke lengthily about the incident, slamming it as "a political show." He explained that his political opponents had information about his appointment as

Georgian ambassador to Germany and by spreading the footage, they wanted "to attach a political background" to the incident.

"They selected the day, when I filed my resignation on January 23 and later at 9pm, the footage [was] aired [on Mtavari Arkhi TV]," Izoria said.

Outgoing Intelligence Chief also explained that he learned about the incident only after it was resolved and had "no feeling of discontent" towards the police officer." He said police officer Dvalishvili retained his position in law enforcement agencies and continued to work there. He denied any allegations about pressure on police officer Dvalishvili. This is "absolutely unacceptable," he said.

Interior Minister Vakhtang Gomelauri also denied Dvalishvili's claims about pressure and persecution. He also explained that instead of storing the video footage depicting an apparent crime, Dvalishvili had to submit it to the General Inspection.

Gomelauri also noted that Vakhtang Izoria did not even touch a police officer and only spoke aggressively, "that is not [considered] a crime." "Do you know what happened before? Maybe, they [policemen] were insulting him [Vakhtang Izoria]?" he asked reporters. Asked why Vakhtang Gomelauri had the so called "Narushilovka," Gomelauri responded that he did not know (POSTV, January 27, 2020).

#### 24. CSOs Call on Georgian Dream to Adopt Proportional Electoral System

On January 28, 22 civil society organizations (among them International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy, Transparency International Georgia, Open Society Georgia Foundation, The Institute for Development of Freedom of Information, Georgian Democracy Initiative, Georgian Young Lawyers' Association) addressed the ruling Georgian Dream party to "take into account their responsibility towards the democratic development of the country and to re-submit the initiative on Constitutional Changes to the Parliament in relation to the adoption of a proportional electoral system."

According to the statement released by the group, "the backsliding of democracy in Georgia over the recent period has come under the spotlight by international organizations and representatives of countries friendly to Georgia." Backtracking on the promise to adopt a proportional electoral system, the formation process of the Supreme court, as well the ongoing political crisis and policies of the Georgian Government "have been numerously criticized by the country's domestic and international partners", the group said. CSOs pointed to "the critical statements made at the European Parliament" and "the strongly worded letters addressed to the Prime Minister of Georgia by the representatives of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate." (Civil.ge, January 28, 2020)

#### 25. Archil Talakvadze on Georgia's electoral system

"According to out team's position, the most reliable electoral system for our society, for our country will be 100/50," the Chairman of the Parliament Archil Talakvadze stated.

Talakvadze said that "in order to submit an amendment to the constitution, the ruling Georgian Dream party will try to mobilize."

"In June, we proposed to the opposition a date regarding the proportional election. Although this was a very constructive step and we expected it to be the beginning of the cooperation, from day two, this destructive part of the opposition, the United National Movement and its satellites continued their boycott

and street protest. They were not even present at the hearings," Archil Talakvadze said (1TV, January 29, 2020).

#### 26. Representatives of Girchi not attending meeting of oppositional parties

Representatives of Girchi are not attending the meeting of oppositional parties being held at the office of Georgian Labor Party.

Girchi members named lack of time for being absent during the meeting rather than the statement made by Grigol Vashadze, one of the leaders of United National Movement (UNM) Party.

Vashadze stated that UNM Party demanded and required from oligarch Bidzina Ivanishvili, Chairman of Georgian Dream Party, holding of 2020 parliamentary elections with proportional system.

Zurab Japaridze, Leader of Girchi said the following day that he would not take part in the consultations of the united opposition where Vashadze would represent the main voice to speak on part of the opposition. Grigol Vashadze represents the UNM Party at the meeting. Oppositional representatives are discussing election system at Labor Party office (1TV, January 29, 2020).

#### 27. Prosecutor's Office Closes Investigation into Machalikashvili Case

The Georgian Prosecutor's Office has announced that it terminated the case related to Temirlan Machalikashvili, who was shot dead during an anti-terror operation in Georgia's north-eastern Pankisi gorge by special police forces in December 2017.

The Prosecutor's Office said at a news briefing on January 28 that a riot police officer who fired a shot at Machalikashvili was forced to repel an attack and that a threat was real. According to the Prosecutor's Office, Machalikashvili did not obey a riot police officer's order to show his hands and tried to detonate a hand-grenade, prompting the police officer to fire a shot.

It also explained that not a single riot police officer or any senior official had committed an unlawful action during the special operation (*Civil.ge, January 28, 2020*).

# 28. Soso Gogashvili – Persons liquidated during 2017 special operation had three targets to organize terrorist acts

Soso Gogashvili, former Deputy Head of State Security Service recalled the details of the 2017 special operation carried out at Gabriel Salosi Street in Tbilisi in an interview with Georgian First Channel.

According to Gogashvili, the persons liquidated during the 2017 special operation had three targets to organize terrorist acts. As he explained, based on pieces of evidence, public gathering places, where American citizens could be present, were the targets.

Some of the persons suspected of being in alliance with the terrorists, had accounts opened in different countries of Europe, investigation also had recordings of telephone conversations.

Gogashvili said that Akhmed Chataev, who crossed the so-called 'green border' to enter Georgia from Turkey, carried out the first call with Temirlan Machalikashvili, the 19-youth killed during the special operation in Duisi, Pankisi Gorge.

Temirlan Machalikashvili then called his father Malkhaz Machalikashvili. Bringing Chechens and importing of weapons were also planned. Flesh memories and cell phones were confiscated from the rented flat located at Gabriel Salosi Street as part of the special raid.

Gogashvili said that the place and confiscated evidence were studied together with foreign partners including with participation of representatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) (1TV, January 29, 2020).

## Economy and Social Affairs

#### 29. Central Bank Keeps Key Rate at 9%

The key refinancing rate will remain unchanged at 9%, the National Bank of Georgia (NBG) announced on January 29.

NBG started to tighten its monetary policy from September 2019, pushing the key refinancing rate from 6.5% to 9% till present. The bank then explained that the decision was driven by "inflationary pressure" from the GEL exchange rate depreciation, and noted that the Monetary Policy Committee "stands ready to further continue policy tightening until the pressures from exchange rate recede."

The National Bank of Georgia noted that annual inflation rate stood at 7% in December. According to NBG, "along with one-off factors, the inflation overshooting was caused by the nominal exchange rate depreciation." (NBG.GOV.GE, January 28, 2020).

## **Additional Information**

