



GEORGIA ALERT

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JOINT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER BY POLITICAL PARTIES UNITED NATIONAL MOVEMENT, LELO – FOR GEORGIA, DROA, GIRCHI – MORE FREEDOM, AND CIVIL MOVEMENT DEMOCRACY DEFENDERS.

HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK:

Leaked recordings between Ivanishvili and sanctioned Russian oligarch Yevtushenkov suggest possible business deals between the two men, GD Chairman says trade relations can be established with Russia.

On April 25, audio recordings of conversations between Bidzina Ivanishvili and a UK-sanctioned Russian oligarch Vladimir Yevtushenkov were [leaked](#) on the internet. The tapes suggest business dealings between the two oligarchs.

In reaction to the leaked conversations between Ivanishvili and Yevtushenkov, GD Chairman Irakli Kobakhidze [stated](#): “As for trade relations with Russia and Russian representatives, given that Georgia hasn’t imposed sanctions within the framework of trade relations, naturally any relations can be established.”

MEP Anna Fotyga [spoke](#) about the leaked tapes and stressed the need to sanction Ivanishvili: “I made a request to Vice President Josep Borrell, which indicates a similar problem, which is what a part of the Ukrainian elite think about similarly, that international sanctions should be imposed on Ivanishvili as well, and this recording easily reveals these problems and points to Ivanishvili’s ties with the Putin regime. Although it is very important and presents my full picture of Ivanishvili’s role, I am not focusing only on this one case. I think there are many cases other than this one, but I can say that yes, this case shows exactly how involved Ivanishvili is in the operations of the Kremlin regime,” said Fotyga during her interview with TV Formula.

Transparency International Georgia publishes comprehensive report on Bidzina Ivanishvili’s business links to Russia

TI Georgia has published a comprehensive [report](#) on Russian businesses of Bidzina Ivanishvili and his relatives.

According to the report, Ivanishvili misled the public when he stated that he would sell his Russian-owned businesses. Despite selling direct assets, he continued to own at least 10 Russian companies through offshore entities in 2012-2019, even while being the Prime Minister. Moreover, one of his offshore companies still has active business in both Russia and Georgia.

TI Georgia also found that Ivanishvili's relatives actively do business in Russia. The report states that through a company called Geo Organics, Bidzina Ivanishvili's brother Alexander Ivanishvili and cousin Ucha Mamatsashvili do business with a US-sanctioned former KGB general and Governor of St. Petersburg Georgy Poltavchenko, and also with former high ranking official of Volgograd Roland Kherianov, whose wife is a former member of the State Duma Anna Kovichko, author of the infamous propaganda video "Uncle Vova, We Are With You".

According to TI Georgia, since the report was published, GD has been sponsoring discrediting ads against the organization's Executive Director Eka Gigauri.

Adviser to the President of Ukraine Mykhailo Podolyak [reacted](#) to TI Georgia's report on Ivanishvili's financial ties in Russia and wrote that "de-oligarchization" awaits all pro-Russian oligarchs: "TI Georgia showed why the Georgian government refused to consider any sanctions on Russia. Of course, because of the Russian business of the local oligarch Ivanishvili. David Arakhamia offers to impose tough sanctions against him. Every pro-Russian oligarch will face 'de-oligarchization.'"

PM Gharibashvili says "only destruction" has been happening in Georgia since the collapse of the Soviet Union

On April 30th PM Irakli Gharibashvili [stated](#) that Georgians have been destroying their country with their own hands since the collapse of the Soviet Union: "Since the Soviet Union collapsed and we regained independence, you know that only destruction has been happening for the last 30 years. Destruction - we were destroying our country with our own hands. Including those irresponsible politicians, treacherous, and selling politicians, who destroyed our country and lost territories, are causing harm to this day."

Int' partners stress the need to support Georgia and Moldova following Russia's war in Ukraine

According to the British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, the world should have done [more](#) to deter Russia's invasion of Ukraine, learn lessons of Ukraine and not make the same mistake again. She stressed that alongside Ukraine, it is necessary to strengthen assistance to Georgia and Moldova: "And we must ensure that, alongside Ukraine, the Western Balkans and countries like Moldova and Georgia have the resilience and the capabilities to maintain their sovereignty and freedom," said Truss in her speech.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has also [stressed](#) the need to support Moldova and Georgia: "The brutal invasion of Ukraine demonstrates the need for NATO to provide support to those countries in Europe that are not members of NATO and neither members of the European Union as Moldova and Georgia. This is about practical support, this is about political support. And Georgia is a very highly valued partner, and also in close cooperation with the European Union. We are looking into what we can do more to work even closer with our close partners in the eastern part of Europe."

Political Party Lelo says sanctioned oil was transferred via Batumi port

According to the political party Lelo, sanctioned oil was [transferred](#) from the Batumi port to the Kulevi oil terminal.

"Based on the information we have, it became clear that sanctioned oil was brought to the Batumi port, where the Kazakh management refused to transport the sanctioned oil. This

was the fact of the matter, which is why, based on an internal political agreement, the sanctioned oil was diverted to the Kulevi oil terminal, from where it will be transported. This criminal policy of GD poses a direct threat to the international authority of Georgia and also puts us at risk of getting sanctioned,” said Irakli Kupradze during a briefing held at the party’s office.

Ukrainian Military Intelligence says Russia is trying to circumvent sanctions through Georgia

According to the Ukrainian military intelligence, Russia is trying to [circumvent](#) sanctions using other countries, including Georgia. Allegedly, Moscow is in talks with Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan to re-export Russian products to international markets. The plan is to export products to third countries under the auspices of Georgian, Armenian, and Azerbaijani products. That is why over 200 new companies have been established in these countries.