



GEORGIA ALERT

ISSUE 13 | March 28– April 4

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:

Ukraine’s Defense Intelligence claims Georgia is helping Russia smuggle sanctioned goods, including weapons, through its territory.

According to a [statement](#) published by Ukraine’s Defense Intelligence, Georgia is aiding Russia evade sanctions by allowing it to smuggle its good, including weapons, through its territory. In its statement, Ukraine’s Defense Ministry Intelligence stated that “representatives of the Georgian security service were instructed by the political leadership not to interfere with the activities of the smugglers.”

In an interview with Georgian TV channel Formula, Ukraine’s Deputy Prime Minister Irina Vereshchuk condemned this move and called on Georgian citizens to act. “I can’t believe that you, Georgians, our brothers and sisters, will allow weapons to enter Russia through smuggling via Georgia that kill our women and children in Irpin, Bucha, Chernihiv. How is it possible? Ask yourself how it’s being allowed and how it happened,” she [said](#).

PM Gharibashvili reiterates Georgia won’t join sanctions against Russia, boasts he knew Ukraine would be the one “afflicted” and “punished” by the war.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Gharibashvili [reiterated](#) that Georgia will not join sanctions against Russia and boasted he was “already saying on February 25th that Ukraine would be the one afflicted, punished by this war.”

Girchi – More Freedom’s leader Tsotne Koberidze arrested for calling Gharibashvili “Ivanishvili’s puppet.”

On April 3rd, Girchi – More Freedom’s leader Tsotne Koberidze was [arrested](#) in Batumi for calling Prime Minister Gharibashvili “Ivanishvili’s Puppet.” Koberidze was not detained by the Police themselves but by members of the State Security Service of Georgia.

GD chairman says UNM inflicts more damage to the state than Russia-linked, far-right extremist group

When asked about the activities of a pro-Russian far-right extremist group Alt-Info, GD Chairman Irakli Kobakhidze [stated](#) that the UNM causes a hundred times more damage to the state than Alt-Info can: "I think they [the UNM] are funded from Russia too, we have such suspicions. The UNM is of much more heavy weight because they take part in the elections, they achieve some success in the elections, they have much more influential media resources, therefore, they cause a hundred times more damage to the state than Alt-Info can."

President Zelensky permanently recalls Ukrainian Ambassador from Georgia

President Zelenskyy signed a [decree](#) permanently recalling the Ukrainian Ambassador to Georgia, Igor Dolgov. "With all due respect, but if there are no weapons, no sanctions, no restrictions for Russian business - look for another job," he said during his video address on March 31. Up to today, the Georgian government has neither joined economic sanctions against Russia nor allowed volunteers to fly to Ukraine.

Ruling Georgian Dream party members, on their part, criticized Zelensky for this decision and connected the move to the UNM. GD Chairman Irakli Kobakhidze [said](#) that Zelenskyy's decision to recall the Ambassador is an insult to the Georgian state, adding that Zelensky previously appointing Saakashvili to the Reform council is a bigger issue than the recalling of the Ambassador. Parliament Vice-Speaker Gia Volski [linked](#) the recalling of the Ambassador to the UNM: "I thought, I think, and I probably will not change my mind in the future that this decision is likely brought on by the group of people who occupy key positions today and are, in fact, part of the UNM."

GD's Mamuka Mdinardze humiliates critical-media journalist

During a briefing held at the party office on April 1, GD's Mamuka Mdinardze humiliated and poked fun of a critical-media journalist. "As a joke, today is April 1 and I can also congratulate you on your professional day," he [said](#).

GD's Mamuka Mdinardze says Saakashvili expected the Ukraine war and came back to cause turmoil in Georgia.

GD's Mamuka Mdinardze [spoke](#) about Mikheil Saakashvili and said that he was certain that the former president had anticipated the war and made it out of Ukraine on time: "What did he know, why was he coming back? I am personally convinced that he had certain expectations about what is happening today and he made it out of Ukraine for there to be turmoil in Georgia. The unrest in Georgia, with his assistance, could have turned into what we avoided and what we did not allow."

GD says they didn't attend funerals of Georgian volunteers who died in Ukraine not to "encourage" other volunteers to go to war.

Four Georgian volunteers - Davit Ratiani, Gia Beriashvili, Bakhva Chikobava, and Davit Gobejishvili- were killed fighting in a war waged by Russia against Ukraine. When asked why the leaders of GD did not attend the funeral of the volunteers, Mamuka Mdinardze said that it could have had an "encouraging effect" on other Georgians.

"When a country, not only Georgia but also the US, Great Britain, etc., declares that it is against sending volunteers to Ukraine, then there is an awkward moment, how should the government officials behave at this time? Are any actions, even sincere condolences, perceived as encouragement of certain actions?" – [said](#) Mdinradze.