

Georgian Dream Considers Widening Ban on Opposition Groups



By MESSENGER STAFF

Georgian Dream Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze indicated on March 9 that the ruling party may expand its legal attempt to outlaw major opposition forces. This statement follows the recent formation of a new alliance consisting of nine different political groups.

Kobakhidze suggested that the current appeal to the Constitutional Court could be updated to include more parties. He

argued that the members of the new coalition are essentially offshoots of the former ruling party, the United National Movement.

In late 2025, the government first moved to ban three significant opposition entities, including the United National Movement and the Coalition for Change. At that time, officials mentioned that smaller groups with close ties to these organizations might also face legal action.

With the recent announce-

ment of a unified opposition front, Kobakhidze noted that the names in the lawsuit would likely be revised to reflect the current political environment. He told reporters that new parties could be added to the list based on their shared positions and recent activities.

"The list in the constitutional lawsuit could be updated, and all relevant parties might be included," Kobakhidze said. "We will work on this and make the appropriate decision."

Georgian Dream's narrative suggests that the nine parties in the new alliance are merely duplicates of the groups already targeted in the original court filing. Kobakhidze specifically pointed to newer organizations, claiming their leadership has roots in previous administrations.

"Some parties may be added, given that they have jointly expressed their position on ongoing developments," Kobakhidze said.

This push to dismantle political opposition comes during a period of significant domestic unrest. Beyond the attempt to ban these groups, several prominent opposition figures are currently facing criminal charges for sabotage, which could result in lengthy prison sentences.

Dozens Arrested in Georgia Following Massive Anti-Corruption Sweep

By MESSENGER STAFF

The State Security Service of Georgia has launched a significant crackdown on public sector misconduct, resulting in the arrest of 30 people across 12 separate criminal cases. This large-scale operation targeted a mix of current and former municipal officials who are allegedly involved in a variety of illegal activities, from land fraud to the falsification of official records.

Emzar Gagnidze, the director of the State Security Service's Anti-Corruption Agency, detailed the findings during a press briefing on March 9. He explained that the investigation uncovered a pattern of bribery, fraud, and abuse of office that stretched across multiple regions of the country.

The cases involve a wide range of local government bodies and public services. In Akhmeta, authorities detained a municipal council member for allegedly taking bribes to secure land leases. In a separate case within the same city, five people were charged with fraud related to the renovation of local kindergartens.

In the town of Kobuleti, two individuals were detained at a vocational college for allegedly issuing fake graduation certificates. Meanwhile, in Tbilisi, an employee of the Interior Ministry's Emergency Management Service is accused of trying to defraud a Greek citizen over state land access. Officials in Martvili and Tsalenjikha also face charges for creating forged documents to help individuals illegally register state-owned property.

Further investigations led to arrests in Senaki, where the former chair of the municipal council is among those accused of fraud regarding contracts for a local football team's catering and housing. At the Beshumi resort, eight people were charged after a drinking water system project was left incomplete despite the use of forged procurement documents.

If convicted, the majority of those involved could face between six and nine years in prison. This wave of arrests is part of a broader government effort to clean up public institutions and improve the standing of the country on the global stage.

"The State Security Service's Anti-Corruption Agency continues its work to expose and prevent all forms of corruption-related crimes until we achieve the declared goal of the Georgian state—for Georgia to be among the leading countries in the world with a low level of corruption," Gagnidze said.

By MESSENGER STAFF

A senior delegation from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, led by President Pere Joan Pons Sampietro, is currently conducting a three-day visit to Georgia. Running from March 8 to March 10, the visit is designed to allow international representatives to discuss the country's political climate, regional security, and democratic progress with a variety of local leaders.

The group includes several high-ranking officials, such as Vice-President Luís Graça and Secretary General Roberto Montella. According to an official statement, the trip serves as a platform for the Assembly to exchange views on stability in the South Caucasus and to maintain ongoing cooperation with Georgian institutions.

On the first day of the visit, the delegation traveled to the village of Khurvaleti in the Gori municipality to observe the occupation line. Accompanied by Levan Makhashvili, chair of the EU Integration Committee, the representatives were briefed on the security threats and humanitarian challenges resulting from the Russian Federation's presence in Georgian regions.

The briefing focused on the daily difficulties faced by the local population living near the boundary and the broader impact of the occupation on national security.

On March 9, President Sampietro held

OSCE Parliamentary Delegation Arrives in Georgia for High-Level Meetings



a lengthy meeting with Shalva Papuashvili, the Speaker of the Georgian Dream-led Parliament. Papuashvili characterized the talks as an open and constructive dialogue regarding the country's legislative work and the implementation of international recommendations.

During the meeting, Papuashvili noted that the Georgian Parliament continues to pass laws aimed at protecting the nation's democracy and remains committed to the standards set by the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

"I also confirmed the Georgian side's readiness to continue working on the implementation of OSCE/ODIHR recommendations," Papuashvili said.

Following the meeting, Sampietro described the conversation as a sincere look at the country's recent political history and the findings of the 2024 election reports. He reiterated the Assembly's support for the territorial integrity of the nation while highlighting the importance of the OSCE as a space for diplomatic engagement.

"We will discuss all the issues that concern this country, and then we will hold a press conference, because I want to hear all the views and data first, and after that we will speak," Sampietro said.

The delegation is expected to continue its itinerary by meeting with members of civil society and various political actors to gain a comprehensive perspective on the current situation in the country.