



Helsinki Citizens'  
Assembly Georgian  
National Committee

# Vector 4Peace

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**Dear readers, Edition wish you a Happy New Year and Merry Christmas. We wish a set of unexpected pleasures to you, your families and all your countries. We hope that - in spite of the fact that 2016 is a leap year; the international community will be able to find new opportunities for development of cooperation in settlement of the existing conflicts and for creation of new system of the international security.**

## **Georgia – The Caucasian Djibouti or Caucasian Switzerland? "Tbilisi Initiative of Peace"**

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2015 came to the end with two important events for Georgia – the EU made the decision on liberalization of visa regime, and the Russian Federation made the decision on simplification of visa regime.

For the citizens of Georgia tired of constant tension, these two events really became festive. They gave to long-awaited hope that Georgia is capable to escape the geopolitical trap respectably.

However Europhobes shout that liberalization of a visa regime with EU countries will only strengthen the level of depravity of society and will aggravate economic and social situation of citizens of Georgia. First of all, they are disturbed by strengthening of nonconventional religions and values in society. Special fears in

them are caused by spread and legalization of nonconventional sex.

Russophobes consider that simplification of visa regime and furthermore its abolition will cost much for Georgia. They accuse the authorities of Georgia of unscrupulousness and in general, negatively consider the process of the warming of Georgian-Russian relations.

The third category of skeptics considers that outflow of citizens to EU countries and the Russian Federation will cause demographic crisis which will strengthen conflictogenity level between the citizens who will stay and migrants. First of all it concerns migrants from Africa and Asia.

However, most part of the citizens positively estimates these decisions and thinks how to

realize new opportunities next year. First of all it is quite good incentive for medium business. New ways for realization of the production appeared. Representatives of travel business approached the changes with a particular interest too. One expects inflow of the Russian tourists, and others gained a chance to rescue the dying external tourism both in the direction of the Russian Federation, and in the direction of EU countries.

By 2016 the leadership of Georgia managed to level the situation – to keep the chosen strategy towards the European integration and to restore the confidential relations with the Russian Federation. The foreign policy of the country became less declared and more pragmatic. Not incidentally the ex-Minister of Economics Giorgi Kvirikashvili became the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Economic and geo-economic components in foreign policy began to prevail over unfounded ideological moods. We can say that the country conducts (in a varying degree) four-vector policy at once: western, northern, southern and eastern directions.

In economic policy diversification is also observed. First of all it is expressed in the energy sphere. Azerbaijan remains the main partner in the field of gas supply; however the Minister of Energy Kakha Kaladze conducts intensive negotiations with Russia and with Iran on the same question. The era of monopoly of hydropower in domestic market of the country is also tried to be destroyed by attempts of introduction of new power-intensive technologies. The country tries to return life to metallurgy, refusing mass export of scrap metal in favor of internal production.

Georgian wine and citruses returned in the Russian market, and also successfully enter the new markets of the western and eastern directions. The government took large-scale measures for development of agriculture in various regions of Georgia. Demand for the Georgian dried fruits and a filbert grows.

The main merit of the operating government is that it seeks to protect the country from external threats and to create positive climate for development of economy and normal relationship with neighbors and partners from



the distant countries. It occurs against a deep geopolitical and geo-economic crisis around the country, and also deliberate sabotages directed on undermining state security.

Despite the serious disagreements on the future of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, the Georgian-Russian relationship first of all relies on understanding of the general threats and common problems.

At the same time, understanding all complexity of the situation in which the Russian Federation is, the Georgian society, despite foreign policy likes and dislikes, negatively estimates the actions of Moscow directed on further militarization of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. In particular, the new arms such as "Iskander M" rockets established in Java cause serious concern. Also the joint Russian-Chinese project on development of port infrastructure in the city of Ochamchira on the Abkhazian coast of the Black Sea, and construction of the route connecting this port to North Caucasian regions of the Russian Federation is estimated extremely negatively. Georgian society realize the mistakes made permanently by several generations of Tbilisi political elite more and more but at the same time can't agree that responsibility for those events lies on Georgia unilaterally. The country is in a search of its worthy place in the international architecture which doesn't rely on egoistical interests, and proceeds from desire to leave the long-term crisis for a new level of development. The most part of the population of Georgia doesn't wish to be involved in global international dismantling and wishes creation of a belt of safety for normal coexistence with neighbors. Georgia has all opportunities to become the base for cooperation, but not confrontation between global, regional and local players.

Today need of search of new non-standard and creative decisions for expansion of a corridor of

cooperation not only between Georgia and the Russian Federation, but also between the Russian Federation and the USA ripened in Georgia. Moreover, between the Russian Federation and NATO. It is impossible (in strategic prospect) to exclude also the participation of the People's Republic of China in this process. Somebody likes it or not, but we are eyewitnesses of the growth of the influence of Beijing in the Black Sea Caspian Basin. The increasing interest is shown by India which also possesses serious investment resources.

Georgia is an ideal place for creation of a zone of geopolitical coexistence. It is impossible to allow that this country turned in Caucasian Djibouti, with its Somali lands, Eritrea and Sagallo. It is known that in this African country military bases of the USA, France, and Great Britain are located and the 10-year contract for creation of military base of China is signed. Georgia which is the victim of centuries-old geopolitical opposition deserved other fate – to be a zone of the peace and mutual understanding, but not the country stuffed with foreign military bases.

If to ponder, it is possible to understand that it can bring more benefit to each of participants of process of the opposition. Need of precedent ripened. The international community is exhausted by wars and mass bloodshed. The Georgian experiment can create bases for an exit to the new level of creation of a new international security system. And for this purpose large-scale cooperation between professional experts is necessary.

It is impossible to exclude that "The Tbilisi Initiative of Peace" can become continuation of the Helsinki Initiative of 1975-1976 as a result of which the modern Organization for Safety and Cooperation in Europe was created. Today all can make certain concessions. And all will only benefit from it.

# The Famous Turkish Scientific Magazine Published Special Edition on the Caucasus

The Center of the Strategic Researches "New Turkey" (CSRNT) which is located in Ankara published the special edition of the New Turkey magazine devoted to the Caucasus.

(<http://www.yeniturkiye.com/display.asp?c=0711>)

This special edition, written in Turkish, consisting of 11 volumes and 8500 pages incorporated the scientific articles of scientists from the different countries devoted to history of the Caucasus, history of art, literature, culture, society, policy issues, the international relations and economy, geopolitics of the countries and regions of the Caucasus. We will note that CSRNT is a noncommercial analytical center which consists of 15 institutes and 41 research groups. CSRNT also is in contact with more than 3000 Turkish and foreign scientists and researchers.

The special edition also published the article of the director of the Caucasus Institute for Regional Security - Alexander Rusetsky – "Psychological aspects of perception of geopolitical formats and measurements in the Caucasus" which was earlier published in the "The Archipelago Caucasus — Myths and Real Politics".

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## Some contours of military architecture of the Islamic countries and new threats for Georgia

Saudi Arabia declared creation of the Islamic military coalition on December 15, 2015. In structure of the coalition, besides Saudi Arabia, entered Bangladesh, Bahrain, Benin, Gabon, Guinea, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Yemen, Qatar, Kuwait, Komora, Kotd'ivuar, Libya, Mauritania, Malaysia, Mali, Maldives, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan,

Palestine, Senegal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Tunisia, Turkey, Togo and Chad.

The regional rival of Saudi Arabia — Shiite Iran wasn't a part of the coalition. Also it didn't include such Muslim countries as Syria, Iraq and Oman. Despite it the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Adele al-Jubeyr assured that the

coalition won't be strictly "Sunni", and the purpose of its creation is fight against terrorism. As a confirmation of it Gabon, Benin and Togo were included in coalition most of the population of which don't practice Islam.

Pakistan declared desire of creation of the military block of the Islamic states more than once. As the only nuclear power among the Islamic countries, Pakistan jealously treats also the question of leadership. In this regard Benazir Bhutto's statement made by her in the years of formation of her political career in Pakistan is symptomatic: "On all space of the Islamic countries there are only two obstacles, preventing the Islamic world to be closed and grouped completely, these are Armenia and Georgia". Pakistan – the only country in the world which didn't recognize independence of Armenia.

However the architecture of military cooperation of the Islamic states doesn't come to an end with it. Turkey conducts in this direction active work and in territories of the countries of the former USSR. So, according to the statement of the member of parliamentary committee on safety and defense of Azerbaijan - Zakhid Oruj, the formula of cooperation of the parties has to differ from nowadays accepted "One nation, two states" and sound as "One nation, uniform army". The question costs about creation of uniform Turkish-Azerbaijani army.

In December the tripartite meeting of Ministers of Defence of Turkey, Azerbaijan and Georgia also took place.

On the ethno - confessional basis in Ukraine the battalion of the Crimean Tatars which according to the Russian sources are supported by Turkey is created though the Turkish diplomats deny this fact.

Creation of a uniform security system of the Islamic countries stirs internal opposition between them which reached its apogee.

In Saudi Arabia 47 people were sentenced for terrorism, including the famous Shiite priest

sheikh Nimr al-Nimr. In the east of the country populous disorders for which suppression troops and hundreds of armored cars are directed flashed. Iran declared that the death of the preacher will cost much to the authorities of Saudi Arabia. In the capital of Iran the embassy of the country is crushed. Diplomatic relationship between these countries is interrupted. Opposition between Iran and other Islamic countries grows.

In the agenda there is a question – whether in the countries of cohabitation of Shiites and Sunnites there is a threat of a projection and development of this opposition. In Georgia this opposition already began and hopefully won't increase in the scales bearing threat for all society. Nevertheless, the Georgian Shiites prepare for carrying out protest meetings and demonstrations as aren't satisfied with the ongoing situation. In the village of Soganlyg (Ponichala) located near the capital of Georgia in which ethnic Azerbaijanians live, there was a murder. The resident of the village of Soganlyg (Ponichala) Fikret Ahmedov (1992) was killed with a knife.

As the mufti of the Georgian representation of UMK Ayvaz Mardanov reported to the Georgian APA bureau, F.Ahmedov's interview which it gave to the Georgian television became a cause of the murder. According to him, in interview to the İmedi channel Fikret Ahmedov stated that in recent years in the village the number of Wahhabites increased: "After that interview the resident of the same village Ramin



Isaev wanted to meet Fikret. After short dispute, Ramin Isaev wounded Fikret Akhmedov with a knife. Earlier they were close friends. Ramin was Shiite, then he joined Wahhabite radical group and propagandized it".

According to A. Mardanov, residents of the village Soganlyg repeatedly carried out protest actions against promotion of Wahhabism: "Wahhabites tried to construct a mosque in the village. In protest residents of the village appealed to court. Construction was suspended by a judgment, and Wahhabites continued the activity in the cellar of an unfinished mosque". The Georgian İmedi channel interviewed Shiite and Wahhabites in connection with construction of a mosque. After interview aired, discontent arose among the population. R. Isaev after commission of crime ran away. Upon criminal case is brought, investigation is conducted.

This is the second murder in the settlement of Ponichala for religious motive for the last several months. As reports Oxu.Az with reference to APA, the first incident happened at night on September 2. The resident of the village of Ponichala who was at the nephew's wedding, the pupil of the 11th class of rural high school Vyusal Emzar Oglu Guseynov was shot. The Uncle of Vyusal Guseynov Zaminkar Guseynov, noted that Agil Ali Oglu Kerimov who committed a crime is detained, and the police brought criminal case. Z.Guseynov noted that the person who committed a crime is Wahhabite. According to him, now these persons threaten the elder brother of the late Vyusal Bahram Guseynov.

According to a number of independent experts, in some cases, criminal incidents are given

purposefully a religious shade. Much win by provoking in Georgia one more center of intensity – religious, as among Christian and Muslim, also among the Muslim. First of all citizens and national economy suffer from this policy.

In case of escalation of the Russian-Turkish conflict, not occupied part of Georgia can be a preoccupied by Russia. And this situation without doubts will affect results of parliamentary elections of Georgia which will take place in the autumn of 2016.

In the last interview devoted to new Strategy of national security of Russia till 2020 the secretary of the Security Council Nikolay Patrushev declared that in case of escalation of the military conflict with Turkey, Russia could occupy also Baltic.



"They do not really wish to protect Turkey. Therefore if the alliance supports Ankara, from our party the most logical answer — is locating of troops to Baltic. And all Baltic will be ours. Absolutely without any losses. Quickly enough. Thus, NATO will pay for support of Turkey with loss of Baltic", - the secretary of the Security Council emphasized.

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