



Helsinki Citizens'
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The Guardian included Georgia in the top list of the countries to travel in 2016

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TBILISI, January 5 – News Georgia. The famous British The Guardian included Georgia in the top list of the countries to travel in 2016.

Developing the top list, the well-known weekly of Great Britain chose the new directions for visit in 2016 where it is recommended to celebrate anniversaries and memories, and also to make discoveries or simply to have a rest.

"After collapse of the USSR 25 years ago Georgia became a promising place for unbeaten adventure campaigns to mountains and on lakes" — says The Guardian.

Georgia attracts tourists with the cheap flights new of five - four - and three-star hotels, restaurants and bars with possibility of tasting Georgian wines, and also cultural entertainments.

In the top list of The Guardian was included the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, also



different countries and cities such as Bordeaux, Dublin, Rio de Janeiro, India, Iran, Japan, Lima, Costa Rica, Sri Lanka, Bosnia and others.

Resource: News-Georgia <http://www.newsgeorgia.ge/the-guardian-vnesla-gruziyu-v-top-list-strandlya-puteshestvij-v-2016-godu/#t20c>

The Russian Federation and NATO – war or “Tbilisi initiative of Peace”?

Ukraine suggested to lay "a silk road" bypassing Russia for what the ferry from Ilyichevsk to Batumi will be started on January 15. The route is laid from China to Europe through Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Ukraine. Information of this kind suggests an idea that along the line of the "caravan" some problems might occur, especially on the Caucasian and Black Sea sites. I.e. this caravan can provoke a new conflict.

Though the fact that caravan is from China, is some condition of safety. Not accidentally the military doctrine also of this power declares need of military presence in various regions of the world for protection of own economic interests and for protection of the Chinese business. The difficult economic situation in China can even increase external activity of Beijing. It is impossible to exclude that China considers the prospects and mechanisms of military presence in the Black Sea Caspian Basin.

Therefore, we come back again to the fact that Russian-Turkish opposition can accelerate process of strengthening of economic, and then also military presence of China on the Black Sea. In turn, it will provoke strengthening of the American attention. The situation unambiguously shows that Turkey isn't capable to guarantee to NATO safety in the Black Sea basin. Membership of Bulgaria and Romania in NATO - also. And it can mean a new round of tension across Northern Black Sea Coast –



from Batumi, to Odessa. In this situation the special importance is given to the Warsaw summit of NATO.

Opposition of the Russian Federation and Turkey, the Russian Federation and NATO on control of a situation on the Black Sea can move to a new level. NATO will try to find ways of strengthening of positions in Ukraine and in Georgia; the Russian Federation will try to prevent this process. The winter tranquility can already be changed by rough processes by the end of March when opportunities for provocations increase.

Turkey, in the person of Erdogan let know the Russian Federation that if Russia was invited by an illegitimate regime of Assad to Syria, to Ukraine and to Georgia – Russia wasn't invited. Thereby, Erdogan hinted that Turkey, in some way, can act as the defender of interests of Georgia and Ukraine or if to be more exact, to use Ukraine and Georgia for protection of its own interests.

In this context definition of new opportunities for settlement of this geopolitical opposition become even more significant. In particular, conversation can be about holding in Tbilisi a meeting of the Russian Federation-NATO format and search of new mechanisms of a de-escalation of the conflict.

In this context Ukraine and Georgia have two ways out, either they will support process of search of decisions which can lead to the strategic agreement between NATO and the Russian Federation. Or they will be involved in a new round of geopolitical opposition, or will be able to get with advantage out of a difficult situation. Or this initiative will be bilateral Georgian-Ukrainian, or Georgian.

The first option is more difficult for realization for that simple reason that confrontation level in the Ukrainian society and at the expert level is high and it is difficult for them to fit into this process at this stage.

For this reason, this initiative can be considered as "A Tbilisi initiative of Peace". It should be noted that this initiative developed on the basis of the Caucasus Institute for Regional Security" was published in "Diplomatic courier" (the annex to "the Independent Newspaper"), received very positive responses both from independent experts, and from official experts of a high rank and representatives of diplomatic circles.

USA and EU Against Ukraine?

Externally declaring support of Ukraine in the conflict with the Russian Federation, the USA and some EU countries stimulate process of disorder of this country as they see also their own interests in it. The Ukrainian diplomats are compelled to spend time for detection of sources of information and psychological attacks and reaction on them.

Ukraine informed U.S. State Department that the Coca-Cola Company in the advertizing production showed the occupied Crimea as a part of Russia. Later users of social networks found the same certificates also in other American companies, in particular PepsiCo. Guerrilla marketing of the western companies is attempt of occurrence on the Russian market and they willingly use this opportunity. Despite numerous statements of



the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, similar campaign not only was not stopped, but also amplified. And it will develop the mechanism of economic sanctions in relation to those organizations which break the standard principles and the international standards won't be put forward yet. With this

aim, the Caucasus Institute for Regional Security intends to carry out a round table on assessment of opportunities of prevention of

the similar problems which are negatively influencing processes of settlement of the international conflicts.

Israel Directing Saudi Arabia and Turkey on War with Iran, Wants Iran to Refuse Agreements with the West

Author: Arayik Sargsyan, academician, honorable consul of Macedonia in Armenia, the president of Academy of geopolitics

Expert assessment of Academy of Geopolitics.

Tension between Saudi Arabia and Iran was sharply fueled after the Saudi authorities executed the Shiite preacher Nimr an-Nimra an-Nimra. The authorities of Saudi Arabia accused Sheikh Nimr of preparation of mutiny in Shiite provinces. Together with the sheikh forty nine more Shiites were executed because they demanded from the authorities of the kingdom to expand the rights of Shiites, and actually, to grant to Shiite minority of Saudi Arabia the right for free carrying out the religious rituals, according to Shiite traditions of Islam.

Saudi Arabia is registered many years as the ally of the West and pays big money for the western arms while the West, closing eyes to human rights violations and prosecutions of opposition in Saudi Arabia, doesn't see sense to refuse purchases of local oil.

Saudi Arabia uses the special status in the Muslim world as in its territory there are shrines of Mecca and Medina. From bitter experience of Iraq and Libya we know that



falling of Middle Eastern tyrants does not lead to democracy, but to chaos. In case of Saudi Arabia there are no doubts, as "Islamic State" and "Al-Qaeda" are eager to take these two shrines under control and to gain the religious prestige. Saudi Arabia is the important ally of Great Britain and Israel, and deserves their trust considerably more than Iran.

Saudi Arabia for a long time played a role of peculiar "regional cudgel" of the USA and Israel which counterbalanced until recently and suppressed leader aspirations and ambitions of Iran. Saudi and "vassal Sunnis"

(Bahrain, Qatar, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates) in total could dictate to Iran price policy on oil, thereby actually minimizing oil receipts in the budget of Iran which, even despite long-term sanctions, are a backbone factor in economy of Iran.

In addition, Iran and Saudi Arabia already are in the mediated military conflict in the territory of Syria as Iran supports Bashar al-Assad's government, and Saudi Arabia from the first days of the Syrian opposition supported and continue to support antigovernment forces, including obvious jihadists and terrorists. Behind creation of the terrorist monster known as "The Islamic State of Iraq and Levant", along with other partners of the USA such as Turkey and Israel, is also Saudi Arabia. Anyways, the main financial streams and ideological support of ISIL was provided (and is still being provided), first of all, from Riyadh.

Perhaps, the Middle East completely will appear in the power of the interfaith conflict of Shiites and Sunnites, the situation is much intense, than it was in Iraq 10 years ago. Thus the executed sheikh Nimr an-Nimr wasn't a terrorist, maximum it was possible to call him a dissident supporting the rights of local Shiites in the Kingdom.

In the worst option of succession of events, Tehran will renew the program for creation of the nuclear weapon, having refused agreements with the West, and then the "divine punishment" about which the Iranian ayatollah Ali Khamenei spoke recently, will get an apocalyptic shade. Israel is trying to reach the following: Iran refuses agreements with the West and renews the program for creation of the nuclear weapon.

In general that ripened the conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran long ago. It should be noted that in 2011, the Saudi intervention in Bahrain raised rates in the Saudi-Iranian cold war, having turned it into broader split between Sunnites and Shiites in the Muslim world. Saudi Arabia referred to the agreement with mainly Sunni Pakistan on providing troops for stabilization of both Bahrain, and its own east provinces rich with oil. Riyadh also asked Turkey to explain to Iran that nobody will tolerate interventions in affairs of Gulf countries. On other end of a range, Shiites worldwide are angered by what they call duplicity of the West which didn't stop the heavy measures of Saudis in Bahrain, but thus shows solidarity to the protester against the regimes in other places in the Middle East.

The situation is in particular painful for Turkey which already reached some agreements with Iran and achieved common positions on a number of questions, and such versatile as the Kurdish question and introduction of the general visa regime. However pressure from Saudi Arabia and the Shiite population of the southern part of Turkey compels Ankara to reconsider the communications with Tehran. On January 05 in the city of Erbil, in the capital of regional Kurdistan in the north of Iraq, revolutionary council of Sunni tribes at a special press conference expressed support of Saudi Arabia - in its decision to break off the relations with Iran.

The press secretary of revolutionary council of Sunni tribes Abdoul Razak al-Shammari during a press conference in Erbil noted: "Tribes of Iraq confirms the support to alliance declared Saudi Arabia against

terrorism, urging the Organization of Islamic cooperation to take punitive measures against Iran because of its subversive activities in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon".

In our opinion, this statement in Erbile which was authorized by the authorities of Kurdistan, is a threat to security of Kurdistan, it puts a shadow on the Kurdish-Iranian relations, shows Kurdistan as supporter of the Sunni block against Shiite that for Kurds is a big mistake. But the president of the Kurdish Autonomy in Iraq has secret arrangements with the king of Saudi Arabia about what we already wrote: "SAUDI ARABIA AND TURKEY ARE THE MAIN ENEMIES OF RUSSIA" - <http://rusdozor.ru/2015/12/13/saudovskaya-araviya-i-turciya-yavlyayutsya-glavnymi-VRAGAMI-ROSSII/>.

Egypt which traditionally was in opposition with Iran at the overthrown president Hosni Mubarak also faces the same dilemma. The new management in Cairo made a number of curtseys to Tehran, but makes all efforts that it was possible to assume that future communications won't put to damage to the Arab world in a broader sense, and also avoids mentioning about ideological "lines of a break".

Pakistan, of course, often represented itself as "a sword of the Islamic world", considering its opportunities in respect of the nuclear weapon. However its military power was set in motion by both the Saudi petrodollars, and the American and Chinese help. In turn, Saudi Arabia for many years used Pakistanis for completion of own army, and has the contract with Pakistan which allows using thirty thousand Pakistani military for protection of

the Saudi interests if that is required. This very agreement was referred to when recently two divisions of regular Pakistani army were provided to go to Bahrain and to the east Saudi Arabia.

That disturbs even more, so it messages that the military and air base of Kamr in Pakistan actually has the nuclear weapon which is stored for Saudi Arabia there - warheads which can be established on the Saudi rockets which were earlier imported from China and Israel. Really, the growing nuclear arsenal of Pakistan is not that much directed against India, as it is intended for possible use by the third parties, such as Saudi Arabia which, as we know, generously financed the nuclear program of Pakistan.

The step directed on overthrow of the monarchy representing Sunni minority in Bahrain represents a turning point for Saudi Arabia. Bahrain is gate to east provinces of Saudi Arabia where Shiites make about 33% of the population. The Saudi Shiites had changeable relations with the royal house of Saudi Arabia which is suspicious of them. The Saudi leaders consider an appeal of skilled Pakistani troops crucial for an anticipation of emergence of any communication between these east Shiites and their brothers on religion in Iraq and Iran.

The probability that it is something bigger, than implementation of actions against the Iranian influence is very small as Saudis understand that more aggressive position wouldn't be possible to take without participation of China and India, and both of these countries have crucial energy interests in the region. Actually, Riyadh even addressed to the Saudi prince Bandar to

conduct negotiations with the growing Asian giants. The first success in the relations with China, perhaps, was reached at the announcement of the conclusion of the Chinese-Saudi nuclear agreement.

The relations of India with Saudi Arabia became stronger recently; India even suggested training of the Saudi troops in conducting combat operations in mountain conditions. But it is improbable that India will absolutely refuse Iran, considering key interests of India in the region. Actually, Delhi started correcting a recession situation in the relations with Tehran. It continues to develop the Iranian port of Chahbahar, and isn't excluded that Iran will return itself the status of the leading energy supplier of India which it once possessed and which now belongs to Saudi Arabia.

The extending crack between Sunnites and Shiites will keep Iran to participate in the formed axis Turkey-Pakistan which will promote access of China to Europe. On the other hand, large war in the Middle East doesn't foretell anything good.

For the United States the Arab spring, apparently, created a situation at which any steps are urged to be apprehended as unpopular either for one party, or another. Though Riyadh welcomed the international actions against Muammar Gaddafi, the

behavior of administration of Obama in case with overthrow of Mubarak obviously angered and offended Saudis. The USA now in relations with Saudi Arabia is in the mode of "controlled damage" that emphasizes terrible silence of Washington concerning power actions concerning Yemen (Houthis) and Bahraini opposition.

Though the Middle East always differed and differs in intensity, now it became the real powder keg without any signs of a temporary relief, a respite. And because it also is badly hidden nuclear powder keg, the logic of nuclear control has to be applied.

The best exit from current crisis for Iran would be to continue to execute arrangements with the West, and for Saudi Arabia - to obtain reliable guarantees of safety. Thus the local trust to Washington fluctuates, some start turning to the east and to Russia, for receiving similar guarantees.

http://moskprf.ru/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=22305:izrail-napravlyaya-saudovskuyu-araviyu-i-turtsiyuna-vojnu-s-iranom-khochet-chtoby-iran-otkazalsya-ot-dogovorjonnostej-s-zapadom&catid=110:na-iii-j-mirovoj&Itemid=845&lang=ru

Iraqi Students – Threat for Georgia?

In the photo the Iraqi citizens to whom the Ministry of Justice refused further stay in the country are represented. They study at the Kutaisi University of Akaki Tsereteli. In case

they don't manage to continue study, they should move to other countries. Such decision could be made in case they pose potential threat for Georgia. But if so, they

have to be at once localized and deported from the country. And if it not so, it is a discrimination.

The number of foreign students grows in Georgia. The most part from them pretends rather that gets an education and is focused on just getting diplomas. But, from the economic point of view, they, first, pay considerable money for education



(about\$5000), creating thereby conditions in order that the Georgian students would pay less. Foreign students pay for study 2-3 times more expensive, than citizens of Georgia. Besides, they rent rooms for accommodation and play a concrete role in the market of real estate. They are consumers of various production and service. Creation of problems for their stay in Georgia strikes blow to development of an education system, to a concrete economic segment and discredits the country in general. Naturally, against those threats which exist in the world, there is a danger of those foreign students can be conductors of policy of some groups of interests and this question has to be controlled carefully. As a rule, these students in the majority leave Georgia so that don't know language.

For example, the students who asked us for the help, received official refusal, but except

refusal they received also information on their right for the appeal. However, they didn't even understand what in the received document is written. Therefore, they need legal support, from professional lawyers. The university refuses to protect their interests. They don't hope that their interests will be maintained by Embassy of Iraq. It is necessary to hope that from the authorities of Georgia more careful policy on the matter which isn't striking the rights and interests of students from other countries, and higher educational institutions and tenants of apartments for which this income item is very significant will be pursued.

Helsinki Citizens Assembly Georgian National Committee, together with other human rights organizations is ready to provide advice to foreign students.