

NEWSLETTER

10-12 2015

South Caucasus



Georgia, with eye on 2016 election, switches prime minister



Reuters – December 29, 2015

Georgy Kvirikashvili has become new prime minister of Georgia after former prime minister Garibashvili unexpectedly resigned. Opposition politicians and analysts linked the switch to a decline in the popularity of the ruling Georgian Dream party.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-georgia-primeminister-idUSKBN0UC1NL20151229>

Georgian Prime Minister Garibashvili resigns months before elections



Deutsche Welle – December 23, 2015

In a surprise move, Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili has tendered his resignation less than a

year before parliamentary elections. The premier did not give the reason for his decision.

<http://www.dw.com/en/georgian-prime-minister-garibashvili-resigns-months-before-elections/a-18937629>

Summit of Azerbaijani, Armenian presidents



CBC – December 21, 2015

The meeting between the president of Azerbaijan and president of Armenia took place in Bern. Main topic of the meeting was about proposals regarding conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.

<http://www.cbc.ca/en/news/all-news/summit-of-azerbaijani-armenian-presidents.page>

Azerbaijan frees rights activist from prison

Reuters – December 9, 2015

Leyla Yunus, a leading rights activist was released from prison. She was convicted of treason, espionage and tax evasion. However, her imprisonment was decried by critics as politically motivated.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-azerbaijan-rights-idUSKBN0TS1RO20151209>

Russian military helicopters stationed near Turkey



Deutsche Welle – December 8, 2015

Russia has stationed its attack and transport helicopters on its base in Armenia. Base is near border with Turkey with which has Russia tense relations after Russia warplane was shot down by Turkey.

<http://www.dw.com/en/russian-military-helicopters-stationed-near-turkey/a-18902803>

Armenia votes on curbing president's power, boosting PM

Reuters – December 6, 2015

Armenians began voting Sunday in a referendum on constitutional changes that supporters say will strengthen democracy in the ex-Soviet state, but opponents warn will only help keep ruling party leaders in power.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-armenia-constitution-reform-idUSKBN0TP07820151206>

NATO split on message to send Georgia on membership hopes

Reuters – November 27, 2015

South Caucasus

NATO allies are split over what message to send Georgia over its long-delayed membership bid, diplomats said, with some European capitals arguing the alliance would be unable to defend the ex-Soviet state in the event of a conflict with Russia.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-nato-georgia-idUSKBN0TG1HP20151127>

Georgia's breakaway South Ossetia seeks vote on joining Russia



Reuters – October 20, 2015

The breakaway Georgian region of South Ossetia said it plans a Crimean-style referendum on joining Russia. The Georgian government condemned South Ossetia's plan and said it would alert its international partners to an initiative it described as running counter to international law.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-georgia-ossetia-idUSKCN0SE0W420151020>

Azerbaijan's president fires security minister



Reuters – October 19, 2015

President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev surprisingly fires his national security minister Eldar Mahmudov only two weeks before parliamentary election.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-azerbaijan-minister-dismissal-idUSKCN0SD15920151019>

ICC to probe possible war crimes in Russia-Georgia conflict

BBC News – October 13, 2015

The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) has said she will investigate Russian and Georgian forces over possible war crimes. Fatou Bensouda said she had evidence suggesting South Ossetian forces killed up to 113 ethnic Georgian civilians, and both sides killed peacekeepers.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34523020>

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