

# Georgian Journal

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## SOCIETY

### RAGE OF MKINVARI

22 May, 2014



The Minister of Energy Kakhi Kaladze does not connect the reasons of the Dariali gorge catastrophe to the construction of the Larsi HPP. Independent experts abstain from a direct evaluation until the investigation is finished. However, two years earlier they predicted possible danger of the Terek tributaries and considered the territory where the HPP was built as dangerous. According to them, nobody can calculate the possible results of manmade environmental changes in such severe natural conditions. The catastrophe took place in a place where safety rules were to be especially observed because of a previous bitter experience.

A landslide already killed several people there about 12 years ago. Due to its size and impact, it took several years to clean up the locked gorge.

According to specialists, the land-tenure history of our ancestors who were so close to nature is one of the best instructors. There were reasons why people did not reside in some places. Unfortunately, this is not being considered by our contemporaries who are obsessed with business interests.

As told by an eye-witness:

Kviris Palitra contacted Sulkhan Gabrichidze, construction manager and eye-witness of the tragedy: - It was a usual day-break; it was calm in the gorge and nobody could imagine that such a misfortune would happen to us several hours later – at about 10 o'clock a huge mass of land disintegrated from the glacier and with a terrible rumble moved in our direction. Everything happened in seconds. It was impossible to run. We stood there dumb-struck. The disintegrated black mass completely blocked the gorge. After coming to our senses, we realized what horror had come over us. The trailers that were on the road a few minutes ago were covered in earth – no cars, no people... There was a landslide in 2007 too but it wasn't of such scale.

The Larsi HPP was officially inaugurated on 24 January. Now, according to the Minister of Energy, its adjacent territory is paralyzed due to the disintegration of one million cubic meters of land and crushed rock. A big portion of the Georgian Military Road is ruined; presumably there are dead and lost people. The Terek tributary coming out of the Devdaraki glacier, together with the huge mass of earth, slid down to the Terek gorge...

The Larsi HPP was being constructed under scandalous circumstances. At the beginning of the construction it became known to the media that Dariali Energy began the construction and exploitation of the HPP on the Terek River before obtaining permission from the Ministry of Environmental Protection. It was in 2012 when the NGO Green Alternative addressed Ministry of Environmental Protection as well as Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources to stop the illegal activity and investigate the case. None of the departments reacted to this law-infringement. As a result of the HPP construction, an 8km-long section of the Terek riverbed was left without water because a huge stream of water, about 90%, was directed to the derivation channel and the tunnel. Because of this, the total length of the river is only 11 km. Independent experts protested the "arrest" of the river from the very beginning. They declared that the landscape would be changed and the established cultural-ethnographic and tourist values would be lost. It would have a devastating influence on the species that depended on the river, including the brook trout introduced in the Red Book.

Despite this and other expected problems Ministry of Environmental Protection, when Goga Khachidze was its head, did not consider the independent experts' remarks and on 28 November 2011 issued a positive conclusion of the environmental examination to construct a 110 megawatt HPP on the Terek River.

The conclusion of Green Alternative also says that the consent on the construction of the HPP was issued without studying the hydro-geological regime of the river Terek and its tributaries. The construction calculations were based on 25-year-old data. The infringements that underlay the HPP construction often invite criminal qualification. It suffices to mention misappropriation of the Kazbegi National Park territory. Having infringed on the procedural norms established by the Georgian legislation, the government and the parliament transferred 20,3633ha of land of the Kazbegi National Park territory to the HPP. In order to prevent the HPP construction and save the gorge, Niko Ketskhoveli initiated giving Kazbegi the status of nature reserve. Kviris Palitra spoke with the Vice-Governor of Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Koba Arabuli. He doesn't rule out a repeated attack of the elements as well as a connection between this catastrophe and the HPP construction:

- Geologists are studying the causes of the landslide and results will be known soon. At this stage, luckily the

## Breaking News

President to give annual report on 31 March

Interior Ministry releases statement on Zugdidi incident

MP Murman Dumbadze intends to buy a weapon for self-defense

Court rejects video published by "Hakim Pasha" as evidence

All News

## PHOTO OF THE DAY



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All Photos

## GEL Exchange

	1	USD	2.1849
	1	EUR	2.3125
	1	GBP	3.2415
	100	RUB	3.5614



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## ARTICLES

Terek cut its way through the disintegrated mass and there is no more danger. But this is what we observe here. Nobody knows what's happening up there, at the glacier. We have to find out whether the Devdaraki glacier and the river Devdaraki ceased functioning. It is possible that there is a locked zone very high up there and if the torrent breaks through nobody knows how it will come down and what will happen here.

We are facing a global problem, global warming causes glacier-melting at a different tempo; not being able to control this process, having no preventive means gives us such terrible surprises. The Devdaraki is a huge glacier, it's been disintegrating for a long time and massive landslides occur. Therefore, we must observe the glacier from time to time. Nature makes us think about this and whatever is happening now is a way of coercion. Besides the natural conditions, in the critical zones we erect such constructions that may enrage the nature even more. In this case, I don't mean the Larsi HPP.

Author: Eka Lomidze

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10(373) - 12 March, 2015

Archive



დაამატე კომენტარი

ასევე დაპოსტეთ Facebook-ზე

გამოაქვეყნე როგორც **Natalia Ksovreli-მ(ა)** ▾

კომენტარი

Facebook-ის სოციალური ჩანართი

## AUTHORS

### Other Stories



**Caucasian Shepherd - Number 1 Guard Dog in the world**  
14 March, 2015  
16th Georgian National Specialized Dog Show Held in Tbilisi

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**Tbilisi Zoo now has an Adorable newborn pony – To the delight of many**  
13 March, 2015  
The Tbilisi Zoo Facebook page has published some good news for animal lovers, especially for pony lovers .A cute little pony was recently born in the Tbilisi Zoo.

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**Surviving thirteen gunshots – Innocent dog severely wounded by locals**  
13 March, 2015  
On March 10th at 12:00, a harmless street dog was shot by the local inhabitants of Saguramo Village, Georgia.

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**Media outlets and NGOs express solidarity to Palitra Media and urge Magticom to uphold the Must Carry principle**  
12 March, 2015  
Magticom Telecommunication Company has been refusing to include Palitra TV in the "Magtisar" broadcasting channel support package for over a year now.

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**When Will Trams Return to Tbilisi?**  
12 March, 2015  
"Implementation of the project envisions massive expenses."

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**Sokhumi named among 15 most dangerous cities in the world**  
10 March, 2015  
Website Happy Lifestyle Journal has published a list of 15 most dangerous cities in the world. The list includes Sokhumi, a self-proclaimed capital of Abkhazia.

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**Statistics reveal Georgia's largest minority is Azeri**  
09 March, 2015  
Brilliant Maps website publishes a list of the second largest nationalities living in each European country.

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**"More women in Georgian politics" – Rallies in 22 cities of Georgia on March 8**  
09 March, 2015  
"Georgian Women's Movement"-GWM organized street rallies on March 8th in 22 major cities of Georgia to facilitate women's political participation and engagement.

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**Please Be Mistaken, Gogil!**  
07 March, 2015

Letter to a brother, written during the war in Georgia, read during the war in Ukraine



**Sad legend of Mushtaid Park – A garden dedicated by an Iranian cleric to his deceased Georgian wife**  
Mushtaid Garden, which was established in the 1830's, is one of Tbilisi's most colorful and popular public places.



**Lithuanian Ambassador exquisitely performs a Georgian dance with his wife**  
Council The 25th anniversary marking Lithuania's independence was celebrated at the Tbilisi City Council building. The event was attended by local government officials, diplomats and MPs.



**"She is sick, can you get her to a hospital?" - Georgian and Russian drivers react**  
What to do if you suddenly feel sick while outside? Call the ambulance and pray that it arrives soon? Or maybe ask the nearest taxi driver to take you to a hospital?



**Flowers, not fines – Georgia's police force congratulates women on the 8th of March**  
Employees of Georgia's Patrol Police have congratulated women on the 8th of March by handing out bouquets of flowers to them.



**Stand up! - Why sitting is bad for you**  
Sitting down for brief periods can help us recover from stress or recuperate from exercise.