

აკადემიკოს ლევან ალექსიძისადმი მიძღვნა

აკადემიკოსი ლევან ალექსიძე 2019 წლის 31 ივლისს, 93 წლის ასაკში გარდაიცვალა. პროფესორ ქეთევან ხუციშვილის მიძღვნა ღვაწლმოსილი მეცნიერის, პედაგოგისა და საზოგადო მოღვაწისადმი და შერჩეული რამდენიმე მიძღვნა მსოფლიოს სხვადასხვა კუთხიდან 2020 წლის 31 ივლისს გამოცემულ ჟურნალის ამ ნომერში უცვლელად არის გადმოტანილი.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LEVAN ALEXIDZE

Academician Levan Alexidze passed away on 31 July 2019. He was 93. Professor Ketevan Khutsishvili's Celebrating the life of Levan Alexidze, the renowned international scholar, professor and eminent public figure, and several selected memories received from different parts of the world are invariably transferred in this Edition published on 31 July 2020.

KETEVAN KHUTSISHVILI - CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LEVAN ALEXIDZE

Professor Alexidze's contributions to the development of the doctrine of International Law and research of history have become indispensable tools for the conduct of public affairs worldwide. Official documents, drafted by Professor Alexidze or with his co-authorship, have been of immense importance for the statehood of contemporary Georgia. He played a crucial role during the restoration of sovereignty to, and in the drafting of the Constitution of newly independent Georgia and in its admission to various international organizations as a full-fledged member. He worked hard and acted quickly to establish the Georgian International Law School as a part of the newly created International Law and International Relations Faculty at Tbilisi State University immediately after the collapse of the Soviet Union. His critical vision as an Academician and creative analysis of traditional legal concepts as well as the ensuing sustainability of his conclusions have been of immense value.

Levan Alexidze will be dearly missed by all his loved ones. He will always be remembered for his exceptional gift of friendship and extraordinary professional leadership.

May he serve as an example to all of us!

Levan Alexidze was born in Tbilisi on July 5, 1926. Having graduated Faculty of Law of Tbilisi State University in 1946, in 1964 he was awarded a Doctoral degree in Law by the same Faculty. During his long professional career until his untimely, sudden death on 31 July 2019, Levan Alexidze was always intimately associated with his Georgian alma mater until the last days of his life - in addition to the many important positions and functions he held in Georgian and international public life. He was a Senior Officer at the UN Secretariat's Human Rights Department in New York and Geneva; Chief Advisor to the President of Georgia in international legal matters and Chairman of the Georgian Parliament's Legal Committee as well as Constitutional commissions. He represented his country in numerous international and regional conferences and meetings and was member of prestigious international law institutions. Professor Alexidze was also a prolific writer of scholarly works and a frequent lecturer on the importance of international law at Universities and legal Academies in Europe and the USA. His invaluable contributions to Georgian public life, good governance and the rule of law were recognized in receiving many state prizes and awards.

Professor Alexidze's professional life was of incredible intensity and variation. Some details below:

Positions and Functions:

Professor of International Law at Tbilisi State University (since 1965); Member of the American Branch of the International Law Association (1970-1976); Senior Officer at the UN Secretariat's Human Rights Department in New York and Geneva (1970-1977) including as Secretary of the UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, (1970-1975), Head of the Advisory Services and Special Procedures Department (1975-1977) and Personal Representative of the UN Secretary General and organizer of many inter-state seminars; Member of the former Soviet Association of International Law (1958-1991) including Member of its Executive Board (1962-1970 and 1981-1990); and Member of the International Law Association (1962-1990); First Vice-

Rector of the Tbilisi State University (1985-1993); its Deputy Rector (2010-2015); and Director of the International Law Institute at the Law Faculty of Tbilisi State University (since 2010).

Member and Chairman of the Legal Committee of the Parliament of Georgia (1990-1991);

Chief Adviser to the President of Georgia on international legal matters (1993-2004); Member of the Georgian Delegation in the Geneva Discussions on Abkhaz problems; Deputy Head of the Georgian Delegation at the Vienna International Conference on Human Rights (June 1993); Legal expert of the Georgian Delegation at the 47th and 49th Sessions of the UN General Assembly (1993-1995); Representative of Georgia at the sessions of the UN Commission on Human Rights (1994-1999); President of the Club of Rome in Georgia (since 1995); Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (since 1996); Head of the Georgian Delegation at the session of the UN Human Rights Committee (March 1997); Legal expert at the Rome Conference on the International Criminal Court (July 1998); Member in respect of Georgia in the Council of Europe's Commission against Racism and Intolerance (1999-2012); Director of the Institute of European Law and International Human Rights Law (since 2000); Full Member of the Georgian National Academy of Sciences (since 2001); Chairman of the Committee for International Legal Aspects of the Georgian Constitution in the State Constitutional Commission (2009-2010); and member of the European Society of International Law (2011-2012).

Since 1970 Levan Alexidze lectured on international law at prestigious institutions in the USA and Europe, including Emory and Boston Universities (USA); the Humboldt University (Germany); The Hague Academy of International Law; the State Universities of Kiev, Baku and Yerevan; the State University of Latvia, and the Academy of Human Rights (Greece).

Scientific works:

Professor Alexidze's more than 150 scientific monographs, textbooks, scientific articles, extensively published in English, German, Spanish, Russian and Georgian, have provided the foundation for the study of international legal aspects of Georgian history, were recognized as international law doctrine and served to substantiate the groundless nature of the right to self-determination claimed by aggressive separatists of breakaway Abkhazia, Georgia and South Ossetia, Georgia. He is the author of the first Georgian-language textbooks in the field of international law, being published since 1968; Levan Alexidze also started the Georgian-English Journal of International Law and was an editor and co-author of dictionary-guides such as the one on Modern International Law, Tbilisi, 2003; and on International Law and Human Rights, Tbilisi, 2005.

Prizes and Awards:

Levan Alexidze has received state prizes and awards, including St. George's Victory Order (2013); Honorary Citizen of Tbilisi (2011); the Presidential Order of Excellence (2010); Order of Honor (1996); and the Georgian state prize in science for a monograph: Некоторые Вопросы Теории Международного Права - Императивные нормы "jus cogens", Тбилиси, 1982 (1986).

თეიმურაზ ანთელავა - ლევან ალექსიძე, იმპერატიული ნორმები და წესებზე დაფუძნებული საერთაშორისო წესრიგის იმპერატიულობა

თეიმურაზ ანთელავა, აკადემიკოს ლევან ალექსიძის ყოფილი სტუდენტი, სამართლებრივი მრჩეველი, შავი ზღვის ეკონომიკური თანამშრომლობის ორგანიზაცია

სტატია პირველად გამოქვეყნდა რადიო თავისუფლების ვებ გვერდზე:

<https://bit.ly/3hUQCeW>

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ლევან ალექსიძის (05.07.1926-31.07.2019) გარდაცვალება საქართველოს უახლესი ისტორიის კონტექსტში, საზოგადოებრივი მნიშვნელობის მოვლენაა. დღეს ალბათ არც ისე ბევრ ადამიანს ახსოვს, უკანასკნელად როდის გამოემშვიდობა ჩვენი საზოგადოება საქართველოში ამა თუ იმ სამეცნიერო სკოლის დამაარსებელს. ამ მხრივ, თბილისის სახელმწიფო უნივერსიტეტი, რომელსაც ლევან ალექსიძემ თავისი ხანგრძლივი სამეცნიერო საქმიანობის ათწლეულები შეაღია, მეხსიერების ერთგვარი მატარებელია. სწორედ აქ, პირველი კორპუსის ეზოში, თვით ივანე ჯავახიშვილთან ერთად, განისვენებენ სხვადასხვა სამეცნიერო სკოლების დამაარსებლები $\frac{3}{4}$ ივანე ბერიტაშვილი, დიმიტრი უზნაძე, გიორგი ჩუბინაშვილი, ანდრია რაზმაძე, გიორგი წერეთელი და სხვები. სწორედ ამ რანგის სამეცნიერო ფიგურა დაკარგა საქართველო.

სახელმწიფოებრივი დამოუკიდებლობის აღდგენამდე ლევან ალექსიძის მიერ ქართული საერთაშორისო სამართლის სკოლის დასაფუძნებლად გადადგმული პირველი ნაბიჯები და მათი შემდგომი განმტკიცება დამოუკიდებლობის აღდგენის წლებში, ბევრად უფრო მაღალი მნიშვნელობის შენატანია საქართველოს უახლეს ისტორიაში ვიდრე უბრალოდ იურისპრუდენციის ერთ-ერთი განშტოების საუნივერსიტეტო კურიკულუმში დანერგვა. დასავლურ სამართლებრივი სახელმწიფოს ტრადიციის არქონის და საქართველოს კოლონიური ოკუპაციით გამოწვეული რუსული კომუნიზმის დიქტატის პირობებში, საბჭოთა საქართველოში სამართლის სწავლება, ლუარსაბ ანდრონიკაშვილის (1872-1939), თინათინ წერეთლის (1903-1980) და სხვა მცირერიცხოვანი გამონაკლისების გარდა, უმეტესად სამართლებრივი აპარატის (მილიციის, პროკურატურის, სასამართლოს) მეშვეობით საბჭოთა რეჟიმის ინტერესების გატარებას ემსახურებოდა. იურიდიული პროფესია, საქართველოს რუსეთიდან მართვის პირობებში, საზოგადოების თვალში, გარკვეულწილად რუსული მმართველობის და საბჭოთა რეჟიმის მსახურებასთან ასოცირდებოდა. ამ პირობებში, საერთაშორისო სამართალი, საქართველოში დასავლურ სამართლებრივ ტრადიციებთან ზიარების ის ვიწრო ფანჯარა იყო, რომლის მეშვეობითაც თანდათან დაიწყო სამართლის და იურიდიული პროფესიის იმიჯის ტრანსფორმაცია. სწორედ საერთაშორისო სამართლის მეშვეობით შევითქვით პირველად, რომ საბჭოთა მილიციასა და პროკურატურასთან ასოცირების ნაცვლად, დამოუკიდებელ, დემოკრატიულ სახელმწიფოში, სამართალი ძალიან დიდ როლს ასრულებს ქვეყნის ინსტიტუციურ განვითარებაში, თანასწორობასა და თანაბარ შესაძლებლობებში,

ადამიანებზე ძალადობრივი ზემოქმედების პრევენციასა და აღმოფხვრაში.

საერთაშორისო სამართლის ეს როლი საქართველოს დამოუკიდებლობის აღდგენის შემდგომ პერიოდში, თავისთავად აღნიშნავს საერთაშორისო სამართლის სამეცნიერო სკოლის ფუძემდებლის როლს ამავე პერიოდში. შესაძლოა ამითაც აიხსნება მეცნიერების გარდა, ლევან ალექსიძის უაღრესად აქტიური საზოგადოებრივი საქმიანობა დამოუკიდებლობის პირველ წლებში. საქართველოს ამჟამინდელი კონსტიტუცია, რომელიც თავდაპირველი სახით 1995 წელს იქნა მიღებული, საკონსტიტუციო კომისიის მუშაობაში მისი მონაწილეობით შეიქმნა. მას მნიშვნელოვანი როლი მიუძღვის საქართველოს ოკუპირებულ რეგიონებში შეიარაღებული კონფლიქტის პირველი ტალღის შემდგომ, საერთაშორისო ორგანიზაციების მხრიდან იქ განვითარებული მოვლენების ადეკვატურ შეფასებაში. სხვებთან ერთად, ლევან ალექსიძის დიდი ძალისხმევით დამკვიდრდა გაერო-ს და სხვა საერთაშორისო ორგანიზაციების ოფიციალურ დოკუმენტებში საქართველოს ოკუპირებული რეგიონების უნიფიცირებული მოხსენიების პრაქტიკა, არა უბრალოდ როგორც „აფხაზეთი“ ან „სამხრეთ ოსეთი“, არამედ როგორც „აფხაზეთი, საქართველო“ და „ცხინვალის რეგიონი/სამხრეთ ოსეთი, საქართველო“. რუსეთის მიერ, 2008 წლის აგვისტოდან მოყოლებული საქართველოს ტერიტორიული მთლიანობის შეუნიღბავი ხელყოფის შემდეგ, ლევან ალექსიძის მიერ ამ საკითხზე ადრეული ზრუნვის აქტუალობამ, კიდევ უფრო ნათლად იჩინა თავი.

საქართველოს შიგნით დარგის ფუძემდებლობის გარდა, საერთაშორისო სამეცნიერო აღიარების მხრივ, თამამად შეიძლება ითქვას, რომ ამ სფეროში არაერთი თაობის აღზრდის მიუხედავად, დღემდე, საქართველოს ლევან ალექსიძეზე უფრო ცნობადი საერთაშორისო სამართლის სპეციალისტი არ ყოფილა. ის ჯერ-ჯერობით ერთადერთი ქართველია, რომელსაც ამ სფეროს შიგნით ერთ-ერთი ყველაზე დიდი აღიარება $\frac{3}{4}$ ჰააგის საერთაშორისო სამართლის აკადემიაში სალექციო კურსის წაკითხვის პატივი ხვდა წილად. ჰააგის აკადემიაში მისი სალექციო კურსი საერთაშორისო სამართლის იმპერატიულ ნორმებზე, ამ საკითხზე უკლებლივ ყველა შემდგომ ინგლისურენოვან ნაშრომში ციტირებული ბიბლიოგრაფიის ნაწილია.

ბატონი ლევანის საერთაშორისო აღიარება ზოგჯერ კურიოზული ფორმითაც კი მჟღავნდებოდა. ბოლო ათწლეულების ერთ-ერთმა ყველაზე უფრო ავტორიტეტულმა საერთაშორისო სამართლის სპეციალისტმა, იტალიელმა ანტონიო კასებემ (1937-2011), ერთხელ, ბატონი ლევანის შვილიშვილს $\frac{3}{4}$ თამარ ალექსიძეს, ბატონ ლევანთან დიდი მოკითხვა დააბარა. ბატონმა ლევანმა, რა თქმა უნდა, იცოდა ვინ იყო ანტონიო კასებე და იცნობდა მის შრომებს. თუმცა, ამ მოკითხვის შემდეგ, კერძო საუბრებში გაკვირვებით აღნიშნავდა: „საიდან ვიცნობ კასებეს, ვერ ვიხსენებო“. ვიწრო პროფესიულ წრეში, ეს მოარული ხუმრობის საფუძველი გახდა. მისი მოსწავლეები კარგა ხანს გავიძახოდით: „კასებეს ბატონი ლევანი ახსოვს და ბატონ ლევანს კასებე არა!“ ბოლოს გაიხსენა. აღმოჩნდა, რომ 1970-იან წლებში, ნიუ-იორკში, რამდენჯერმე ერთდროულად მოუწიათ გაერო-ს სხვადასხვა ორგანოების მუშაობაში მონაწილეობა. საქმე კი იმაში გახლდათ, რომ ასაკობრივი სხვაობის გამო, იმ დროისათვის ბატონი ლევანი უკვე საკმაოდ აღიარებული სპეციალისტი იყო, ანტონიო კასებე კი ჯერ არა.

ბატონი ლევანის მრავალწლიანი დაინტერესება იმპერატიული ნორმებით შემთხვევითი არ ყოფილა. მასთან დაახლოებით ათი წლის წინ სამეცნიერო მიზნებით ჩაწერილ ინტერვიუში, ამ თემაზე ვრცლად ვისაუბრეთ. ამ საუბრის მოკლე დასკვნა შემდეგნაირად შეიძლება შეგამდეს: საქართველოს როგორც პატარა ქვეყანას, მხოლოდ წესებზე და არა ძალაზე დაფუძნებულ საერთაშორისო წესრიგში შეუძლია მშვიდად არსებობა. წესებზე დაფუძნებული საერთაშორისო წესრიგი კი ყველა,

თუნდაც ყველაზე უფრო ძლიერი ქვეყნებისთვისაც კი, ქცევის სავალდებულო წესებისგან (მათ შორის იმპერატიული ნორმებისგან) შედგება. მსოფლიოში ძალაზე დაფუძნებული საერთაშორისო წესრიგიდან წესებზე დაფუძნებული საერთაშორისო წესრიგისკენ მიმდინარე გარდატეხა, იმ აუცილებელი წინაპირობის ნაწილია, რომელიც შესაძლებელს ხდის საქართველოს მსოფლიო პოლიტიკურ რუკაზე არსებობას. ეს გარდატეხის პროცესი, რომელიც დღემდე მრავალი გამოწვევის ფონზე მიმდინარეობს (ასეთი გამოწვევის ერთ-ერთი თვალსაჩინო მაგალითი 2008 წელს საქართველოს წინააღმდეგ რუსეთის სამხედრო აგრესიაა), სხვა, პრაქტიკულ სფეროებში საქმიანობის გარდა, მუდმივ სამეცნიერო ძალისხმევას საჭიროებს მისი ღირებულების დასასაბუთებლად. ბატონ ლევანს ეს კარგად ესმოდა. საქართველო, ამ მხრივ, მისი სამეცნიერო და საზოგადოებრივი საქმიანობის ამოსავალი წერტილი იყო.

TEIMURAZ ANTELAVA – LEVAN ALEXIDZE, PEREMPTORY NORMS AND THE IMPERATIVE OF A RULES-BASED INTERNATIONAL ORDER

By Teimuraz Antelava Levan Alexidze's former student; Legal Advisor, Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation

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The passing of Levan Alexidze (05.07.1926-31.07.2019) is a landmark event in the most recent history of Georgia. There are not many among us today who remember the last time when we, as a society, had to bid farewell to the founder of a whole academic discipline in our country. Tbilisi State University, where Levan Alexidze spent many decades of his long academic life, thus serves as a certain repository of our collective memory in this regard. The park adjacent to the main university building is a resting place for the founding fathers of Georgian academia – Ivane Javakhishvili, Ivane Beritashvili, Dimitry Uznadze, Giorgi Chubinashvili, Andria Razmadze, Giorgi Tsereteli and others. It is an academic of this caliber that Georgia lost with Levan Alexidze's passing.

The first steps he took in establishing the discipline of international law in Georgia prior to the restoration of independence and his affirmative follow-up in the years of the restoration is a contribution to the newest history of our country whose significance is way beyond a mere introduction of a certain field of law into university curricula. With no Western rule of law tradition and under the dictate of Russian communism during Georgia's colonial occupation, the study of law in Soviet Georgia was mainly devoted to the interests of the Soviet regime and focused on the ideological validation of various control mechanisms disguised as "law enforcement". There were of course a few exceptional personalities who tried to avoid this gloomy portrayal of law in their teachings. The names of Luarsab Andronikashvili (1872-1939) and Tina Tsereteli (1903-1980) usually appear first in this rather short list. Yet, on the whole, while governed from Russia, the legal profession in Georgia was widely perceived as subservient to the Russian rule and the interests of the Soviet regime. It was Levan Alexidze's scholarly effort that provided, in such a state of affairs, a narrow window of opportunity to glance at the Western legal tradition through international law. This is where a transformation of law and of the legal profession in Georgia began. It was precisely through international law that we first learned of the importance of law for a democratic society; and that, in a normal country, instead of being an instrument of coercive governance, it is an essential pillar for democracy and its institutions, equal opportunities and prevention of the abuse of power.

This role of international law in Georgia's post-independence period signifies, on its own, the role of the founder of the discipline. Perhaps it also explains Levan Alexidze's active involvement in a number of undertakings beyond academia. He was a member of the commission of experts that drafted the Constitution of Georgia, adopted in 1995. He was also instrumental in achieving proper engagement of the relevant international organizations during and after the first wave of the armed conflicts in the early 1990s in the Russian occupied regions of Georgia. It is largely to his credit that in all official UN documents, these regions, from early on, have been denominated not just as

“Abkhazia“ and “South Ossetia”, but as “Abkhazia, Georgia“ and “Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia”. Those efforts have proven to be even more important after Russia invaded Georgia in August 2008, openly established its belligerent occupation in the two regions, and therefrom abandoned all earlier attempts to disguise itself as a “mediator”.

Apart from all what he represented within Georgia, Levan Alexidze is perhaps still the best known Georgian scholar of international law outside of it. To date, he remains the only Georgian who was honored to lecture at the Hague Academy of International Law. His course on peremptory norms reprinted in the *Recueil de cours* of that year (1981-III, Vol. 172) is cited in virtually all subsequent works on the subject. His international recognition once even turned into a jocular story. One of the most consequential international lawyers of the last decades, the Italian Antonio Cassese (1937-2011) asked Levan Alexidze’s granddaughter Tamara, to give him his cordial regards. Levan, of course, knew who Antonio Cassese was and even kept some of his works close to his desk. Yet, for some time he had no more recollection of a personal acquaintance. In the narrow circle around him this instantly became a teaser. His former students-turned-colleagues kept exclaiming: “Antonio Cassese remembers Professor Alexidze, yet Professor Alexidze does not remember Antonio Cassese!” He then finally remembered. It turned out that both had participated in the work of some of the UN organs in New York in the 1970s and were at some point introduced to each other. With Cassese still in his late thirties back then and Alexidze nearing fifty, in all likelihood, the former was perceived by the latter as a younger colleague. The age difference, then, appears to have been the main culprit of the episode that caused so much amusement to those of us who followed the story.

Levan Alexidze’s enduring interest in peremptory norms was not driven only by some detached academic curiosity. In an interview that I recorded with him about ten years ago he laid out his arguments which can be summarized as follows: as a small country Georgia can enjoy a peaceful existence only under a rules-based international order, where even the mightiest shall abide by international law which cannot be overridden by instances of unilateralism (hence the relevance of peremptory norms). The eventual success of the ongoing global transformation from a force-based to a rules-based international order is an essential precondition for the existence of Georgia on the political map of the world. The many challenges to this transformation (one of which, perhaps most vivid for Georgia, was Russia’s military aggression against it in 2008) necessitate, among other means, a constant effort for upholding its value, also at the academic level. He knew it all too well. Georgia, in this sense, was the main point of his scholarship and of his great service to the public.

REMARKS BY CARL HARTZELL, AMBASSADOR OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO GEORGIA

I feel very honoured to be among those who, despite my relatively short time here in Georgia, had the opportunity to meet and get to know the brilliant legal mind of the esteemed academic Levan Alexidze; a staunch, unwavering partner and supporter of European Union in Georgia.

Among his achievements on this front I would like to mention the introduction of the first ever inter-disciplinary European Studies course in the English language in Georgia. The Delegation of the European Union has also been proud to have him as a partner in championing an interdisciplinary program at the Georgian Institute of Public Administration and the Tbilisi State University on Migration Management. Professor Alexidze was always at the forefront when it came to supporting our initiatives, always ready to take it upon himself to facilitate the accreditation of a variety of educational programs that contributed to the process of Georgia's landmark achievement of visa free travel to the EU.

Professor Alexidze was a humanist, a patriot, respected legal mind as well as a committed educator of a new generation of Georgians, reminding them of their country's history, independence, and its role in the wider region. Oxford Bibliographies last year called him the "foremost authority in the field of international law in Georgia"; a statement that speaks for itself.

Others will be better placed to summarise his extensive work that have contributed to shaping Georgia to what it is today and where it is heading tomorrow. This includes his role in drafting the Georgian Constitution and facilitating Georgia's admittance to various international organisations as well as formulating and arguing key positions that Georgia continues to defend to this day in these fora.

Let me take this opportunity to lend my personal support for the establishment of the Levan Alexidze Foundation as a celebration to the life of this great man and as a platform to keeping his legacy alive for future generations of Georgians.

*With great respect,
Carl Hartzell*

Violeta Wagner, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, Austria

Professor Levan Aleksidze, you were the engine behind ICMPD academic activities in Georgia - we received support, advice, and feedback - and all of this combined with your endless optimism, smile, and hope which motivated us to do more, go further and reach higher. Your devotion to Georgia, the Tbilisi State University, Law and Justice always impressed us personally and inspired professionally. Your sense of humor never left any meeting without laugh, your kindness went far beyond famous Georgian hospitality, and it was absolutely impossible to measure and assess your deep knowledge and wide sphere of interests. We will do our very best to continue doing what we have agreed, promised and started together - in the same spirit as if you were with us, professor.

*On behalf of the ICMPD ENIGMMA team,
Violeta Wagner*

Dr. Maurizio Ragazzi, LLM (Columbia), DPhil (Oxford), Washington, D.C., USA

I was deeply sorry to receive the news of Prof. Alexidze's death. I had the privilege of meeting him (and enjoying his unmatched hospitality) in Tbilisi in 1981, and then again at The Hague during the summer of that same year. After contributing to a book of essays in his honor, I was then pleased to exchange Christmas greetings with him, and to get to know Vaso Jaiani, a relative of his to whom I am copying this message, along with the expression of my sadness.

Prof. Alexidze was an outstanding lawyer and a true gentleman, who has left a mark in the hearts and minds of all those who have met him. My wife and I are requesting that a Mass be celebrated for his soul. We are also praying for consolation to Prof. Alexidze's family members, and joining them in gratitude to God for having given us the gift of Prof. Alexidze's presence in our lives over the years.

*With heartfelt condolences,
Dr. Maurizio Ragazzi*

Gr. Baldur Kristjánsson, former Vice-Chair and member in respect of Iceland, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance

Levan was one of the wisest men in ECRI, definitely a brilliant international legal mind. He was always very friendly and we had often small talk on the way out or to the bus. (He was pretty old and walked slowly). If I remember right (yes I do) he came to Iceland on a ECRI visit and I showed him f.ex. Thingvellir one of our national treasures. But condolences. Levan was a remarkable man, a good man, a man one remembers, a man his people (and all of us) can be proud of.

Gr. Baldur Kristjánsson former member of ECRI in respect of Iceland.

Prof. Lauri Hannikainen, former member in respect of Finland, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance

It was in the early 1980's when Uncle Levan lectured on jus cogens in the Hague Summer Academy. I was in the process of writing a dissertation on jus cogens in Helsinki and traveled to the Hague to listen to the lectures about jus cogens. I also had the chance to discuss with Uncle Levan. The outcome was that in the following years we corresponded regularly and when my dissertation was published, he was one of the two experts whom I called my supervisors - he and Roger S. Clark from Rutgers University, the USA. (in Finland I did not have any supervisor!!) I warmly thanked these knowledgeable professors.

Some fifteen years later I met again Uncle Levan and during 2003-11 we met regularly as members of the Council of Europe Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) in Strasbourg. We discussed a lot together in amicable atmosphere. When a Festschrift was published in honour of Uncle Levan, I was one of the writers - writing an up-to-date article on jus cogens. I also learned to know his daughter and at one time tried to have such a role as Uncle Levan has had towards me - an informal supervisor of her dissertation work. However, my role as supervisor remained minor compared with Uncle Levan's role.

He lived a long and rich life! Many thanks to him!

*Lauri Hannikainen
Professor of International Law, emeritus, Finland*

Alenka Prvinsek Persoglio, Vice President, International Association Connecting Technologies For Citizens, Austria

With prof. Levan Aleksidze we shared the same passion – the passion for the work with young, bright students. We both believed that there is no future without the past, and that the trans-generation transfer of knowledge, wisdom and experience pave the way for better tomorrow.

I met prof. Aleksidze for the first time in early 2011, when I worked as a lawyer on an interesting EU project – about the curriculum on migration and asylum for the Government and Academia for Georgia and Moldova; we were all pioneers; this vibrant project articulated the needs for evidence-based migration policy that requested strong input of Academia. In this regard, the role and impact of principles of international law on the rights of individuals balanced with the principle of Sovereignty of the State brought the Tbilisi State University with personal engagement of prof. Aleksidze, his team and the students, into the very focus of a modern concept of migration policy.

The results: the teams of the students of international public law of the TSU, led by prof. Aleksidze's student, prof Ketevan Khutsishvilli, who were the winners of the European moot court competition on asylum or at the top of these and other competitions, confirmed the fact that the academic strength of the department of international public law led by prof. Aleksidze may compete with other European Universities on equal basis. Furthermore, it is the winner.

I wish to express my sadness in regard of the loss of one of the greatest men that I ever met and share fond memories about him, expressing my deepest condolences to his family, and his colleagues and his students at the University. I conclude my tribute to prof. Aleksidze with the lyrics of the poet from John Donne:

“No man is an island,
Entire of itself.
Each is a piece of the continent,
A part of the main.
If a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less.
As well as if a promontory were.
As well as if a manor of thine own,
Or of thine friend’s were.
Each man’s death diminishes me,
For I am involved in mankind.
Therefore, send not to know
For whom the bell tolls,
It tolls for thee.”

Alenka Prvinsek Persoglio
International Association Connecting Technologies for Citizens



university of
 groningen

faculty of law

department of
 transboundary legal studies

29 August 2019

Dear family, friends and colleagues,

It was with great sadness that we received the message that Professor Levan Alexidze passed away on 31 July.

We shared only a brief episode of his very long life, but feel privileged that we had the opportunity to meet with him, to learn from him and to be inspired by him. His clear mind, warmth and lifelong engagement with international law have left us with unforgettable impressions.

For you, who have lived and worked with him for such a long time it must be difficult to go on without him. There will be an emptiness but we are confident that his spirit will live on and will continue to inspire you for many years to come.

Sharing some beautiful moments with him during our first joint summer school earlier in July 2019 was a precious gift. Celebrating his 93rd birthday, enjoying what must have been one of his last lectures, appreciating his mild criticism and suggestions; these are all more than nice memories.

We hope that after his long life he will now rest in peace.

Wishing you strength in dealing with this loss and in helping his spirit to live on.

Your friends from the University of Groningen

Marcel Beus

MANDU RACHOVITSA

Marlies Hesselman

Antuan Hallo de Wolf

André de Hoogh

Aikaterini Tsampi

Panos Merkouris

Cold War International Law Project, Australia-United Kingdom

On behalf of the Cold War International Law Project

We will always remember Professor Alexidze's spirit, hospitality and kindness on the occasion of our Conference in 2017 at the Georgian Writers House in Old Tbilisi. He was a formidable presence with a great intellectual curiosity and gravitas. He will be greatly missed in Georgia and by those of us in the broader international law community.

Professor Gerry Simpson, London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom

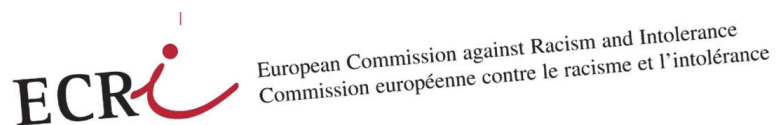
I was saddened to learn of my dear friend, Levan's death last month. I visited Tbilisi on many occasions and always the highlights of these trips were my encounters with Levan. At seminars he would gently rebuke me with the famous phrase "In Soviet times..." before going on to say how I had misdescribed the era. His toasts at the supra were utterly legendary: the ultimate tamada. And his kindness, intelligence, care for international law, and humour were immense. I especially liked Levan's wonderful sense of playfulness - undiminished into his late years. I wish his family and friends a long life and send my condolences to everyone in Tbilisi who knew and loved him.

*Professor Gerry Simpson
London School of Economics*

Stephanos Stavros, former Executive Secretary, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, Council of Europe

Levan Alexidze's contribution to the work of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) was greatly appreciated by everyone involved therein: Council of Europe governments, civil society, fellow ECRI members and secretariat alike. Speaking for the latter, I can confidently say that Levan will be long remembered for his wisdom, charisma and experience, great knowledge of international law, unique understanding of international relations and many human qualities (which made it a pleasure to work with him in a collective body). I spent many hours with him in Strasbourg during ECRI's plenary meetings and also had the pleasure of seeing Levan in Tbilisi on the occasion of a big event we organised there to discuss ECRI's findings and recommendations concerning Georgia. I am sure that this beautiful Southern Caucasus country has produced many great sons (and daughters). Levan must be among the most remarkable ones. His many years of involvement in the international community have rendered a great service to his people and his compatriots must be proud of this. The rest of us are grateful for all he did to advance the (increasingly difficult) cause of promoting greater respect for human rights in Europe.

Stephanos Stavros, former executive secretary to ECRI



The Chair

Strasbourg, 29 August 2019

To the family of Levan Alexidze,

On behalf of all the members of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and the members of ECRI's secretariat, I wish to express my great sadness at the news of the death of Levan Alexidze.

Levan was an active and committed member of ECRI and was very much appreciated by his colleagues and friends in Strasbourg.

I have sent a message to all ECRI members informing them of this sad news.

We are all thinking of you and wish to express our condolences and deepest sympathy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jean-Paul Lehnert'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'J'.

Jean-Paul Lehnert