

## **Statement from the Abkhazian Opposition Leaders [2 September 2024]**

To the President of the Republic of Abkhazia, A.G. Bzhania To the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Abkhazia, S.M. Shamba To the Secretary of the Security Council of the Republic of Abkhazia, R.V. Lolua

On 29 August 2024, an alleged copy of the "Protocol of the meeting of the Deputy Head of the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation with the President of the Republic of Abkhazia A.G. Bzhania," dated 19 August 2024 and signed on 26 August 2024 by the Deputy Head of the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation, D.N. Kozak, was published in the Abkhazian segment of the Internet.

According to the published text of the document, the protocol contains provisions that directly undermine the sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Abkhazia. Furthermore, according to the text, the current President of the Republic of Abkhazia, A.G. Bzhania, has assumed obligations that violate the fundamental principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Abkhazia, the fulfilment of which entails criminal liability.

Considering the public concern and outrage, we appeal to you with a demand to respond and either confirm or refute the authenticity of the aforementioned Protocol. In the event that the document's authenticity is confirmed, we require your explanations.

We draw your attention to the fact that the absence of an immediate response to this appeal will be interpreted as indicating the authenticity of the aforementioned Protocol.

**Aslan Bartsits, Chairman of the Political Party "FNEA"**

**Vitaly Gabniya, Chairman of the Political Party "APSNY"**

**Temur Gulia, Chairman of the Republican Public Organisation "ARUAA"**

**Adgur Ardzinba, Chairman of the Republican Public Organisation "AND"**

**Kan Kvarchia, Chairman of the Republican Public Organisation "Ainadlpara"**

**Lasha Shamba, Chairman of the Republican Public Organisation "Nasha Stolitsa"**

**Vianor Aiba, Chairman of the Public Union of Veterans and Citizens of Abkhazia  
"Aiaaira"**

**Natalie Smyr, Chairman of the Expert Fund "Aamta"**

**Leuan Mikaa, Chairman of the Committee on the Protection of Abkhazian Sovereignty**

**Akhra Bzhania, Chairman of the Republican Public Organisation "Akhatsa"**