



“BIOLOGICAL DISINFORMATION”

Russia – Georgia – USA



Information on the production of dangerous viruses and bacteria in a Georgian laboratory under the auspices of the United States needs international verification - Igor Giorgadze

<https://www.interfax.ru/presscenter/628867/> September 11, 2018

The former Minister of State Security of Georgia appealed to U.S. President Trump to investigate the legality of the experiments carried out at the Lugar Research Center near Tbilisi



Photo: INTERFAX

Moscow. September 11. INTERFAX - Former Georgian State Security Minister Igor Giorgadze made a statement that a laboratory operating near Tbilisi under the auspices of the United States can produce particularly dangerous bacteria and viruses.

"My friends from Georgia handed me over documents related to the work of the so-called Center for Public Health Research, built in the suburbs of Tbilisi, which has been operating since 2011. The activities of the laboratory have repeatedly been the subject of journalistic investigations and political discussions. The first to openly declare illegal activities was American Jeffrey Silvermann," I. Giorgadze said at a press conference at the central office of Interfax on Tuesday.

According to him, J. Silvermann said in an interview that "the laboratory (name of Senator Richard) Lugar in the vicinity of Tbilisi produces dangerous substances and test them in the local population." "They make anthrax, plague and swine flu," said I. Giorgadze.

"I am not an expert in the field of medicine, biological and bacteriological weapons, so I believe that the materials I have need additional expertise with the involvement of international experts," said I. Giorgadze.

At the same time, he expressed hope that in 2018 the laboratory will come under the control of the Government of Georgia.

In addition, I. Giorgadze appealed to U.S. President Donald Trump to investigate the legality of "experiments conducted in Georgia" by laboratory staff who "acted in accordance with the permission of your predecessor's administration and in agreement with the former President of Georgia."

Earlier, the official representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Maria Zakharova expressed concern that U.S. medical and biological

research poses a threat to the spread of dangerous infections in the post-Soviet space. In particular, she cited the example of the Research Center named after Richard Lugar in the suburbs of Tbilisi, which has a third level of biological protection, which allows "to conduct experiments with pathogens of particularly dangerous diseases."

Georgia rejected Russia's accusations about the biological laboratory named after Lugar

<https://www.interfax.ru/world/629389>

September 15, 2018

Moscow. September 15. INTERFAX.RU - Tbilisi claims that the Senator Richard Lugar laboratory operating in Georgia is working transparently, and the next accusations from Russia about its activities are groundless.

"No closed or secret experiments are carried out in this center, especially over people who are completely absurd," Special Representative of the Prime Minister of Georgia for Relations with the Russian Federation Zurab Abashidze told the Georgian Channel One on Saturday.

According to him, this laboratory is the property of Georgia, its activities are financed from the Georgian budget.

"Similar laboratories exist in many countries, including Russia. Lugar's laboratory works in a transparent mode, its doors are open to foreign scientists and experts," Abashidze said.

Earlier, the official representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Maria Zakharova expressed concern that U.S. medical and biological research poses a threat to the spread of dangerous infections in the post-Soviet space. In particular, she cited the example of the Richard Lugar Public Health Research Center in the suburbs of Tbilisi, which studies particularly dangerous infections and viruses, as well as their pathogens.

On September 11, at a press conference in Moscow, former Minister of State Security of Georgia (in 1993-1995), Igor Giorgadze made a statement that a laboratory that operates near Tbilisi under the auspices of the United States can produce particularly dangerous bacteria and viruses. In particular, he referred to the testimony of American Jeffrey Silvermann, according to whom, in the laboratory named after Lugar "produce dangerous substances and test them in the local population." "They make anthrax, plague and swine flu," Giorgadze claimed.

After that, the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation stated that there were signs of violation by the United States of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development of Bacteriological Weapons. "The blatant facts and documents that have become known contain signs of serious violations by the American side of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, ratified by the United States in 1972," the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement of September 14.

The Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation announced the death of 73 citizens of Georgia in a secret laboratory of the United

States <https://www.interfax.ru/world/631904>, October 4, 2018

According to the department, a highly toxic chemical or biological agent was tested in the laboratory under the guise of a drug

Moscow. October 4. INTERFAX.RU - Americans in the Lugar laboratory could test a highly toxic chemical drug on humans, which led to the death of 73 Georgian citizens, said Igor Kirillov, Head of Radiation, Chemical and Biological Protection Troops (RCBZ) of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.

"Almost the simultaneous death of a large number of volunteers suggests that an assessment of a highly toxic chemical drug or a biological agent with high mortality was carried out at the Lugar Center under the guise of treatment," Kirillov said.

According to him, former Minister of State Security of Georgia Igor Giorgadze presented reports on the results of tests conducted in the Richard Lugar Laboratory. It follows that Georgian citizens tested the drug "Sovaldi" of the American company "Hilead Sayensiz", one of the main shareholders of which is former U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

"From the documents shown, it is clear that the trials ended in mass deaths among patients. At the same time, despite the death of 24 people only in December 2015, clinical trials were continued in violation of international standards and against the wishes of patients. This led to the death of another 49 people," Kirillov said.

He noted that this drug was registered in the Russian register of medicines, and no fatal cases were recorded during his clinical trial.

The Chief of the RHBZ troops added that earlier the United States had already conducted research on volunteers bypassing ethical requirements - in the late 1940s, almost 1,500 people were infected with syphilis and gonorrhea pathogens in Guatemala.

"During the experiments, American researchers deliberately infected patients of local psychiatric clinics with these infections. As a result, almost half of the patients died. The fact of these illegal experiments was recognized by U.S. President Obama in 2010," Kirillov said.

Scandal around the laboratory named after Lugara

On September 11, at a press conference in Moscow, former Minister of State Security of Georgia (in 1993-1995) Igor Giorgadze [made a statement](#) that a laboratory operating near Tbilisi under the auspices of the United States can produce particularly dangerous bacteria and viruses. In particular, he referred to the testimony of American Jeffrey Silvermann, according to whom, in the laboratory named after Lugara "produce hazardous substances and test them in the local population."

"They make anthrax, plague and swine flu," Giorgadze claimed.

Tbilisi [responded](#) that Senator Richard Lugar's laboratory operating in Georgia is transparent, and the accusations about its activities are groundless.

"No closed or secret experiments are carried out in this center, especially on people, which is completely absurd," Special Representative of the Prime Minister of Georgia for Relations with the Russian Federation Zurab Abashidze said earlier.

According to him, this laboratory is the property of Georgia, its activities are financed from the Georgian budget.

"Similar laboratories exist in many countries, including Russia. The Lugar laboratory works in a transparent mode, its doors are open to foreign scientists and experts," Abashidze said.

The Ministry of Health of Georgia denied the statements of the Russian Federation on the development of biological weapons

<https://www.interfax.ru/world/631917/> October 4, 2018

Moscow. October 4. INTERFAX.RU - The assumptions of the Russian Federation that the Richard Lugar Public Health Research Center near Tbilisi may allegedly work on biological weapons are far from reality, according to the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health of the Ministry of Health of Georgia.

"It's absurd. We have repeatedly said that nothing like this is happening in this center. The center is working exclusively at protecting the health of the population," the center told Interfax on Thursday.

So they commented on the statement of the Russian military that the United States, contrary to international obligations, is probably working on biological weapons, including in the American Lugar Laboratory in Georgia.

Meanwhile, last week the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia called unfounded statements made earlier from Moscow about the work of the Lugar Research Center, in particular, that dangerous experiments can be carried out there.

In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic denied the allegations of representatives of the Russian Federation that the laboratory is funded by the United States. "The Lugar Research Center is the object of the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health of the Ministry of Health of Georgia and is funded by the Georgian government," the Georgian Foreign Ministry stressed.

Earlier on Thursday, Igor Kirillov, Head of Radiation, Chemical and Biological Protection (RCBZ) troops of the Russian Armed Forces, said that Americans in the Lugar laboratory could have tested a highly toxic chemical drug on humans, which led to the [death of 73 Georgian citizens](#). According to him, it follows from the report of former Georgian State Security Minister Igor Giorgadze that the drug "Sovaldi" of the American company "Gilead Science", one of the main shareholders of which is former U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, was tested in the laboratory.

"It can be seen from the documents demonstrated that the trials ended in mass deaths among patients. At the same time, despite the death of 24 people only in December 2015, clinical trials continued in violation of international standards and contrary to the wishes of patients. This led to the death of another 49 people,"

Kirillov said. He noted that this drug was registered in the Russian register of medicines, and no deaths were recorded during his clinical study.

The Ministry of Health of Georgia denied the words of the ex-minister about the laboratory's experiments on people

<https://www.interfax.ru/world/632078>, October 5, 2018

Moscow. October 5. INTERFAX.RU - Statements of ex-Minister of State Security of Georgia Igor Giorgadze about the Lugar laboratory near Tbilisi are aimed at discrediting this center and are not true, said Amiran Gamkrelidze, Director of the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health of the Ministry of Health of Georgia.

"No experiments are carried out on people there," Gamkrelidze said at a press conference on Friday, calling Giorgadze's words that dozens of people died as a result of human trials of the drug for hepatitis C.

According to Gamkrelidze, about 450 thousand people die from hepatitis C every year in the world, and several hundred people in Georgia.

He also stressed that Georgia is successfully implementing a program for the treatment of patients with hepatitis, thanks to which it was possible to save thousands of lives. According to Gamkrelidze, today, within the framework of the treatment program, the curability of patients is 98%.

He noted that at the initial stage there were indeed cases of deaths of several dozen people, but not in a short period or because of drug tests on them, as Giorgadze claims. According to the director of the center, these people died due to concomitant diseases and the fact that they applied for medical help late.

Gamkrelidze also said that the document referred to by Giorgadze in his statements is a monitoring of patients and there is nothing secret about it.

On September 11, at a press conference in Moscow, former Minister of State Security of Georgia (in 1993-1995) Giorgadze [said](#) that particularly dangerous bacteria and viruses can be produced in a laboratory operating near Tbilisi under

the auspices of the United States. In particular, he referred to the testimony of American Jeffrey Silvermann, according to whom the R. Lugar laboratory "produces dangerous substances and tests them in the local population." "They make anthrax, plague and swine flu," Giorgadze claimed.

After that, the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation stated that there were **signs of violation** by the United States of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development of Bacteriological Weapons. "The blatant facts and documents that have become known contain signs of serious violations by the American side of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, ratified by the United States in 1972," the statement of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation of September 14 said.

Zurab Abashidze - Russia is trying to divert attention from the international community's accusations against Moscow with statements about the Lugar laboratory.

<https://1tv.ge/news/zurab-abashidze-ruseti-cdilobs-lugaris-laboratoriaze-ganckhadebebit-moskovis-winaaghmdeg-saertashoriso-sazogadoebis-braldebebidan-yuradgheba-gadaitanos/> October 06, 2018





The statement of the representatives of the Russian Federation regarding the Lugar laboratory is an attempt to divert attention from the accusations brought against Russia by the international community, the special representative of the Prime Minister of Georgia for relations with Russia said in an interview with the Azerbaijani " Interfax ".

During the interview, Zurab Abashidze noted that the information spread by Moscow does not correspond to reality at all.

"Tbilisi is a small city where everyone knows everything. The claim that artificially infected people die in Lugar's laboratory and their corpses are taken out in packages, not only cannot withstand criticism, but it is clear to everyone that it is pulled from the finger. This is a bubble that will burst very soon. As a result, those who blow this bubble will be very ashamed", said Zurab Abashidze.

According to him, the laboratory has been handed over to Georgians by the Americans for a long time and Georgian specialists are working there. As Abashidze mentioned, the laboratory is fully financed by the Government of Georgia.

In addition, in an interview with " Interfax " , Zurab Abashidze spoke about the international seminar on combating biological weapons , which is planned to be held in Tbilisi in November. According to him, participation in the seminar was offered to the Russian side, but they have refused so far.

"In November, an international seminar on combating chemical weapons will be held in Tbilisi. Specialists from more than 20 countries will take part in it. We offered the Russian side to participate in the seminar in appropriate ways . Unfortunately, Russian specialists have refused the invitation until now. We hope that they will change their minds. This is the best opportunity to see everything with your own eyes", said Zurab Abashidze.

Zurab Abashidze stated during the interview that he spoke about inviting Russian specialists to the seminar during the meeting with Grigori Karasin.

"I would like to mention that on October 1st, during the meeting with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Grigory Karasin in Prague, we also talked about the Lugar laboratory, where I once again confirmed that Tbilisi invites Russian specialists to the international seminar," Abashidze said.

Zurab Abashidze answered the question of "Interfax" whether Georgia will allow representatives of the Russian side to visit all facilities of the laboratory, that Georgia has nothing to hide.

"All the doors of the laboratory will be open", said Zurab Abashidze.

Putin found it difficult to assess the reliability of reports on biological weapons in Georgia

<https://www.interfax.ru/russia/634011>, October 18, 2018



Moscow. October 18. INTERFAX.RU - Russian President Vladimir Putin said that he does not undertake to judge the reliability of information on the development of biological weapons on the territory of Georgia, but if so, it is very dangerous.

"I'm not going to judge how reliable it is. I saw this statement by the former Minister of State Security of Georgia. Of course, this is alarming. These developments, if they are really carried out, are very dangerous and related to the latest achievements in the field of genetics," Vladimir Putin said at the Valdai Forum in Sochi on Thursday.

"From what I saw... what are we talking about? That some drugs that can selectively affect a person in accordance with his belonging to a certain ethnic group are identified. And in two or three generations, and allegedly such experiments are already carried out on animals, in dogs and rats the cycle is quite fast, in the second or third generation there are already such changes that simply radically change the original appearance," Putin explained.

"Of course, if so, it poses a big threat," the president stressed.

On September 11, at a press conference in Moscow, the former Minister of State Security of Georgia (in 1993-1995) Igor Giorgadze [made a statement](#) that especially dangerous bacteria and viruses can be produced in a laboratory that operates near Tbilisi under the auspices of the United States. In particular, he referred to the testimony of American Jeffrey Silvermann, according to whom, in the laboratory named after Lugar "produce dangerous substances and test them in the local population." The Ministry of Health of Georgia [denied](#) these allegations.

On October 4, Igor Kirillov, Head of Radiation, Chemical and Biological Protection (RCBZ) troops of the Russian Armed Forces, [said](#) that Americans in the Lugar laboratory could have tested a highly toxic chemical in humans, which led to the death of 73 Georgian citizens.

Moscow demanded to admit Russian experts to all biolaboratories of the Lugar center in Georgia

<https://www.interfax.ru/world/710418>, May 26, 2020

Moscow. May 26. INTERFAX.RU - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation expressed concern about the military and biological activities of the Richard Lugar Research Center for Public Health, built by the United States in Georgia, and advocated a visit to this center by Russian experts when providing them with guarantees of access to all laboratory buildings.

"Implemented on the basis of the "Research Center for Public Health named after R. Lugar" military and biological activities of foreign countries raise a lot of justified questions. This high-level laboratory of biosecurity was built by the U.S. Department of Defense and is used in its interests to study pathogens of particularly dangerous infectious diseases," reads the comment of the Russian Foreign Ministry, distributed on Tuesday.

"Visit to the Center named after R. Lugar in Georgia by Russian specialized experts on mutually acceptable terms has not yet been possible. The Georgian side has not yet substantively reacted to our note of June 2019 with a request to give the necessary explanations on the modalities of a possible visit. We are waiting for Tbilisi's official reaction," the comment reads.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation believes that it will be advisable to visit the Center by experts from Russia only if they are guaranteed

access to all laboratory buildings (including premises occupied by American specialists), "which will ensure its real verification".

The commentary emphasizes that the "U.S.-Georgia Army Medical Research Administration" operates on the territory of the Center. According to the information available to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the American military department and its affiliated structures finance research carried out in the laboratory, as well as pay for operating costs, including ensuring its safety.

"Despite our requests, the U.S. does not provide information on dual-use activities carried out there both in terms of confidence-building measures under the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) and through bilateral channels," the Russian Ministry said in a comment.

"The subject of our concern is that Washington does not explain what it is doing in close proximity to the Russian borders. This, of course, cannot but be taken into account by us in the context of ensuring national security, especially when it comes to such sensitive aspects," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation notes.

Biolaboratory in Georgia

In November 2019, the press service of the Georgian government administration [reported](#) that Russian experts could visit the Lugar biolaboratory operating near Tbilisi. They specified what this was stated at a meeting with Russian Senator Grigory Karasin in Prague by Special Representative of the Prime Minister of Georgia for Relations with the Russian Federation Zurab Abashidze.

"Taking into account the interest of the Russian side, Zurab Abashidze confirmed that the so-called Lugar laboratory operates transparently and the doors of the laboratory are open to scientists and experts from all countries, including Russian ones," the press service said then.

The Lugar Laboratory was established in Georgia with the support of the United States in 2011. The Ministry of Health of Georgia states that since 2013 this facility has been fully subordinated to the Georgian National Center for Disease Control and is financed from the state budget.

Earlier, in connection with the suspicions expressed by the Russian Federation about the activities of this laboratory, the Georgian authorities have repeatedly stated that the center of Lugara is a safe facility.

Moscow suspected the United States of developing bioweapons near the borders of the Russian Federation



Photo: Mikhail Metzel/TASS

<https://www.interfax.ru/russia/760023>, April 7, 2021

Moscow. April 7. INTERFAX.RU - Russia has good reasons to believe that the United States is developing bioweapons in laboratories near the Russian and Chinese borders, said Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation Nikolai Patrushev.

"We have good reasons to assume that this is the case," Patrushev said in [an interview with the Kommersant newspaper](#), answering the relevant question.

"We are told that there are peaceful sanitary and epidemiological stations near our borders, but for some reason they are more like [Fort Detrick](#) in Maryland, where Americans have been working in the field of military biology for decades. By the way, it should be noted that outbreaks of diseases uncharacteristic of these regions are recorded in the surrounding areas," he added.

According to him, such laboratories are located "mainly near the Russian and Chinese borders."

In 2018, Igor Kirillov, Head of the Radiation, Chemical and Biological Protection (RCBZ) of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, [said](#) that Americans in the Lugar Laboratory in Georgia could test a highly toxic chemical drug on humans, which led to the death of 73 Georgian citizens.

The military referred to the data of former Minister of Health of Georgia Igor Giorgadze.

Russian President Vladimir Putin stated that Giorgadze's reports are "alarming," but he [does not undertake to judge their reliability](#).

In 2019, Patrushev expressed concern about the activities of American biological laboratories, where "infectious diseases are being researched and biological weapons can be created."

In April 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation expressed concern about the work of the Lugar Public Health Research Center, built by the United States in Georgia, and [advocated a visit to](#) this center by Russian experts when providing them with guarantees of access to all laboratory buildings.

The Georgian Foreign Ministry [denied accusations](#) of possible double activities of the laboratory and stated that it was ready to provide access to Russian experts only as part of an international group.

INTERVIEW EXCERPT/ USA RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA/ KOMMERSANT, April 07, 2021.

Secretary of the Russian Security Council Nikolai Patrushev on the crisis in relations with the United States and ways out of it.

Коммерсантъ®

*Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation **Nikolai Patrushev** told Kommersant correspondent **Elena Chernenko** on what conditions Moscow is ready to cooperate with Washington in the future. <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4762137>*

- The World Health Organization (WHO) mission found no traces of the artificial origin of the virus. Nevertheless, there is still a widespread version that China provoked the pandemic intentionally.

- I suggest you pay attention to the fact that more and more biolaboratories under U.S. control are growing in the world like yeast. And by a strange coincidence - mainly at the Russian and Chinese borders. They assure that these are research centers where Americans help local scientists develop new ways to combat dangerous diseases. However, the authorities of those countries where these facilities are located have no real idea what is happening within their walls.

In the information campaign against Pfizer and Moderna, Washington saw the machinations of Russian intelligence

Of course, we and our Chinese partners have questions. We are told that peaceful sanitary and epidemiological stations operate near our borders, but for some reason they are more like Fort Detrick in Maryland, where Americans have been working in the field of military biology for decades. By the way, it should be noted that outbreaks of diseases uncharacteristic of these regions are recorded in the surrounding areas.

- Are you saying that Americans are developing biological weapons there?

- We have good reason to assume that this is the case.

- And what do the Russian authorities intend to do about it?

- We will work with our partners, primarily in the post-Soviet space. To conclude agreements with them on cooperation in the field of biosafety.

I want to remind you that Americans are not doing well with chemical weapons either. At the headquarters of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW - **Kommersant**) in The Hague, a day passes for Americans and their allies from making another chapter of the anti-Russian chemical dossier.

- Yes, they accuse Russia of developing and using chemical weapons, including against Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia, as well as Alexei Navalny.

- But the evidence is zero, there is also no argument, only speculations, and not withstand even an elementary test. I remember the classic question: who are the judges? In accordance with the OPCW, Russia destroyed all its stockpiles of chemical weapons, and even in record time. What about the United States? They initially had less chemical weapons than Russia, by about a third, but we no longer have them, and they still have them in their warehouses. They destroy it, of course, but without enthusiasm, the deadline was extended until 2023. The OPCW is not very disturbing, Washington is not asked unnecessary questions.

But when chemical incidents occurred in Syria, the conclusions were drawn instantly, based on the information of the notorious White Helmets. This organization worked so "successfully" that it sometimes published its reports even before the incidents themselves. However, the date and place of the incident changed, and the conclusions were all carbon copied, Bashar al-Assad and Russia everywhere. It is already known what income from these provocations under the guise of donations was received by the leaders of the White Helmets.

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