

= Kakha Kaladze =

Kakhaber " Kakha " Kaladze (Georgian : ??????? (????) ?????? [kʰaxabʰr kʰaladʰ zʰ] ; born 27 February 1978) is a Georgian politician and retired footballer , who played as a defender . A versatile player , he was capable of playing both as a centre @-@ back and as a left @-@ back . He played for the Georgia national team from 1996 to 2011 . He was voted Georgian Footballer of the Year in 2001 ? 2003 , and 2006 and was considered as one of Georgia 's most important players .

Kaladze started his football career in 1993 at Umaglesi Liga club Dinamo Tbilisi and made 82 appearances in a five @-@ year spell . In 1998 , he moved to the Ukrainian club Dynamo Kyiv and made 71 appearances until 2001 , when he was signed by the Italian Serie A club Milan . He has won one Serie A , three Ukrainian Premier League and five Umaglesi Liga titles . With Milan , he won the Champions League on two occasions , the UEFA Super Cup once and the FIFA Club World Cup once . After captaining his country 50 times in 84 appearances , Kaladze announced his retirement from the Georgian national team on 11 December 2011 .

Born in Samtredia , a town in Imereti Province , Kaladze comes from a footballing family as his father played for Lokomotiv Samtredia and was also president of the team for some time . His brother was kidnapped in a high @-@ profile case in 2001 and officially declared dead in 2006 , resulting in two men being sentenced to prison for a combined total of 30 years . Outside of football , he owns a company called Kala Capital and an organisation called Kala Foundation , as well as being an ambassador for SOS Children 's Villages . He is married to Anouki Areshidze , with whom he has three children with .

Kaladze became involved in the politics of Georgia as a member of the opposition Georgian Dream ? Democratic Georgia party , founded by Bidzina Ivanishvili in February 2012 . He was elected to the Parliament of Georgia on 1 October 2012 and approved as Deputy Prime Minister as well as Minister of Energy in the cabinet of Bidzina Ivanishvili on 25 October 2012 .

= = Club career = =

= = = Early career = = =

Kaladze started his career playing as a striker for his local club Lokomotiv Samtredia , where his father was president , until former Georgia international footballer David Kipiani requested Kakha to join Dinamo Tbilisi . At Dinamo , he played in 82 domestic league games and scored one goal . He made his top @-@ flight debut as a 16 @-@ year @-@ old with Dinamo during the 1993 ? 94 campaign . Kaladze claims that a good performance against Italy while playing for Georgia in a match that ended 0 ? 0 brought him to the attention of Dynamo Kyiv ; he later said , " In that game I was up against Christian Vieri and I marked him well . "

A fee equivalent to ? 280 @,@ 000 was enough to take him to the Ukrainian Premier League and Dynamo Kiev in January 1998 , where he signed a four @-@ year deal . Here he scored six goals in 71 league games over the two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half seasons he spent there . The Ukrainian club had been under the ownership of Hryhoriy Surkis and the late Valeriy Lobanovskyi had just been installed as manager ; they would go on to win eight consecutive league titles . Kaladze also appeared in both legs of the semi @-@ final of the 1998 ? 99 Champions League against Bayern Munich , which Dynamo Kyiv lost 4 ? 3 on aggregate . En route to the semi @-@ finals , they beat teams like Real Madrid , Barcelona and Arsenal . He won eight league titles in a row during his time at both Dinamo Tbilisi and Dynamo Kyiv .

= = = A.C. Milan = = =

In 2001 , Kaladze became the most expensive Georgian footballer in history when Milan paid ? 16 million to bring him to Italy . He cited an injury to Aleksei Gerasimenko as his reason for leaving . At

first , Kaladze was tried in different positions and faced competition for places in defense from players such as Jaap Stam and Cafu . In the 2002 ? 03 season , however , he made 46 appearances in all competitions , including 27 Serie A appearances . That year , Milan won the Champions League , where they beat Juventus on penalties in the final (despite Kaladze missing his penalty) and the Coppa Italia , where they beat Roma 6 ? 3 on aggregate in the final . After Kaladze 's double success , the Georgian postal service issued a special stamp bearing the player 's image . He is the first Georgian player to win a Champions League title .

Kaladze was limited to just six league appearances and 11 total appearances in the 2003 ? 04 season . In the next season , Kaladze played just 19 Serie A matches and five in the Champions League as Milan finished as runners @-@ up in both competitions . He was an unused substitute in that season 's Champions League final , where Milan lost on penalties to Liverpool after a 3 ? 3 draw . He was said to be frustrated with his lack of first @-@ team options and a move to Chelsea , in exchange for Hernán Crespo or for £ 4 million , was widely reported . Kaladze himself said , " I have agreed everything with the Chelsea management . Now it is necessary to wait for them to reach an agreement with Milan and I think I could become a Chelsea player next week . " Chelsea opted to sign Asier del Horno instead and Kaladze later declared himself " glad " that the deal fell through . On 30 June 2005 , he extended his contract with Milan until 2010 and again on 4 September 2006 , this time until 2011 . In 2005 ? 06 , an injury to Paolo Maldini meant that Kaladze was moved back into the centre of defence , his favoured position . Milan finished third that season , although they would have finished second if there were no 2006 Italian football scandal which resulted in a 30 @-@ point deduction .

In the 2006 ? 07 Serie A campaign , Kaladze scored a goal against Sampdoria which turned out to be his only goal of the season . Milan finished in fourth place with an eight @-@ point deduction relating to the previous season 's scandal . Kaladze won his second Champions League title on 23 May 2007 after Milan beat Liverpool 2 ? 1 in the final ; he came on as a 79th @-@ minute substitute in that match . He later picked up the FIFA Club World Cup in December that year where Milan beat Boca Juniors 4 ? 2 in the final , though Kaladze was one of two players to be sent off in that match . He had established himself as a first @-@ team regular in the 2007 ? 08 season , making 32 appearances , but had only featured sparingly in the 2008 ? 09 season due to a knee ligament injury sustained in a UEFA Cup match against Zürich . Kaladze 's performance in the 15 February 2009 Milan derby was described as a " horror show " on the Channel 4 website which started a dispute over an alleged smear campaign between Kaladze and the Georgian newspaper Lelo , who used the quote , " Milan really does need a new centre @-@ back after Kakha Kaladze ? s horror show in the derby . " Milan finished third in the league that season , ten points behind Serie A champions Inter Milan ; Kaladze believed this was caused by the many injuries suffered by the Milan squad .

= = = Genoa = = =

On 31 August 2010 , Kaladze signed with Genoa ; Milan later revealed that it was a free transfer . In the 2010 ? 11 season , he played 26 matches and scored one goal , which came against Parma on 30 January 2011 . He was named as second @-@ best defender of the 2010 ? 11 Serie A by La Gazzetta dello Sport , being surpassed only by his former teammate , Milan 's Thiago Silva . On 12 May 2012 , Kaladze announced his retirement from football .

= = International career = =

Kaladze won his first cap against Cyprus in a friendly match on 27 March 1996 , coming on as a 72nd @-@ minute substitute for Mikhail Kavelashvili . Later that year , he was sent off for the first time in his international career against Lebanon in a friendly match . He subsequently featured in his country 's qualifying campaigns for the 1998 , 2002 , 2006 and 2010 FIFA World Cups , and the 2000 , 2004 and 2008 UEFA European Championships . Georgia , however , have never qualified for the FIFA World Cup or the UEFA European Championship since they split from the Soviet Union . His competitive debut was against Poland on 14 June 1997 in a 1998 World Cup qualifier ; Georgia

lost the match 4 ? 1 . Just two matches later , Kaladze was sent off for the second time playing for Georgia , along with Giorgi Kinkladze , against Moldova in another 1998 World Cup qualifier . Georgia finished in fourth place in the group and failed to qualify . In qualifying for Euro 2000 , Georgia finished at the bottom of the group (Group 2) in sixth place , with just one win . Kaladze occasionally captained the side during these qualifiers in the absence of Giorgi Nemsadze .

The qualifiers for the 2002 World Cup ended with Georgia finishing in third place , ahead of Hungary and Lithuania . Kaladze played in all of the matches and often missed the friendlies in between . Kaladze only played in three matches during the Euro 2004 qualifiers , where Georgia finished in last place in the group . He did , however , feature in a 1 ? 0 victory over neighbouring Russia , a victory considered to be one of Georgia 's greatest successes . Kaladze played in all but one of the 2006 World Cup qualifying matches , where Georgia finished sixth in the group , with Kazakhstan being the only team to finish below them . He played fewer matches during the qualification for Euro 2008 and once again Georgia failed to qualify as they finished in sixth place despite starting their campaign with a 6 ? 0 win over the Faroe Islands .

He scored his first ever international goal against Latvia on 6 February 2008 in a friendly which Georgia lost 3 ? 1 . On 5 September 2009 , Kaladze scored two own goals in a 2010 World Cup qualifying match against Italy within the space of 11 minutes . The match ended 2 ? 0 to Italy . Kaladze was the captain of the national team , until 11 December 2011 , when he announced his retirement .

= = = International goal = = =

Scores and results list Georgia 's goal tally first .

= = Advertising = =

As many footballers , Kaladze appeared in various publicity and advertising capacities , capitalizing on his popularity as an Italian club footballer .

= = Personal life = =

In 2001 , Kakha Kaladze 's brother Levan , a medical student , was kidnapped in Georgia , with a ransom of \$ 600 @, @ 000 demanded . Georgia 's president at the time , Eduard Shevardnadze , promised that " everything is being done to locate him " . Despite this assurance , the only time that Levan was ever seen was in a video where he was shown blindfolded and begging for help . Following the kidnapping , Kaladze threatened to take up Ukrainian citizenship , but reverted his decision , stating , " There was a time when I thought about quitting the national side completely , but I couldn 't do it out of respect for the Georgian people and the fans who come and give us such support . " Roughly four years later , on 6 May 2005 , Georgian police officers found eight dead bodies in the Svaneti region and it was speculated that Levan was among the dead . On 21 February 2006 , Levan was officially identified among the deceased , after tests from FBI experts . The local media claimed that the ransom was paid by Kaladze 's family , although another source says that Kaladze 's father attempted to meet the kidnappers , who fled as they believed he was followed by the police . Two men were sentenced to prison for the murder : David Asatiani for 25 years and Merab Amisulashvili for five years . On 14 July 2009 , Kaladze 's wife Anouki gave birth to their first @-@ born son in Milan . The couple named their son Levan , in memory of Kaladze 's brother .

Kaladze has also been active in charitable causes and is a FIFA ambassador for the SOS Children 's Villages . Through his Kala Foundation , a charitable organisation established in 2008 , Kaladze raised ? 50 @, @ 000 to benefit South Ossetian refugees during the Russian invasion of Georgia . Kaladze also plans to release an autobiography with the proceeds going to the Kala Foundation .

= = Political career = =

== Business ventures ==

Along with his football career , Kaladze is an investor in Georgia , Italy , Ukraine and Kazakhstan . Kaladze owns Kala Capital , an investment company established in 2008 in Georgia with a focus on energy businesses , and whose chief executive is former Georgian Prime Minister Zurab Noghaidei .

Kaladze 's other businesses include the Buddha Bar in Kiev that opened in 2008 . Kaladze is also the owner of a restaurant called Giannino , founded in 1899 by Giannino Bindi , which is based in Milan . The restaurant has had a Michelin star under Davide Oldani .

Kala Capital owned 45 percent of the Georgia Hydropower Construction Company company SakHidroEnergoMsheni , a joint stock company incorporated in Georgia in 1998 . His candidacy as Minister of Energy and Natural Resources in October 2012 was therefore overshadowed by concerns about a serious risk that a conflict of interests might arise . Reports on the same day indicated that Kaladze might refuse the energy portfolio or sell off his shares in Georgia Hydropower Construction Company within 10 days of his appointment .

== Political office and conflict of interests ==

Kaladze became involved in the politics of Georgia as a member of the opposition Georgian Dream ? Democratic Georgia party founded by billionaire Bidzina Ivanishvili in February 2012 . He was elected to the Parliament of Georgia on 1 October 2012 . He was approved as Deputy Prime Minister as well as Minister of Energy in the cabinet of Bidzina Ivanishvili on 25 October 2012 . The appointment was met with skepticism in professional energy circles . More importantly , it stirred an intense debate on a conflict of interest arising from Kaladze 's business interests in the Georgia Hydropower Construction Company , in which Kala Capital owned 45 percent . Kala Capital sold the shares to GMC Group in November 2012 but concerns whether his indirect commercial interests had been abandoned remain .

== Career statistics ==

1European competitions include the UEFA Champions League , UEFA Cup , and UEFA Super Cup2Other tournaments include the Supercoppa Italiana and FIFA Club World Cup

== International ==

== Honours ==

== Player ==

Dinamo Tbilisi

Georgian League : 1993 ? 94 , 1994 ? 95 , 1995 ? 96 , 1996 ? 97 , 1997 ? 98

Georgian Cup : 1994 , 1995 , 1996 , 1997

Dynamo Kyiv

Ukrainian Premier League : 1998 ? 99 , 1999 ? 2000 , 2000 ? 01

Ukrainian Cup : 1998 , 1999 , 2000

Milan

Serie A : 2003 ? 04

Coppa Italia : 2002 ? 03

Italian Supercup : 2004

UEFA Champions League : 2003 , 2007
UEFA Super Cup : 2003 , 2007
FIFA Club World Cup : 2007

= = = = Individual = = = =

Georgian Footballer of the Year : 5
2001 , 2002 , 2003 , 2006 , 2011
Source : Eurosport at Yahoo