



**Institute for Development
of Freedom of Information**

FACT SHEET PART 1 [2025]

Sharp Democratic Backsliding and Systemic Repression in Georgia

The document includes information about the context that exists in Georgia after October 26, 2024, and updates on major developments from January 01 to January 31, 2025.

January 31, 2025

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Introduction

The processes initiated last year by the Georgian Dream party, including the reintroduction and adoption of the Russian-style Foreign Agents Law (“Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence”) and anti-LGBT homophobic legislative package, negatively impacted the country’s domestic and foreign policy and resulted in sharp democratic backsliding.

The situation became particularly tense and complex after the [rigged](#) parliamentary elections of October 26, 2024, and Irakli Kobakhidze's [statement](#) of November 28, 2024, concerning the Georgian Dream Party aborting EU Accession, which was followed by daily protests and systemic repression against critical voices.

Considering the situation's complexity in Georgia, the number of facts worthy of attention is increasing daily. This document presents the most alarming developments, structured to reveal the sequence of events and their interrelations. It includes information about the context in Georgia after October 26, 2024, and updates on major developments from January 01 to January 31, 2025.

The information provided below is based on publicly available sources. Where sources are not originally available in English, IDFI provides an unofficial translation.

1. Overview of the situation in Georgia after October 26, 2024, rigged parliamentary elections

The parliamentary elections in Georgia were held on October 26, 2024, and the Central Election Commission (CEC) [published](#) “preliminary results” on the same day.

Due to the [revealed](#) “large-scale election fraud scheme” the four main [opposition parties](#) and the [President of Georgia](#), Salome Zurbishvili, do not recognize the “official results” of the October 26 elections, and the holding of new elections became one of the main demands of the protests. Different protests, rallies, and marches [took place](#) across the country in response to the rigged elections that were accompanied by repressive administrative and criminal arrests (details are provided in the chapters below).

On November 28, 2024, Irakli Kobakhidze [announced](#) that the Georgian Dream party had decided to abort the efforts to start the accession negotiations with the EU “until 2028.”

Since November 28, 2024, there have been large-scale protests in the [country](#) and [abroad](#) (by the Georgian diaspora). In response to these protests, the Georgian Dream party has applied systemic repressive measures, but against this background, the daily protests continue.

The first chapter of this document aims to provide an overview of the major developments after October 26, 2024, and the main repressive tools used by the Georgian Dream party against the demonstrators and media representatives.

1.1. Assessment of October 26 Parliamentary Elections by domestic and international observation missions

[Joint Assessment](#) on the parliamentary elections by ISFED, My Vote (a local observer mission of the Coalition uniting up to 30 Georgian civil society organizations), and GYLA concluded that elections were neither free nor fair. The parliamentary election in Georgia displayed multiple, well-documented irregularities. According to their findings, the evidence presented by the mentioned observation missions indicated that the Georgian parliamentary election was marked by systemic, organized violations aimed at securing a victory for the Georgian Dream Party.

“The range, scale, and consistency of the violations across the three observation missions strongly support the conclusion that this election was rigged through a combination of voter intimidation, obstruction of observation, and manipulation of voting procedures. All three independent observation missions conclude that the outcome of the 26 October 2024 parliamentary elections cannot be seen as truly reflecting the preferences of Georgian voters and can not be considered as free and fair. Implementation of such complex fraud schemes would have been impossible without the support and direct involvement of state institutions such as the CEC, the Ministry of Interior, State Security Agency” - says the joint [assessment](#).

The OSCE/ODIHR [report](#) on Georgia’s 26 October parliamentary elections highlighted concerns over laws affecting fundamental freedoms and civil society, institutional independence of institutions involved in the election process, voter pressure, and election-day practices that compromised voter confidence. The [report](#) also underlined the ineffectiveness of legal remedies for election disputes.

According to the [report](#), while election preparations were well-managed, significant deficiencies included an uneven playing field favoring the Georgian Dream Party through financial advantages, frequent breaches of vote secrecy, procedural inconsistencies, voter intimidation, and recording of the voting process by the Georgian Dream Party representatives. Post-election complaints were largely dismissed with minimal investigation, undermining due process and public trust. The [report](#) highlighted the suppression of protests and arrests, raising concerns about freedom of assembly.

1.2. Statements of Edison Research and HarrisX

Edison Research made a [statement](#) on the “results” published by the CEC. Edison Executive Vice President Rob Farbman [commented](#), “The 13-point difference between Edison’s estimate and the official result of 54% for Georgian Dream cannot be explained by normal variation alone and suggests local-level manipulation of the vote.” According to the [statement](#), “the deviation from statistically expected results was widespread but most pronounced at specific polling locations in rural areas. These locations are likely to have had the most significant vote manipulation at the polling location level.”

HarrisX, a global market research, data analytics, and strategy consulting U.S. company also published the [analysis](#) of elections exit polls raising questions “over statistically unexplainable data discrepancies by the Central Election Commission involving at least 172,523 votes in 27 districts, or over 8 percent of all votes cast.” According to HarrisX the [discrepancy](#) “cannot be explained by statistical variance, pointing to possible voting irregularities.” HarrisX’s [analysis](#) “has identified unusual vote shifts between the 2020 and 2024 elections, and between our Exit Poll and the 2024 CEC final results, which appear far out of line with what could be explained by statistical variance or non-response bias.” It [concludes](#) that “the final election result placing Georgian Dream at 53.96% is, simply put, statistically impossible.”

1.3. Legal proceedings on electoral disputes in Common Courts and the Constitutional Court of Georgia

The Common Courts widely rejected complaints filed by observer organizations regarding electoral violations. For instance, GYLA [demanded](#) the annulment of results in all precincts where electronic voting technology was used. However, out of 24 lawsuits filed in the first instance courts, only one was [upheld](#) by Tetritskaro District Court Judge Vladimer Khuchua.

Observer organizations continued their legal proceedings in appellate courts, but all appeals by all organizations were [declined](#). Additionally, the Tbilisi Court of Appeals [overturned](#) Judge Khuchua's decision regarding violating vote secrecy (A panel of judges, including Dimitri Gvritishvili). The rulings of the courts of appeals marked the conclusion of the legal proceedings on these cases in the common courts system, since according to the legislation, the appellate courts are the final instance courts in electoral disputes.

After the CEC [finalized](#) the “election results” on November 16, 2024, [the President of Georgia](#) and [opposition members](#) of the 10th Convocation of Parliament filed a complaint with the Constitutional Court, requesting the declaration of the elections as unconstitutional. The

plaintiffs based their claim on the large-scale violations of the principle of vote secrecy and the refusal to open polling stations abroad.

The Constitutional Court [issued](#) a ruling without holding an oral hearing and declined to admit the claims for consideration on merits. The ruling was [published](#) on the court's website on December 3, although it was signed on November 29. Notably, as indicated above, on November 28, the Georgian Dream party [announced](#) its decision to suspend negotiations on EU membership, which sparked mass protests on the same day. At dawn on November 29, the protest [ended](#) with police dispersing peaceful demonstrators, detaining participants, and engaging in physical assault.

It is noteworthy that the Constitutional Court's ruling was supported by 7 of the 9 judges, with two judges having dissenting opinions. Justice Giorgi Kverenchkhiladze, in his [dissenting opinion](#), criticized the court's reasoning regarding the government's refusal to open polling stations abroad. Justice Teimuraz Tughushi [expressed](#) dissenting opinion regarding both the restriction of voting rights for Georgian citizens abroad and the violation of vote secrecy. According to his position, at polling stations where electronic voting was conducted (more than 90% of voters cast their ballots electronically), it was possible to see voters' choices. This visibility was detectable by individuals present at the polling stations as well as through photo/video recording.

1.4. Non-recognition of the parliamentary elections results and the following protests

On October 27, after intense consultations with opposition parties, President Salome Zurbishvili [announced](#) in a briefing that she would not recognize the official election results. At the briefing, held in the Orbeliani Palace and attended by the leaders of the opposition parties, President Salome Zurbishvili [announced](#) the October 28 rally.

Since then the major events have been accompanied by protests and a black dot on a white ballot paper [became](#) a symbol of protests. On November 16, 2024, the Central Election Commission announced "final summary protocol results" and police [arrested](#) at least three individuals at the gathering near the CEC building.

On November 17, a protest "Reclaim Your Vote" was [held](#) and observers from all over Georgia told the public what they saw at the polling stations on election day. At the same time, video footage of violations was shown on the screen. Students from various universities [joined](#) the protest and read a joint [Manifesto](#): "We do not recognize the conducted elections and the parliament formed according to the results of these elections as legitimate, and we are ready to fight to the end for our freedom and the freedom of our country!"

While the “Reclaim Your Vote” rally was taking place, the opposition [pitched](#) tents near the first building of Tbilisi State University. Coalition for Change and Unity-National Movement leaders announced a 24-hour, peaceful rally. Blankets and “paralons” were brought to the place. Instead of 24 hours, the protest continued for 2 days. Due to the blockade of Chavchavadze Avenue, on November 18, [TSU suspended classes](#) planned in educational buildings located in the Vake area for 1 day.

[A large number](#) of police and special forces appeared on the scene at around 6:00 a.m. on November 19. They mobilized special equipment, including [water cannon vehicles](#). The law enforcement officers [freed the area](#), which had been blocked since November 17, from the peaceful participants of the protest and took away their vehicles, tents, and other equipment from the place. They [forcibly moved](#) the protestors to Melikishvili Avenue. [Pepper spray](#) was also allegedly used against them. Several participants of the rally needed [ambulance help](#).

The police [detained 16 people](#) during the violent dispersal of the rally on Chavchavadze and Melikishvili avenues. According to one of the [lawyers](#) of the detainees, the policemen physically assaulted 4 people. “Detainees were physically [assaulted](#) even in the police car” - the lawyers said after coming out of the detention center. Other lawyers who also visited the detainees stated that most of the demonstrators [talked](#) about physical and verbal abuse by law enforcement officers. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) [responded](#) to the recent instances of excessive police force used to disperse protests.

Mate Devidze was arrested on [charges of assaulting a police officer](#) (Article 353(1) of the Criminal Code of Georgia) during the protest rally on Melikishvili Avenue. At the November 22 session in the Tbilisi City Court, Judge Davit Kurtanidze [imposed 2 months of pre-trial detention](#) on Mate Devidze as a measure of restraint.

After the police occupied the area surrounding the Tbilisi State University and the demonstrators moved to Melikishvili Avenue, the police physically assaulted the [journalists](#). A journalist of “Publika” Mindia Gabadze was [beaten](#). Also, during the filming, they interfered and [physically assaulted](#) the cameramen of Mtavari Channel Sergi Baramidze.

The Special Investigation Service published the [statement](#) the next day that it launched the investigation into the fact of illegally obstructing the journalistic activities of various media employees under Article 154(1)(2) of the Criminal Code of Georgia.

After the police dispersed the protest by force on the morning of November 19, Melikishvili Avenue was blocked for the whole day. People stood in front of the police forces on Melikishvili Avenue and protested the violent dispersal and arrest of peaceful demonstrators. At around 7:00 p.m. the opposition [continued](#) the rally and marched again towards the TSU. The

opposition leaders stated that the protest would continue throughout the night. The [tents were set up](#) again.

Around 5:00 a.m. on November 20, the [Ministry of Internal Affairs](#) gave the organizers and participants of the rally a 15-minute deadline for opening the roadway. The participants of the peaceful protest [moved](#) from Chavchavadze Avenue to Melikishvili Avenue. The leaders of the opposition called the participants of the rally to do so. At dawn, the opposition [told](#) the participants to go home and rest.

In the evening of November 20, in front of the TSU building the representatives of the academic field [strongly condemned](#) the previous day's break up of a peaceful protest. The joint [statement](#), signed by about 450 professors, lecturers, and PhD students, noted that the university closed its doors to students and welcomed police forces to disperse the peaceful protestors, including students of the same university. "We share the strong will of the young generation to protect Georgia's European course and the country's democratic future" - the statement reads.

On November 21, a protest rally [demanding the release of Mate Devidze](#) and other detainees was held.

On November 24, the [Women's March](#) in Tbilisi was held, which started at Freedom Square and ended at the business center of oligarch Bidzina Ivanishvili. Hundreds of women marched with suitcases, on which were [written](#) the slogans "You leave, we stay", and "We don't raise children as slaves of Russians". The women dumped these suitcases at Bidzina Ivanishvili's house and reiterated once again that they are not going to accept the stealing of elections and Russification of this country stating that they are ready to stay here and continue fighting for a better future.

On the same day, [several](#) protest rallies were organized. Later, at 9:00 p.m. the rally of the opposition parties started at Republic Square, from where they moved to the Parliament building and stayed overnight. The participants of the protest rally set up [tents](#) in front of the Parliament. Media [reported](#) that Anatoli Gigauri, who was arrested on November 24. According to his lawyer, Gigauri was physically [beaten](#) by the police.

Before the start of the "first session of the Parliament", on November 25, Transparency International Georgia published a [statement](#) claiming that "the convening of the first session of the newly elected Parliament on November 25, and the recognition of the mandates of its Members, will be a straightforward and severe violation of the Constitution of Georgia and the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Georgia." GYLA also responded to the matter with a [statement](#), indicating that "the recognition of the authority of new members of parliament by the Parliament of Georgia is unconstitutional."

While the [protest](#) was ongoing outside the parliament building, GD MPs gathered in the Parliament, and despite the pending constitutional complaint challenging their mandates, [recognized](#) the authority of 150 deputies. “Black Monday” in Georgia: the police and special forces are guarding the door behind which the slaves of the “Georgian Dream” are killing our constitution and mocking our parliament,” President Salome Zurbashvili [wrote](#) on her X account. Later, the President released a video address [claiming](#) that “the Georgian parliament exists no more” since it “tore up the Constitution.”

1.5. Statement of Irakli Kobakhidze of November 28, 2024

On November 28, 2024, Irakli Kobakhidze [announced](#) the decision of the Georgian Dream Party to halt efforts to initiate EU accession negotiations until 2028 and to refuse EU budget support. While affirming EU membership as a priority for 2030, Kobakhidze emphasized that this goal would be achieved on Georgia’s terms, maintaining national “dignity”. He criticized European institutions for alleged insults and blackmail, citing EU demands like the abolition of the foreign agent’s law and the anti-LGBTQ+ law as undermining Georgia’s sovereignty. Kobakhidze dismissed EU criticisms of Georgia’s democratic shortcomings, such as concerns over election irregularities and opposition suppression, accusing European politicians of meddling in domestic affairs. He framed EU grants and loans as tools of coercion, arguing that Georgia has progressed in meeting EU requirements faster than other candidate countries. Despite halting negotiations, Kobakhidze claimed Georgia would fulfill 90% of its EU-related obligations by 2028, aiming to join the EU “with dignity” and as a stronger economic partner by 2030.

1.6. Large-scale continuous protests and systemic repression

The [statement](#) made by Irakli Kobakhidze on November 28, 2024, triggered large-scale, continuous daily protests.

On the same evening, from around 08:00 p.m. demonstrators [assembled](#) in different locations across the country, and after midnight police forces [used](#) repressive measures against the demonstrators gathered in front of the Parliament building.

From November 28, 2024, to December 9 the Georgian Dream party used various methods of repression against the demonstrators and media representatives.

According to the information [published](#) on December 10, by several Georgian CSOs, between November 28 and December 9, over 450 individuals were arrested in relation to protests in Georgia (the number includes administrative and criminal arrests); over 300 individuals

reported violence and ill-treatment, **such as torture or inhuman treatment**, while more than 80 demonstrators required hospitalization.

Media Advocacy Coalition indicates that since November 28, over 90 incidents involving attacks on media personnel have been [documented](#). Guram Rogava, a journalist (TV Formula), was [attacked](#) by riot police while covering the crackdown on a protest at dawn. According to a doctor, “he has [suffered](#) fractures to the facial bones and the seventh cervical vertebra”.

On December 4, 2024, police forces [raided](#) the homes and offices of the opposition parties and activists, leading to the administrative and/or criminal [arrests](#) of the opposition party leaders and demonstrators.

Reports [indicate](#) the use of masked groups affiliated with GD (Titushky) to attack protesters and journalists. These groups targeted individuals near protest sites, with police allegedly instructed not to intervene. Notable victims included TV Pirveli journalist [Maka Chikhladze](#) and cameraman [Giorgi Shetsiruli](#), and Publika journalist [Mindia Gabadze](#), who were violently attacked. So-called Titushky also [raided](#) the office of the Coalition for Change (one of the coalitions of the opposition parties), beating at least two of its members - Koba Khabazi and Data Petridis. On December 12, 2024, Zviad Ratiani (Georgian poet and translator) was [attacked](#) and physically assaulted in front of his home by the so-called Titushky. Previously, Ratiani had been [assaulted](#) and administratively detained by the special forces and spent eight days in administrative detention.

In addition to the brutal arrests during the demonstrations, the practice of ambushing in the streets of individuals who participate in protests was revealed. For instance, Vato Bzhalava, a researcher from the Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies (Rondeli Foundation), was [reportedly seized](#) from the street by police forces while walking his dog. [According to his lawyer](#), “... after he was transferred to the main police department in Digomi, a police officer approached him and slapped him multiple times in the face. The same officer kicked him in the shin, leaving a bruise.” Pediatrician Kote Chakhunashvili was [ambushed](#) by police on Nutsubidze Street, abducting him from his car while he was on his way to a protest rally.

According to numerous detainees represented by the Legal Aid Network of the Georgian CSOs, their personal belongings were illegally [confiscated](#) during their detention. Some detainees reported that law enforcement officers demanded their phone passwords and resorted to violence when refused. Notably, the detainees' belongings were not confiscated following the law in most cases. Instead, they were illegally confiscated by individual law enforcement officers to appropriate them illegally or to throw them away as punishment to prevent their return.

Furthermore, according to the [information](#) received by the Legal Aid Network hotline of the CSOs, foreign nationals participating in the demonstrations were being summoned to the MIA Migration Department. It has been observed that the employees of the Migration Department called and requested that the foreign nationals arrested administratively during the ongoing protests in Tbilisi appear at the Department immediately. The employees of the Department did not explain the legal grounds for these summonses. The statement [disseminated](#) by the Ministry of Internal Affairs indicates that 25 citizens of foreign countries who took part in the ongoing protests and were sanctioned by the court to various administrative fines were deported from Georgia.

On December 10, the Public Defender [released](#) information about the condition of those detained during the protests. According to the [statement](#), from November 28 to December 10, the Public Defender and its representatives visited 327 individuals who were detained and injured during the demonstrations. Out of these, 225 reported ill-treatment, and 157 had visible injuries. The Public Defender [called on](#) the Special Investigation Service to carry out prompt and effective investigative actions.

On January 27, the Public Defender [released](#) updated information on the activities carried out by the office during the ongoing protests. According to the statement, representatives of the Public Defender visited 401 detained individuals, including 15 women and 2 minors, in various cities across Georgia. During these visits, the Public Defender's representatives collected evidence of alleged ill-treatment by the police, which was forwarded to the Special Investigation Service. According to the Public Defender's January 27 data, **241 out of the 401 detainees visited reported police violence and visible injuries were observed on 163 individuals.**

A delegation from the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) visited Georgia from 18 to 29 November 2024. According to the official [statement](#), "During the visit, the delegation examined the treatment and safeguards afforded to persons in police custody, including those detained during the ongoing public demonstrations in Tbilisi." A delegation of the CPT visited Georgia on 21 and 22 January 2025 as well. According to the [statement](#) "The visit was an opportunity for the CPT to assess the treatment of persons remanded in custody at Penitentiary Establishment No. 8 in Gldani (Tbilisi) in relation to the demonstrations which have been ongoing since 29 November 2024. Further, the CPT delegation met the leadership of the Special Investigation Service (SIS), with whom it discussed the progress of investigations into reports and allegations of police ill-treatment of persons detained during the demonstrations."

The International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) together with its Independent Forensic Expert Group (IFEG) and the World Organization against Torture (OMCT) [conducted](#) a joint mission to Tbilisi from 10 to 24 December in support of GYLA, GCRT, HRC, and other

Georgian organizations. In the preliminary findings, the document among other things [indicates](#) that “the consistency of these testimonies, the recurring nature of such incidents throughout the three weeks of protests, and the lack of accountability for acts of torture and ill-treatment suggest a systematic and coordinated policy of repression.”

In the report issued on December 13, 2024, Amnesty International *inter alia* [indicated](#) that “the scale of the unlawful force and torture and other ill-treatment used by police suggests that these are operating under government sanctioned directives, and emboldened by impunity.”

On December 23, 2024, Human Rights Watch [pointed out](#) that “in widespread and apparently punitive acts, security forces have chased down, violently detained, and beat protesters. Police also tortured and otherwise ill-treated them in police vans and police stations.”

On January 28, 2025, the Special Rapporteur on Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial summary or arbitrary executions, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, the Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers issued a joint [press release](#). They [indicated](#) that “the scale of these allegations and the gravity of the harm reportedly inflicted on protesters and those later detained may constitute torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.” The [press release](#) further states the following: “The information we have received suggests that these incidents may not have been isolated and point to command responsibility.”

The systemic repression continues to this day and more detailed information on the methods applied by the Georgian Dream party is provided in the following chapters/sections.

1.6.1. Administrative and criminal proceedings against the demonstrators

According to the publicly available information, **as of January 31, 2025, criminal proceedings have been initiated against 44 individuals in connection to the ongoing protests and they are facing several years imprisonment as a punishment.** All detainees were [subjected](#) to pre-trial detention as a measure of restraint. In the case of six defendants, pre-trial detention was replaced with a less severe measure of restraint - on December 16, 2024, for Aleksandre Elisashvili (a member of the political coalition “Strong Georgia”) and M.G. (a minor), and on January 28, 2025, for the dean of Batumi Arts University (Mamuka Jorbenadze), and his students (Guram Mikeladze, Davit Gvianidze, and Giorgi Davitadze). As was indicated in the previous fact sheets prepared by IDFI, several individuals were criminally charged in relation to

the April-May, 2024 protests (when the Russian-style Foreign Agents Law was reintroduced). In [several cases](#), the first instance court has already issued the guilty verdict. (detailed information on criminal cases is provided in Annex 1).

As for the administrative proceedings, according to the Legal Aid Network of CSOs, out of the overall number of notifications received on the Network's hotline between November 19, 2024, and January 10, 2025, the initiation of administrative cases against 470 individuals was [confirmed](#). First-instance courts concluded the review of administrative cases for 200 protest participants and imposed administrative detention on 48 individuals, fined 93, issued verbal warnings to 47, and partially terminated proceedings in 12 cases. The courts have not fully terminated proceedings in any of these cases. (Please note that these figures only reflect information on the administrative cases in which the Network was involved as of January 10, 2025, and may not give the full picture, as other lawyers were also involved in such proceedings and during the whole month new administrative cases have been initiated against the demonstrators).

The Coalition for the Independent and Transparent Judiciary in its [statement](#) indicated that “the judiciary is an accomplice to systemic repression. The right to a fair trial for individuals arrested and imprisoned as part of the systematic political repressions that began after November 28 has effectively been revoked. This is confirmed by the substantial violations established during the hearings of the cases involving people detained under administrative and criminal law, as well as by the intermediate and final outcomes of these cases.”

1.6.2. Ineffectiveness of Special Investigation Service

Following the protests that began on November 28, the Special Investigation Service, which is responsible for investigating violent crimes and misconduct by officials, including torture and inhuman or degrading treatment, as well as unlawful interference in journalists' professional activities, issued its first [statement](#) on November 30. According to the statement, based on incoming reports and video footage broadcast by the media, an investigation had been launched into instances of law enforcement officers exceeding their official authority through violence against protest participants and media representatives. Additionally, an investigation was [initiated](#) into attacks by violent groups on TV Pirveli journalists.

Since then, the Special Investigation Service occasionally provides [updates](#) on the ongoing investigation, claiming that it is conducting all necessary investigative actions to identify the perpetrators; However, the Service has not detained any individuals in connection with these cases, and its investigative actions have yielded no tangible results. The only information about the [arrest](#) made by the Special Investigation Service relates to the arrest of a 46-year-old man

for the dissemination of the personal life of activist S.K. on social media, who was arrested during the rally.

IDFI [assessed](#) the Special Investigation Service's response, describing it as inadequate in addressing the crimes committed.

As of January 31, 2025, not a single law enforcement has been charged for committing crime(s) against demonstrators and media representatives.

1.7. Initiative of Irakli Kobakhidze on nomination for order of honor persons involved in the brutal crackdown

On December 20, 2024, Irakli Kobakhidze [announced](#) that 11 Interior Ministry officials will be nominated for the Order of Honor following Mikheil Kavelashvili's "inauguration". According to Kobakhidze, this [list](#) "includes the Minister of Internal Affairs, Vice Prime Minister Vakhtang Gomelaury, the First Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Shalva Bedoidze, Deputy Ministers of Internal Affairs Aleksandre Darakhvelidze, Giorgi Butkhuzi, and Ioseb Chelidze, the Director of the Central Criminal Police Department Teimuraz Kupatadze, the Director of the Patrol Police Department Vazha Siradze, the Director of the Tbilisi Police Department Sulkhan Tamazashvili, the Director of the Special Tasks Department Zviad Kharazishvili, and the deputies of the same department, Mileri Lagazauri and Mirza Kezevadze." On the same day, the Georgian Dream [promoted](#) Vakhtang Gomelaury to the position of Vice Prime Minister.

This statement followed the U.S. Treasury Department's [sanctioning](#) the previous day of Vakhtang Gomelaury and the deputy head of the MIA's Special Tasks Department, Mirza Kezevadze, for brutal crackdowns on members of the media, opposition figures, and protesters. Earlier on December 19, 2024, the UK [designated](#) five officials for serious human rights violations. The [list](#) released included the following individuals: "1. Vakhtang Gomelaury - Minister of Internal Affairs; 2. Aleksandre Darakhvelidze - Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs; 3. Sulkhan Tamazashvili - Tbilisi Police Department Director; 4. Zviad Kharazishvili - Chief of the Special Tasks Department; 5. Mileri Lagazauri - Deputy Head of the Special Tasks Department."

Furthermore, Irakli Kobakhidze [noted](#) that "if any official suffers any financial loss due to these sanctions, the Georgian state will fully compensate for this loss. This is not just a response to the sanctions, this is not just a response to an unjust decision, this is first and foremost a response to the worthy actions carried out by representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, this is a response to dignity and humanity."

On January 30, GD president, Mikheil Kavelashvili, officially [presented](#) the Orders of Honor to sanctioned individuals. The event was attended by GD Prime Minister, Irakli Kobakhidze, and GD Chairman of Parliament, Shalva Papuashvili.

1.8. Repressive legislative changes adopted by the “Georgian Dream” in response to the constant protests

On December 13, 2024, alarming amendments were [adopted](#) in the third reading to the Administrative Offences Code of Georgia and Law of Georgia on Assemblies and Demonstrations in an expedited manner. These changes created new threats to freedom of assembly, further reflecting the Georgian Dream party’s intent to suppress ongoing protests. Key provisions [include](#) granting police authority for preventive detentions, blanket bans on face-covering (including covering face with masks for protection against special police measures (e.g., tear gas)) at protests, restrictions on pyrotechnics and laser devices, and harsher penalties for offenses already foreseen by the Code. IDFI [responded](#) to the legislative changes, stating that their sole purpose is to intimidate society, which highlights the Georgian Dream’s authoritarian tendencies. Amnesty International [described](#) these legislative changes as “draconian laws to suppress peaceful dissent”. (The information about the application of those changes in practice is provided in the following chapter/sections.) By letter dated 23 December 2024, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe [requested](#) an urgent opinion of the Venice Commission on the amendments to the Code of Administrative Offences and the Law of Georgia on Assemblies and Demonstrations.

The public servants and the public service as a whole also became the target of the repressive measures. After the initial introduction of the Russian-style Foreign Agents Law, public servants [began](#) to criticize the actions of the government. This process [intensified](#) following the Georgian Dream's [decision](#) announced on November 28, 2024. In response, representatives of the Georgian Dream resorted to threats against public servants. Irakli Kobakhidze [stated](#) that they would react accordingly to the actions of public servants. Kakha Kaladze, meanwhile, [dubbed](#) this process as “self-lustration” and linked it to the planned reorganization in the Tbilisi City Hall. On 9 December 2024, Mamuka Mdinaradze [announced](#) legislative amendments, which were adopted in the third reading on December 13. The legislative package significantly reduces the independence of public servants.

Under the [changes](#), public servants dismissed due to reorganization are unconditionally removed from their positions without the possibility of being reassigned to other public offices. Additionally, dismissed employees cannot secure reinstatement through the courts, as legal challenges to dismissal decisions do not suspend their enforcement. Even if a court rules in the

employee's favor, they will not be reinstated but instead receive compensation equal to only three months of their salary. The amendments also grant public institution heads the authority to alter performance evaluations of employees prepared by their direct supervisors, increasing the potential for undue pressure on both employees and their direct supervisors. Furthermore, heads and deputies of the primary structural unit of a public institution will now be employed under administrative contracts tied to the term of the head of the institution. Once the head's term ends, these contracts will automatically terminate, resulting in the dismissal of senior officials. This change removes key legal guarantees previously afforded to public servants under the Law. According to [IDFI](#), the primary aim of these legislative changes is to intimidate public servants.

It is noteworthy that the above-mentioned repressive amendments were signed into law by Georgian Dream's "[elected](#)" president, Mikheil Kavelashvili, on the day of his "inauguration", December 29, 2024.

Since late December, public servants have [begun](#) speaking out about the ongoing repressions. Employees in dozens of public institutions have experienced politically motivated pressure in various forms.

Civil society organizations have [issued](#) a joint statement linking the aforementioned amendments to numerous recent dismissals of public officials, raising serious concerns about their implications for the independence and functioning of Georgia's public sector.

New cases of dismissal of public servants are reported almost daily, for instance on January 21, Georgian Parliament Research Center employees Salome Natroshvili, Mariam Chachua, and Nini Lezhava [released](#) a joint statement revealing that the Center's director, Ekaterine Kardava, had notified the staff of plans to shut down the Center. The employees alleged that the decision was a form of retaliation for their public criticism of the Georgian Dream party's choice to suspend EU accession negotiations until 2028.

On January 31, GYLA [issued](#) a statement stating that the GD Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maka Bochorishvili, made unlawful and unconstitutional amendments to the Rules for Conducting Diplomatic Service, thereby fully subordinating the diplomatic service to party interests. According to GYLA, the repressive changes are a response to the [open criticism](#) of GD's actions by the employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, aiming to continue the ongoing repression against public servants.

1.9. Amendments to the Election Code of Georgia

In addition to the repressive legislative amendments indicated above, in December 2024, the Georgian Dream Parliament initiated and adopted amendments to the Election Code of Georgia.

The Spokesperson on Local and Regional Elections of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, Stewart Dickson (United Kingdom, ILDG), has made the following [statement](#): “I am concerned about the proposed amendments to the Electoral Code on the electoral system which are being considered through an expedited procedure in the Parliament of Georgia. If adopted, these amendments, planned to be implemented in the 2025 local elections, would reduce the share of councillors elected in the municipal councils via a proportional system, while increasing the number of majoritarian members, thus partially returning to the situation of 2017.”

On December 19, the International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED) [issued](#) a statement on the “illegitimate” GD parliament's hasty adoption of amendments to the Electoral Code. According to [ISFED](#) with these amendments, the GD party abolishes all the changes in the municipal electoral system that were adopted in 2021, according to the political agreement between the political parties, mediated by the President of the European Council, Charles Michel. “These changes are another example of how the Georgian Dream uses the legislative process to pursue its narrow political interests and maintain power at all costs” - is highlighted in the [statement](#).

By letter dated 23 December 2024, the President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, [requested](#) an opinion of the Venice Commission on the amendments to the Organic Law "Election Code of Georgia", concerning the local elections.

The Central Election Commission [scheduled](#) the municipal elections (elections for the municipality's representative body - the Sakrebulo - and for the mayor of the self-governing city/community) for October 4, 2025.

2. Ongoing protests across the country continue despite systemic repression

Despite the implementation of various repressive systemic mechanisms by the Georgian Dream Party, the protests continued throughout January. The protesters have two main demands: **1. Release of all detainees; 2. Holding of new elections.**

In addition to the daily gatherings in front of the parliament building (Tbilisi), protests also take place in other cities. Moreover, various marches/gatherings are held during the days and the

daily gatherings in front of the “Public Broadcaster” against propaganda continue. Students of different universities join the protest through different forms. More detailed information on daily protests in English can be found on Civil.GE’s Live blog - [Resistance 2025](#).

This chapter will focus on major incidents that occurred during the recent phase of the protests and the forms of repression faced by the participants and media. The list of issues covered in this part is not exhaustive since many things happen during the course of a day. More detailed day-by-day information on repression can be found in English on Civil.GE's other Live Blog - [Chronicle of Repression](#).

2.1. Developments in Batumi

After Tbilisi, Batumi stands out as the city with the most widespread protests. Back in December of 2024, several activists in Batumi were [fined](#) during protests. The demonstrations in Batumi continued in January as well, taking various forms, including at a New Year’s [event](#) organized by the Batumi City Hall. Tensions in Batumi escalated on January 11. During a protest, police [arrested](#) around ten activists. According to the police, one of the participants, Tsiala Katamidze, was initially detained for placing a sticker reading “Go on Strike” on an officer’s uniform. Another detainee was Mate Tsenteradze, a student and activist, who protested by placing posters on the road alongside other demonstrators.

The arrests of demonstrators in Batumi continued on January 12 as well. During a protest near the Constitutional Court building, at least eight individuals were [detained](#) under administrative charges, including Guram Murvanidze, a cameraman for the online media outlet “Batumelebi”. Eight individuals arrested on January 11–12 were sentenced to administrative detention, including Guram Murvanidze, who was [sentenced](#) to 8 days of detention, and Shushana Matshaberidze who was [sentenced](#) to 12 days of administrative detention.

On January 12, 2025, politicians Elene Khoshtaria and Giorgi Kirtadze were also arrested, however, after several hours they were [released](#). (As of January 31, both of them formally still hold the MP mandate, although they together with other members of the opposition wrote a statement on the refusal of the mandate.)

At the press conference [held](#) on January 23, 2025, it became known that the cameraman of “Batumelebi” - Guram Murvanidze, who was arrested on January 12, 2025, was given his personal belongings back, including his phone, which no longer had dual protection. The phone had been completely wiped clean, the Apple accounts he had previously used were no longer registered on the phone, and the system was in zero mode and initially [requested](#) configuration as a new phone.

On the night of January 29, protesters in Batumi [set up](#) a large tent on the sidewalk near the Constitutional Court, which was forcibly [removed](#) by the police. In response, they brought two smaller tents and, despite police resistance, managed to set them up, spending the night inside. The protesters are demanding not only new elections and the release of political prisoners but also granting official victim status for Mzia Amaghlobeli, the founder of Batumelebi and Netgazeti, as well as the dismissal of Batumi police chief Irakli Dgebuadze. Twice during the night, the Special Task Forces of MIA were [seen](#) on nearby streets, but they did not approach the demonstrators.

2.1.1. Case of Mzia Amaghlobeli

On January 11, 2025, outside the Batumi police station, Mzia Amaghlobeli, founder and director of media organizations - Batumelebi and Netgazeti, was also [arrested](#). She was detained for placing a poster reading "Georgia on Strike" on the building. That same night, five of the ten arrested individuals, including Mzia Amaghlobeli, were [released](#). However, shortly thereafter, police [arrested](#) Amaghlobeli for the second time.

For a certain period, her lawyer was not allowed to visit her. It was later [revealed](#) that Mzia Amaghlobeli had been detained under criminal charges for allegedly assaulting a police officer and she was [sentenced](#) to pre-trial detention by Batumi City Court Judge Nino Sakhelashvili. A [video](#) spread by propaganda media outlets shows Amaghlobeli lightly slapping Batumi Police Chief Irakli Dgebuadze with her left hand.

On January 15, Amaghlobeli was visited in detention by the chairperson of GYLA, who [stated](#) that Amaghlobeli reported being subjected to degrading treatment by Dgebuadze. Specifically, after her second arrest, Dgebuadze verbally abused her, attempted to physically attack her, and, in one instance, spat in her face. Additionally, Amaghlobeli was reportedly denied access to drinking water and bathroom facilities for an extended period. It was also [revealed](#) that Amaghlobeli has been on a hunger strike since her detention. The Special Investigation Service has started an investigation, however, the request to suspend the authority of Irakli Dgebuadze is still pending.

Different Georgian CSOs (including [IDFI](#)) published analyses concerning the Mzia Amaghlobeli case, indicating that she is being subjected to political persecution, as her actions do not qualify as a crime under criminal law, which is confirmed by the case law of domestic courts.

On January 21, the Public Defender visited Mzia Amaghlobeli, where, according to his [statement](#), they discussed the alleged instances of her ill-treatment. The Public Defender also expressed hope that the Court of Appeals would consider the amicus curiae submitted by him and apply a proportional measure of restraint in her case.

On January 21, the Kutaisi Court of Appeals [did not admit](#) the appeal regarding the change of pre-trial detention for Mzia Amaghlobeli.

The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Michael O’Flaherty, after the visit to Georgia from 21 to 23 January 2025, in the [statement](#) *inter alia* indicated the following: “Without prejudice to any future decision on the merits of the charges against her, I believe that the continuation of her pre-trial detention is unjustified and I am very concerned about her situation.”

On January 27, 2025, GYLA, as an organization defending her rights [called on](#): 1. The Ministry of Justice to immediately make a statement and periodically provide the public with information about the health condition of Mzia Amaghlobeli; 2. The Prosecutor's Office of Georgia - to immediately terminate the case of illegal charges against Mzia Amaghlobeli and apply the court to change the measure of restraint, since Mzia Amaghlobeli's actions do not contain signs of a crime; 3. The Special Investigation Service - to inform the public about the stage of the case of degrading treatment of Mzia Amaghlobeli and why the authority of the Chief of Batumi Police, Irakli Dgebuadze, has not been suspended.

The Special Penitentiary Service issued its [first statement](#) on January 27, 2025 (on the 16th day since Mzia Amaghlobeli started a hunger strike). The statement [says](#) that Amaghlobeli is under the constant supervision of medical personnel, is also under video surveillance, and is provided with "all necessary medical services." The statement does not indicate information about Amaghlobeli’s health condition, nor is the information about her treatment specified. According to her friends and colleagues, she has several types of [chronic diseases](#).

On January 30 (the 19th day of her hunger strike) GYLA [announced](#) that Mzia Amaghlobeli continues her hunger strike, and her health condition is deteriorating. Additionally, the relevant authorities refuse to provide her lawyers with her medical records. GYLA expressed concern over the lack of access to this documentation, emphasizing that, according to her lawyers, Amaghlobeli is now struggling to walk the distance to meet with them. GYLA also called on the Public Defender to provide the findings of medical examinations conducted by their representatives and to request the relevant medical records from the Special Penitentiary Service, ensuring that copies are handed over to her lawyers.

On January 31, the Public Defender [announced](#) that representatives of the Public Defender’s Office, including a doctor, had once again visited Mzia Amaghlobeli. According to the Public Defender, Amaghlobeli is under intensive medical supervision, and her health condition is currently satisfactory. However, she had pre-existing health issues before her detention, and there is a risk of complications due to her hunger strike. The statement also noted that the

Public Defender's Office has received the latest medical examination results, which have already been provided to Amaghlobeli's lawyer.

Georgian Dream representatives commented on Mzia Amaghlobeli's hunger strike. Irakli Kobakhidze [characterized](#) her protest as a "[Mikheil] Saakashvili 2 scenario," denying her journalist status and labeling her a political activist. He emphasized that she had not expressed remorse for her alleged crimes. Kobakhidze also [stated](#) that responsibility for Amaghlobeli's imprisonment should fall on the foreign officials and diplomats who fund her and encouraged her violence against the police officer. Kakha Kaladze similarly [criticized](#) Amaghlobeli for not seeking forgiveness. Additionally, he defended Batumi police chief, Irakli Dgebuadze, calling him an honorable officer and thanking all law enforcement officers for "maintaining order in the country."

2.1.2. Case of Temur Katamadze

On January 11, activist and protest flag-bearer Temur Katamadze was also [detained](#) in Batumi under administrative charges for disobedience to a police officer's orders. Temur Katamadze is a descendant of Muhajirun and has been living in Georgia since 2012. Despite numerous attempts, he has yet to obtain Georgian citizenship. On January 14, the court [sentenced](#) Katamadze to 5-days of administrative detention.

On January 16, after completing his administrative detention, Katamadze was released from the Samtredia detention facility but was immediately [re-arrested](#). The legal basis for his detention is a reference to the immigration legislation. On January 18, the court [ruled](#) to keep Katamadze in custody for three months while a decision regarding his deportation from the country is pending.

In the letter sent to "Batumelebi" Katamadze among other things [indicated](#) that after the arrest he was physically assaulted by Irakli Dgebuadze and 10 other police officers. According to the information provided by his lawyer, on January 17 Temur Katamadze [started](#) a hunger strike.

It should be noted that other detainees also [pointed out](#) the physical and verbal assault by Irakli Dgebuadze (Batumi Police Chief).

2.2. Arrests in Zugdidi - activists defy the repressive legislative amendments

Protests are also taking place in Zugdidi, where activists defy the repressive legislative amendments introduced by the Georgian Dream party.

Activist and member of the political party “Droa,” [Mariam Sichinava](#), demonstratively covers her face and uses pyrotechnics. On January 13, police administratively [detained](#) Sichinava. At a hearing held on January 15, the Zugdidi District Court found Sichinava liable for administrative offenses and [imposed](#) a fine - 5,000 GEL (approximately 1,683 EUR). On January 16, Mariam Sichinava and activist Keren Esebua were detained. On January 18, Judge Phati Phurtskhvanidze acquitted Sichinava and her fellow detainee, Keren Esebua, on charges of disobeying police orders but [fined](#) both 5,000 GEL for using fireworks.

Following the detention of Sichinava and Esebua on January 16, police also [detained](#) teacher Manana (Miko) Mikava for using pyrotechnics. On January 17, Mikava was also fined 5,000 GEL, despite her claim that she used pyrotechnics in a location where no protest was taking place.

Despite detentions and imposition of repressive fines, Mariam Sichinava [continues](#) her protest and refuses to obey the repressive amendments adopted by the Georgian Dream party in December 2024.

On January 30, activist and protest flag-bearer Shalva Esartia was administratively [detained](#) in Zugdidi. According to one of the activists, he was arrested while arriving at the police station to collect the administrative offense report because he entered the building with his mobile phone and refused to hand it over to the police.

2.3. Developments on protests in Tbilisi

While daily protests continue in the Capital of Georgia (even during the holiday, the demonstrators gathered on Rustaveli Avenue daily and met the [New Year](#), and [Orthodox Christmas](#) together) different methods of repression are used against the demonstrators.

2.3.1. Detention and beating of Gia Jvarsheishvili

On January 11, disability rights activist Gia Jvarsheishvili was forcibly [detained](#) by police near Republic Square, Tbilisi. According to information [shared](#) on social media, Jvarsheishvili was beaten, necessitating his hospitalization.

On January 12, his lawyer [confirmed](#) that he was hospitalized and that his health condition was satisfactory. The lawyer also noted that the hospital staff suspected he had a concussion, so he remained under medical supervision, while the police refused to release him on a written pledge. Later that day, Jvarsheishvili was [released](#) on such a pledge. While in the hospital, he was [visited](#) by a representative of the Public Defender’s Office.

It is noteworthy that Jvarsheishvili had also been [detained](#) on the night of December 1-2, when he was subjected to severe violence. As a result, he suffered broken ribs, a concussion, difficulty breathing, and injuries to his face and body.

2.3.2. Protest and arrests at judges' corporate event

On January 12, a corporate event for judges was [held](#) at the “Babilo” restaurant in Tbilisi, hosted by Levan Murusidze, a sanctioned judge of the Court of Appeals and a member of the High Council of Justice. The corporate event [followed](#) recent decisions on January 10 and 11 to remand 19 people arrested during the protests in custody, sparking a backlash against the judiciary.

Amid the corporate party, citizens, civil activists, and parents of individuals detained during protests organized a demonstration outside the restaurant. Guests entered the restaurant through a so-called “corridor of shame,” accompanied by whistles and chants. Some opted to use the back [entrance](#). Shouts of “Slaves! Slaves!” were directed at the judges.

A total of nine individuals were [detained](#) during the protest. From around 23:00, Police, including Special Tasks Department representatives were mobilized near the restaurant. Police forces cleared the area of protesters, while the judges left the corporate dinner with police assistance.

On January 14, the judges of the first instance court [sentenced](#) seven of the nine individuals detained near the “Babilo” restaurant to administrative detention, ranging from 10 to 15 days.

2.3.3. Violence against Nationwide Strike participants

On January 15, Georgia [experienced](#) an unprecedented nationwide strike involving hundreds of companies across various sectors. Businesses, entrepreneurs, universities, and other organizations suspended work for three hours. Protesters gathered in central Tbilisi locations, demanding the release of imprisoned protesters and calling for new elections. The strike aimed to highlight the potential consequences of Georgia’s international isolation under the GD government, with protest banners appearing throughout the city and demonstrators assembling near key locations like Cafe Stamba, Republic Square, Chavchavadze Avenue, etc.

Notably, the nationwide strike did not pass peacefully as an [incident](#) occurred on Dolidze Street, where “Titushky” attacked participants of the strike. They physically and verbally assaulted the demonstrators. A [video](#) of the incident was also shared on social media. On January 16, TV Pirveli [reported](#) that the attackers involved in the incident had been identified and were

employed by the Tbilisi City Hall (including the [Director](#) of the Social Care Agency of Tbilisi City Hall) and the regional offices of Georgian Dream.

2.3.4. Detentions at the March against the police regime

On January 18, a march against the police regime took place from Sarajishvili Metro Station to the Temka Police Department. Police demanded the participants remove their masks, activist Guram Matskhonashvili lowered his mask and told the officers that he would not comply with the repressive law, after which police officers [detained](#) him. This led to the violent arrest of several other protesters. During the detention of one individual, the glass door of the police station was broken.

A total of six individuals were detained administratively: Mariam Paichadze, a member of the theatrical platform “Haraki”; theater director Guram Matskhonashvili; actress Tamar Chumashvili; and activists Sona Kalandadze, Roman Akopov, and Mariam Gilashvili.

A lawyer from the Social Justice Center who visited the detainees [reported](#) that police physically assaulted activists. In the police station, officers attempted to search the detainees’ phones. Guram Matskhonashvili was struck multiple times on the back of the head because officers did not believe he did not have a phone. Before this, Sona Kalandadze was verbally abused and pulled by her hair, as was Mariam Paichadze.

The police alleged that the activists broke the law by wearing masks and disobeying police orders. Notably, the detainees [did not refuse](#) to identify themselves, yet they were still arrested. Guram Matskhonashvili was [held liable](#) by Judge Lela Tsagareishvili for disobeying police orders and wearing a mask, and he was fined 2,000 GEL.

The Social Justice Center [stated](#) that the activists were unlawfully detained and that law enforcement used disproportionate force during the arrests.

2.3.5. Abduction of two persons after civil disobedience protest

On January 18, a civil disobedience protest was [held](#) in Tbilisi. Demonstrators [marched](#) towards Parliament, covering their faces with masks. In this way, citizens expressed solidarity with female activists from Zugdidi, who had been repeatedly fined for wearing masks and using fireworks during protests.

Later that day, two demonstrators were [abducted](#) near the Rustaveli Metro station by police officers dressed in civilian clothes. According to their [lawyer](#), the police mistakenly detained Rati Tkemaladze and Otar Kvaratskhelia, believing they launched fireworks during the protest.

Even though the police officers did not wear identifiable uniforms, did not announce themselves as police, and were not in Ministry of Internal Affairs vehicles, the detainees were charged with disobeying police orders and wearing masks. The court [imposed](#) fines of 2,200 GEL each on the two individuals.

2.3.6. Searching of homes of activists

On January 31, activist Dato Puturidze [was taken](#) by police on Vazha-Pshavela Avenue, and no contact could be established with him for several hours. The police forces searched his home, allegedly in connection with spray-painting activities. Another activist, Nikoloz Latsabidze, was [also taken](#) under similar circumstances while alone on the street and police officers searched his home.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs [told](#) Radio Liberty that the investigation into the case of public incitement to violence [Part 1 of Article 239¹ of the Criminal Code] is ongoing.

2.3.7. New repressive measure for criminal persecution

On January 31, roads of international importance were [added](#) to the list of objects of strategic and/or special importance based on a decision signed by Irakli Kobakhidze. This rush change followed the announcement of a rally at the entrance to Tbilisi, to be [held](#) on February 2.

It should be noted that under the Criminal Code of Georgia, seizing or blocking an object of strategic or special importance is a criminal offense (Article 222).

According to the Article 222 of the Criminal Code of Georgia, seizure or blockage of a broadcasting or communications organization or of a facility of strategic or special importance, which has disrupted or could have disrupted the normal functioning of this organization or facility is punishable by a fine or corrective labour for up to one year, or by imprisonment for up to two years. The same act committed jointly by more than one person or repeatedly is punishable by corrective labour for up to two years or by imprisonment for a term of two to four years.

2.4. Application of the new repressive measures stemming from the Administrative Offences Code

After the enactment of repressive legislative amendments, Georgian Dream chose to combat protests including through financial coercion targeting demonstrators. The repressive system imposes disproportionately high administrative fines on citizens for violations of various rules for organizing and holding assemblies. The most widely applied charge is the alleged unlawful

road blocking, which carries a fine of 5,000 GEL (approximately 1,683 EUR) - ten times higher than before the repressive amendments were introduced.

According to the law, it is prohibited to artificially block the roadway unless the number of demonstrators necessitates it. The police and courts exploit this provision to extensively impose fines on protesters. Dozens of individuals have already been summoned to court over protests held in December and January. Some [have been summoned](#) for multiple episodes.

According to Transparency International Georgia, numerous irregularities were [revealed](#) in cases of administrative offenses under the accusation of so-called “illegal roadblocks”. In addition, it is [suspected](#) that the state is improperly processing personal data in excessive amounts and in violation of procedures.

3. Physical assaults in public spaces involving GD members and so-called Titushky

Similar to the developments in April-May 2024, the physical and verbal assaults took place in connection with the ongoing protests. The subsections below draw attention to the incidents that occurred in public spaces involving Georgian Dream Party representatives and the so-called Titushky.

3.1 Physical assault in Abu-Dhabi

On January 12, Georgian citizen Lasha Gabitashvili posted a [video](#) on social media in which he called the members of the Georgian Dream Parliament - Irakli Zarkua, Viktor Sanikidze, and Gela Samkharauli - “slaves of Russia” and “traitors”. This led to an exchange of verbal insults between both parties. The incident occurred in a hotel in Abu-Dhabi, United Arab Emirates where GD MPs were on a private trip.

On January 13, another [video](#) emerged showing Zarkua and Sanikidze approaching Lasha Gabitashvili and assaulting him physically while he was having breakfast. As seen in the footage, the third person (later identified as Giorgi Gogoladze) also throws a plate at Gabitashvili. The [physical confrontation](#) was broken up with the help of hotel staff, during which Sanikidze threatened Gabitashvili with punishment upon his return to Georgia.

On January 16, Radio Liberty [reported](#) that since January 14, Zarkua, Sanikidze, and Gabitashvili had been in police custody and were released on January 16, with the court hearing scheduled for the following week. On January 22, Mtavari Arkhi [reported](#) that Irakli Zarkua and Viktor Sanikidze had returned to Tbilisi and were fined \$80,000. On the same day, Georgian Dream MP Mamuka Mdinaradze [confirmed](#) that Zarkua and Sanikidze were fined but did not disclose the exact amount.

3.2. Physical Assault on Giorgi Gakharia and Zviad Koridze

Giorgi Gakharia, the leader of the opposition party For Georgia and former GD Prime Minister, and Zviad Koridze, a journalist and the manager of the regional offices of Transparency International - Georgia were [physically assaulted](#) on the night of January 14. Both incidents took place at the Sheraton Hotel in Batumi. Zviad Koridze had traveled to Batumi due to developments surrounding Mzia Amaghlobeli, while Gakharia was there for court proceedings involving his party members arrested in the previous days.

Journalist Gela Mtivlishvili was the first to [report](#) the attacks, stating that GD MP and a member of the political council of GD Dimitri Samkharadze, Adjara's Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance Giorgi Manvelidze, and several others, [reportedly](#) up to 10 individuals first assaulted Zviad Koridze and then Giorgi Gakharia.

Giorgi Gakharia was hospitalized with a broken nose and a concussion. Representatives of the For Georgia party [blamed](#) Bidzina Ivanishvili for the attack, highlighting his prior [warnings](#) of reprisals against Gakharia.

Transparency International Georgia [described](#) the incident as a deliberate attack by the regime on a member of civil society. The Georgian Charter of Journalistic Ethics [condemned](#) the assault and demanded that those responsible be held fully accountable. On January 22, Zviad Koridze was [recognized](#) as the victim in the aforementioned incident by the Prosecutor's Office.

On the morning of January 15, propaganda media outlets released [video footage](#) showing Giorgi Gakharia throwing a disposable coffee cup at GD MP Dimitri Samkharadze. In another episode of the footage, Gakharia is seen beaten and unable to stand. Notably, the video was edited and disclosed in a way that it is impossible to understand the full context of the incident.

"People often talk about the duty to endure in relation to politicians. I don't know how this applies to politicians, I have my own views on this, but when you are called a 'Natsi' ["Collective National Movement"] and a 'spy,' you definitely have an obligation to endure. When they expose you and tell you that you are a 'Natsi,' you are a 'spy,' you must endure it. Gakharia couldn't tolerate it and received a corresponding response. He initiated a violent confrontation, which, of course, **was not left unanswered**. It is a natural, sad incident, but, naturally, it is understandable that there was a reaction to this. When you are a 'spy' and when you are a 'Natsi,' you have a duty to endure" - [stated](#) Irakli Kobakhidze on January 15, 2025.

Koridze and Gakharia repeatedly requested the Sheraton Batumi to provide them with the full video footage of the incident, but the hotel administration refused to comply. On January 21, the For Georgia party issued a [statement](#) revealing that they had been notified by Sheraton Batumi that the Prosecutor's Office had seized all recordings, including the servers, under a

decree. Mezvishvili, a member of the same party, raised suspicion that the footage may have been “destroyed or falsified”.

On January 22, Giorgi Gakharia issued a [statement](#) describing the attack as an organized and premeditated act of political revenge orchestrated by Bidzina Ivanishvili.

According to the information [released](#) on January 27, 2025, Gakharia was granted the victim status. “We demanded that Giorgi Gakharia be recognized as a victim for one reason only: to see the case materials and get acquainted with the key evidence - the video recordings. Today [January 27, 2025], Giorgi Gakharia’s representative went to Batumi to review the case. It turned out that granting the status of victim is fictitious. The prosecutor's office did not give us the opportunity to view the video evidence, using a false pretext of sending the recordings for expert analysis, despite having copies. We were not provided with the interrogation protocol of the crucial witness, Zviad Khoridze. Additionally, it became clear that nearly two weeks after the attack, only one insignificant witness has been formally questioned.” - is stated in the [statement](#) of the political party “Gakharia For Georgia.”

3.4. Attack on “Coalition Strong Georgia” Politicians

On January 18, Saba Buadze, a politician from the political coalition “Strong Georgia,” released a [video](#) and stated that he and coalition member Ramaz Mandaria were attacked near their office in Tbilisi. According to [Buadze](#), they were verbally abused, and stones were thrown at them. Later, another coalition leader, Irakli Kupradze, shared a [photo](#) of a knife, which he claimed was dropped by the attackers.

The Strong Georgia coalition released a [statement](#) the same day, calling the attack a politically motivated retaliation carried out with the help of “Titushky”. According to the coalition, police officers who arrived at the scene failed to conduct investigative actions to identify the attackers, including seizing the knife that was reportedly in the attackers’ possession.

3.5. Attack on activist in Gori

On January 26, Vakhtang Pitskhelauri [stated](#) that three masked men had kidnapped, robbed, and beaten him. “They wanted to kill me, I ran away.” - [said](#) Pithkhelauri to Mtavari Channel.

According to Pitskhelauri, they took everything, phone, keys, and wallet, and he [links](#) the incident to the ongoing events in the country, as he is an active critic of the “Georgian Dream” and its actions. An investigation has been [launched](#).

The Social Justice Center [released](#) a statement in response to the abduction and physical assault of Pitskhelauri. According to the statement, the violence against Pitskhelauri was encouraged by the ruling Georgian Dream party, aiming to intimidate opposition politicians and activists critical of the Georgian Dream. “This alarming trend significantly increases the risk of further violent incidents in the future” - the statement reads.

4. The Georgian Dream Party suspended the work in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

On January 27, 2025, the winter session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) [opened](#), with the October 26 parliamentary elections in Georgia and the post-election events being one of the central topics of discussion. The session also reviewed the PACE [election observation report](#), published on November 29, which questioned whether the election results truly reflected the will of the Georgian people.

On January 29, following political statements, PACE [adopted](#) a [resolution](#) calling on the Georgian Dream to release political prisoners by April 2025 and to announce new parliamentary elections. The resolution was adopted with 114 votes in favor, 13 against, and seven abstentions.

PACE emphasized that recent developments, including violations of freedom of assembly, repression of the opposition and civil society, and Georgia’s decision to suspend EU accession until 2028, contradict the country’s obligations to the Council of Europe.

The resolution outlines key demands, including addressing electoral deficiencies, ensuring a democratic environment for new elections, ending police brutality, investigating human rights abuses, and halting the misuse of legal proceedings against protesters. Additionally, Georgia is urged to repeal controversial laws, such as the Foreign Agents Law, and strengthen cooperation with the Council of Europe.

Consequently, the Georgian delegation’s credentials are conditionally ratified and until the aforementioned conditions are met, its members have lost certain privileges in PACE, including participation in key committees, eligibility for rapporteur positions, and the right to represent PACE in international bodies. According to the resolution, the situation will be reassessed in April, depending on Georgia’s compliance with PACE’s conditions.

In response to the critical resolution, Georgian Dream [announced](#) its decision to suspend work in PACE. This decision was declared from Strasbourg by Tea Tsulukiani and Givi Mikanadze. Later,

while commenting on PACE's resolution GD Prime Minister Kobakhidze [stated](#) that the European bureaucracy is in a very difficult state, as evidenced by this "absurd" decision.

ANNEX 1

Criminal cases against the demonstrators

One of the most repressive measures taken by the Georgian Dream Party is the opening of criminal cases against more than 40 people in connection with the ongoing protests.

The criminal proceedings have also been initiated in connection with the April-May 2024 protests. In total, more than 50 individuals have been subjected to such repression.

The purpose of this Annex is to provide information about these individuals and updates on the cases filed against them.

Criminal cases initiated following the rigged elections of October 26, 2024

In November and December 2024 and January 2025, criminal proceedings were initiated against 44 individuals. The compilation of information provided below **is based on publicly available sources.**

- a. Article 353¹-1 of CCG: Attacking a police officer - imprisonment for a term of 4-7 years **(8 persons);**
- b. Article 353¹-2: Harming the health of a police officer - imprisonment for 7-11 years **(1 person);**
- c. Article 225-1: Organisation or management of violence - imprisonment for 6-9 years **(3 persons);**
- d. Article 225-2: Participation in group violence - imprisonment for 4-6 years **(16 persons);**
- e. Article 187-1: Damaging or destroying property - fine, community service from 100 to 180 hours, corrective labour for up to one year, house arrest 6 months to 2 years, or imprisonment for 1-5 years **(1 person);**
- f. Article 187-2: Damaging or destroying property by: a) setting fire, explosion, or using any other universally dangerous means; b) repeatedly; c) by a group of persons - imprisonment for 3-6 years, with or without the restriction of the rights regarding weapons **(4 persons);**
- g. Article 126-1¹: Violence committed by a group of persons and/or against two or more persons - fine or community service from 180 to 240 hours or imprisonment for up to 2 years, with or without the restriction of the rights regarding weapons **(5 persons);**

- h. Article 260-6-a: Illegal possession of drugs in particularly large quantities - imprisonment for 8-20 years or life imprisonment **(4 persons)**;
- i. Article 156-2-a: Persecution of persons because of their political activities committed with violence or threat of violence - fine or house arrest for 1-2 years, or imprisonment for up to 3 years, with or without deprivation of the right to hold an office or to carry out activities for up to 3 years **(1 person)**;
- j. Article 18-229-1: Attempt to commit explosion - imprisonment for 4-7 years **(1 person)**.

Notably, as of January 31, 38 out of the 44 individuals are in pre-trial detention. In the case of six defendants, pre-trial detention was replaced with a less severe measure of restraint - on December 16, 2024, for [Aleksandre Elisashvili](#) (a member of the political coalition “Strong Georgia”) and [M.G.](#) (a minor), and [on January 28, 2025](#), for the dean of Batumi Arts University (Mamuka Jorbenadze), and his students (Guram Mikeladze, Davit Gvianidze, and Giorgi Davitadze).

a. Individuals Charged with Attacking a Police Officer

1. Case of Mate Devidze (Prosecutor - Ani Khubejashvili)

Mate Devidze is a 21-year-old student who was [arrested](#) on November 19 in Tbilisi. The prosecution alleges that he attacked three police officers with a stick. In a [video](#), Devidze can be seen waving a small stick at police officers, retreating, and attempting to flee. However, the officers chased him down and detained him.

Devidze [claims](#) that he was frightened by the aggressive behavior of the police, expected to be detained and physically assaulted, and instinctively waved the stick in self-defense.

On November 22, **Judge Davit Kupatadze** [imposed](#) pre-trial detention as a measure of restraint. On January 16, **Judge Davit Mgeliashvili** [upheld](#) the decision to keep Devidze in pre-trial detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 4-7 years.**

2. Case of Anatoli Gigauri (Prosecutor - Tamar Iakobidze)

Anatoli Gigauri was [arrested](#) on November 24 while on his way home from a protest. According to Gigauri, he was physically assaulted by a police officer while returning from the protest. In response, he pushed the officer to fend him off. Approximately 30 minutes later, while heading home, he was arrested. Gigauri recounts that the vehicle he was driving was surrounded by

police cars, after which he was subjected to further physical abuse. He also claims he was beaten again at the police station after refusing to change his bloodied clothes.

On November 26, **Judge Lela Maridashvili** [imposed](#) pre-trial detention as a measure of restraint. On January 16, **Judge Davit Mgeliashvili** [upheld](#) the decision to keep Gigauri in pre-trial detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 4-7 years.**

3. Case of Giorgi Mindadze

Giorgi Mindadze, a 21-year-old medical university student, was [arrested](#) on December 1 at a relative's house. According to Mindadze's mother, Nino Tsulaia, the MIA presented a photograph in court taken on November 29, showing Mindadze holding fireworks. He is charged with attacking a law enforcement officer using the fireworks.

Judge Teona Eptashvili imposed pre-trial detention on Mindadze. On January 20, **Judge Nino Tarashvili** [upheld](#) the decision to keep Mindadze in detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 4-7 years.**

4. Case of Davit Lomidze (Prosecutor - Ani Khubejashvili)

Davit Lomidze, a 53-year-old man, was [arrested](#) on November 30 on charges of attacking police officers with "Molotov cocktails". According to his lawyer, Lomidze was subjected to violence by police during and after his arrest.

Lomidze [told](#) his lawyer that after his arrest, his hands were tied behind his back with plastic restraints, and he was placed in a minibus where he was physically assaulted. He also claims that his personal belongings were stolen by the officers. Initially, he was detained under administrative procedures, but after the 48-hour administrative detention period expired and he was supposed to be released, he was informed that he had been charged under criminal law and was kept in custody.

On January 30, Davit Lomidze's son [stated](#) that Davit Lomidze's health condition is severe due to police violence. According to him, over the past two weeks, his condition has worsened significantly, and he is unable to get out of bed. Notably, David Lomidze did not attend the court hearing on January 21, which his lawyer explained referring to his critical health condition.

On December 4, **Judge Nana Shamatava** imposed pre-trial detention. On January 21, **Judge Nato Khujadze** [upheld](#) the decision to keep Lomidze in detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 4-7 years.**

5. Case of Teimuraz Zasokhashvili (Prosecutor - Ani Khubejashvili)

Teimuraz Zasokhashvili was [arrested](#) on November 30, accused of throwing a “Molotov cocktail” at a police officer. He was reportedly severely beaten during and after his arrest. According to his lawyer, Zasokhashvili was in such poor condition that he could barely stand during the court hearing. The lawyer also stated that after Zasokhashvili’s detention, police denied him access to Zasokhashvili, allowing communication only the following day.

On December 4, Judge Nana Shamatava [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on Zakhosashvili. On January 21, Judge Nato Khujadze [upheld](#) the decision to keep Zasokhashvili in detention.

Possible term of imprisonment: 4-7 years.

6. Case of Anri (Anzor) Kvaratskhelia (Prosecutor - Roin Khintibidze)

Anri Kvaratskhelia, a 25-year-old man, was [arrested](#) on December 5 at his home. The prosecution alleges that he attacked a police officer and threw a “Molotov cocktail”.

Before his arrest, Kvaratskhelia’s residence was searched. His wife, Nutsa Eremiani, [told](#) Radio Liberty that police attempted to enter their home under false pretenses and later subjected her, Anri, and Anri’s sister to physical violence. She also recounted that, two weeks after the incident, she began experiencing respiratory issues and fainting spells. During a visit to the doctor, she was informed that she had suffered a miscarriage at three weeks due to stress.

On December 7, Judge Davit Mgeliashvili [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on Kvaratskhelia. On January 29, Judge Nino Tarashvili [upheld](#) the decision to keep Kvaratskhelia in detention.

Possible term of imprisonment: 4-7 years.

7. Case of Saba Jikia (Prosecutor - Roin Khintibidze)

Saba Jikia, an 18-year-old student, was detained on December 5. According to the [prosecution](#), Jikia kicked a police officer. The prosecution also claims that Jikia had a knife, but he denies the allegations.

On December 7, Judge Davit Mgeliashvili [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on Jikia. On January 29, Judge Lela Kalichenko [upheld](#) the decision to keep Jikia in detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 4-7 years.**

8. Case of Mzia Amaglobeli (Prosecutor - Vladimer Turmanidze)

Journalist Mzia Amaglobeli, founder of the online media outlets Batumelebi and Netgazeti, was detained on January 11 during a protest in Batumi for placing a poster on the building.

Though initially released shortly after her detention, she was [re-arrested](#) minutes later on criminal charges. Amaghlobeli is accused of assaulting Batumi Police Chief Irakli Dgebuadze, with pro-government media releasing a [video](#) showing her lightly slapping Dgebuadze. According to her defense, the incident followed severe verbal abuse directed at her by Dgebuadze.

GYLA later [reported](#) that Amaghlobeli was subjected to inhuman treatment while in detention. Allegations include physical harassment by Dgebuadze, spitting, and denial of access to basic necessities such as drinking water and restrooms. It was [revealed](#) that Amaghlobeli has been on a hunger strike since her detention.

On January 14, **Judge Nino Sakhelashvili** [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on Amaghlobeli. On January 21, the Kutaisi Court of Appeals [did not admit](#) the appeal regarding the change of pre-trial detention for Mzia Amaghlobeli. **Possible term of imprisonment: 4-7 years.**

b. Individuals Charged with Harming the Health of a Police Officer

9. Case of Saba Skhvitaridze (Prosecutor - Roin Khintibidze)

Saba Skhvitaridze was [arrested](#) on December 5 and later alleged that he was abducted and tortured by unidentified individuals. During his trial, he recounted being handed over by police to a masked group in Gori, taken to a facility in Dighomi, and subjected to severe physical abuse, including beatings with various objects. The prosecution accused Skhvitaridze of assaulting a police officer with an object, causing injuries that required hospitalization.

Skhvitaridze was uniquely transferred to Rustavi's strict-regime N6 penitentiary facility, unlike others detained in connection with the protests. His lawyer [described](#) the facility's unsanitary conditions and questioned the decision to house him there, suspecting it was an act of revenge.

On December 6, **Judge Lela Maridashvili** [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on Saba Skhvitaridze. Later, on December 27, Skhvitaridze was [fined](#) 2,500 GEL under administrative procedures for blocking a road during the protests. On January 28, **Judge Nato Khujadze** [upheld](#) the decision to keep Skhvitaridze in detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 7-11 years.**

c. Individuals Charged with Organisation or Management of Violence

10. Case of Zviad Tsetskhladze (Prosecutors - Vazha Todua, Giorgi Mukbaniani)

Zviad Tsetskhladze, a 19-year-old student and activist, was [arrested](#) on December 4 on charges of organizing group violence. A leader in the youth movement “Dafioni,” Tsetskhladze’s home was searched for several hours before his arrest, during which the MIA claimed to have found “Molotov cocktails”. However, Tsetskhladze denies these allegations.

On December 6, **Judge Irakli Khuskivadze** [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on Tsetskhladze. The same judge [upheld](#) this decision on January 11. **Possible term of imprisonment: 6-9 years.**

11. Case of Vepkhia Kasradze (Prosecutors - Vazha Todua, Giorgi Mukbaniani)

Actor and Lelo party member Vepkhvia Kasradze was [arrested](#) on December 4, charged with organizing group violence. The 53-year-old, a veteran of the Abkhazian and 2008 Russo-Georgian wars, is also an actor at the Tskhinvali Theater. Propagandist media outlets [claim](#) there is a recording of Kasradze discussing “violent plans”.

On December 17, reports [emerged](#) that Kasradze began a hunger strike and was subsequently transferred to solitary confinement.

On December 6, **Judge Irakli Khuskivadze** [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on Kasradze. The same judge [upheld](#) this decision on January 11. **Possible term of imprisonment: 6-9 years.**

12. Case of Vasil (Valeri) Kadzelashvili (Prosecutors - Vazha Todua, Giorgi Mukbaniani)

On December 4, along with Vepkhvia Kasradze, another Lelo party member, Vasil Kadzelashvili, was also [arrested](#). Kadzelashvili’s arrest was based on the same recording cited in Kasradze’s case, which allegedly contained discussions of “violent plans.” The recording, circulated by propagandist media, has been a central element of the charges against both individuals.

On December 6, **Judge Irakli Khuskivadze** [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on Kadzelashvili. The same judge [upheld](#) this decision on January 11. **Possible term of imprisonment: 6-9 years.**

d. Individuals Charged with Participation in Group Violence

13. Case of Nikoloz Javakhishvili (Prosecutors - Vazha Todua, Giorgi Mukbaniani)

21-year-old student Nikoloz Javakhishvili was [arrested](#) on November 30, accused of throwing fireworks at police officers. His lawyer, Sophio Gordadze, notes that Nikoloz is a DJ and comes from a socially vulnerable family.

The prosecution released a video allegedly showing a person covered with a blanket and the Georgian flag running with fireworks in hand and throwing them. However, the defense argues that the footage fails to meet evidentiary standards, as the individual in the video is difficult to

identify, and the recording is incomplete. On January 22, it was [revealed](#) that Javakhishvili began a hunger strike in solidarity with Mzia Amaghlobeli. On January 27, lawyer Elguja Avsajanishvili [stated](#) that Nikoloz Javakhishvili ended his hunger strike. According to him, Javakhishvili has lost 16 kilograms.

On December 6, **Judge Irakli Khuskivadze** [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on Javakhishvili. The same judge [upheld](#) this decision on January 11. **Possible term of imprisonment: 4-6 years.**

14. Case of Tornike Goshadze (Prosecutors - Vazha Todua, Giorgi Mukbaniani)

24-year-old Tornike Goshadze was [arrested](#) on December 4. He is unemployed, and his family holds a socially vulnerable status. According to Goshadze's lawyer, police forcibly entered Goshadze's home by kicking down the door during the arrest. After searching his house, they asked him, "How much are you being paid to attend protests?" He stated that following his arrest, the officers behaved unusually well and refrained from making inappropriate comments during the transfer.

On December 6, **Judge Irakli Khuskivadze** [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on Goshadze. The same judge [upheld](#) this decision on January 11. **Possible term of imprisonment: 4-6 years.**

15. Case of Irakli Miminoshvili (Prosecutors - Vazha Todua, Giorgi Mukbaniani)

On December 4, 19-year-old student and courier Irakli Miminoshvili was [arrested](#) at his home following a search. According to Miminoshvili's sister, the police aggressively kicked the door and shouted during their entry. His mother recalls that after the arrest, the officers told her, "Believe me, he'll be in better conditions in prison."

The prosecution's primary evidence against Miminoshvili is a video showing a masked individual in a black raincoat throwing objects twice, with other protest participants visible in the background. The prosecution alleges that this individual is Miminoshvili, accusing him of throwing stones at police officers.

On December 6, **Judge Irakli Khuskivadze** [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on Miminoshvili. The same judge [upheld](#) this decision on January 11. **Possible term of imprisonment: 4-6 years.**

16. Case of Insaf Aliev (Prosecutors - Vazha Todua, Giorgi Mukbaniani)

On December 4, 34-year-old Insaf Aliev, a Georgian citizen of Azerbaijani origin, was [arrested](#). According to his lawyer, Aliev does not speak Georgian and claims to have been on Rustaveli

Avenue by chance, without participating in the protest. He stated that he became upset after being sprayed with a water cannon.

The prosecution claims video footage shows a hooded man, identified as Aliev, throwing stones twice and periodically hiding behind barricades. The lawyer disputes the charges, arguing that Aliev could not have participated in organized violence due to the language barrier, which would have prevented communication with other alleged participants.

On December 6, **Judge Irakli Khuskivadze** [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on Aliev. The same judge [upheld](#) this decision on January 11. **Possible term of imprisonment: 4-6 years.**

17. Case of Giorgi Giorgadze (Prosecutors - Vazha Todua, Giorgi Mukbaniani)

20-year-old Giorgi Giorgadze, an IT student at the Georgian Technical University, was [arrested](#) on December 4. He faces charges of participating in group violence.

On December 6, **Judge Irakli Khuskivadze** [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on Giorgadze. The same judge [upheld](#) this decision on January 11. **Possible term of imprisonment: 4-6 years.**

18. Case of Andro Chichinadze (Prosecutors - Vazha Todua, Giorgi Mukbaniani)

On December 4, 28-year-old actor Andro Chichinadze was [arrested](#) at his home on charges of participating in group violence during pro-European protests. Before his arrest, police searched his home, seizing electronic devices, including his phone. The prosecution presented three videos as evidence, reportedly filmed by police with high-resolution cameras. According to Chichinadze's lawyer, Tornike Mighineishvili, while Chichinadze acknowledges appearing in the videos, they do not depict any illegal actions. The first video shows him throwing a half-filled plastic bottle, though it is unclear who or what it struck. The second shows him speaking angrily without audible dialogue, and the third captures him wielding a stick without evidence of harm to anyone. The case lacks a named victim.

Chichinadze's arrest sparked [protests](#) from the Vaso Abashidze Theater, where he performs, including a strike and regional outreach performances. On January 20, Georgian Dream MP Mamuka Mdinardze [offered](#) to apply personal surety as a measure of restraint for Chichinadze if he confessed, but Chichinadze [responded](#) in an open letter reminding Mdinardze that he was speaking about an innocent person.

On December 7, **Judge Tamar Mchedlishvili** [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on Chichinadze. On 10 January, **Judge Ketevan Jachvadze** [upheld](#) the decision to keep Chichinadze in detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 4-6 years.**

19. Case of Onise Tskhadadze (Prosecutors - Vazha Todua, Giorgi Mukbaniani)

On December 5, 28-year-old stand-up comedian Onise Tskhadaze was [arrested](#). The prosecutor alleged that he threw a stick and a bottle toward police officers, endangering their and others' health and lives. During the hearing, Tskhadaze denied any involvement in group violence and pledged to cooperate with the investigation. He also requested bail for himself and the other detainees.

Despite his assurances and statement that he had no intention of fleeing - emphasizing that he planned to continue living in Georgia - **Judge Tamar Mchedlishvili** [ordered](#) pre-trial detention. On 10 January, **Judge Ketevan Jachvadze** [upheld](#) the decision to keep Tskhadadze in detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 4-6 years.**

20. Case of Guram Mirtskhulava (Prosecutors - Vazha Todua, Giorgi Mukbaniani)

On December 5, 34-year-old Guram Mirtskhulava was [arrested](#). The prosecution accused him of throwing a heavy object at police officers, allegedly endangering their health and lives. However, at the time of his pre-trial detention, the prosecution had not identified what specific object Mirtskhulava had allegedly thrown.

During the hearing, Mirtskhulava's lawyer Omar Phurtseladze questioned the prosecutor about the basis for the claim that Mirtskhulava had thrown a heavy object capable of causing harm, given that the object remained unidentified. The court session concluded without any answers to this critical question.

On December 7, **Judge Tamar Mchedlishvili** [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on Mirtskhulava. On 10 January, **Judge Ketevan Jachvadze** [upheld](#) the decision to keep Mirtskhulava in detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 4-6 years.**

21. Case of Jano Archaia (Prosecutors - Vazha Todua, Giorgi Mukbaniani)

On December 5, 49-year-old Jano Archaia was [arrested](#) on charges of participating in group violence. During his court hearing, Archaia emphasized his commitment to staying in the country to fight for its better future, citing his family - children and grandchildren - as his primary motivation not to flee.

His lawyer, Omar Phurtseladze, argued for leniency, highlighting Archaia's role as the sole provider for his family. The lawyer also pointed out Archaia's health concerns, noting that he had undergone a serious surgery a year earlier, requiring a specialized diet, regular medication, and ongoing medical supervision.

On December 7, Judge Tamar Mchedlishvili [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on Archaia. On 10 January, Judge Ketevan Jachvadze [upheld](#) the decision to keep Archaia in detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 4-6 years.**

22. Case of Luka Jabua (Prosecutors - Vazha Todua, Giorgi Mukbaniani)

On December 5, 20-year-old student Luka Jabua was [arrested](#) on charges of participating in group violence. One of the prosecution's arguments for his pre-trial detention was the claim that he might flee the country to evade justice.

In response, Jabua's lawyer, Rusudan Agurashvili, contested this claim during the hearing. She emphasized that Jabua's student status was suspended due to unpaid tuition fees, and he is currently working to support himself. Additionally, he takes care of his mother and a brother with health issues. The attorney further noted that Jabua does not possess a passport and has no close relatives or friends abroad who could assist him in leaving the country.

On December 7, Judge Tamar Mchedlishvili [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on Jabua. On 10 January, Judge Ketevan Jachvadze [upheld](#) the decision to keep Jabua in detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 4-6 years.**

23. Case of Ruslan Sivakov (Prosecutors - Vazha Todua, Giorgi Mukbaniani)

On December 5, Ukrainian citizen Ruslan Sivakov was [arrested](#) on charges of participating in group violence. During his court hearing, Sivakov stated that he did not participate in the protests but happened to be in the area as he lives nearby.

Sivakov explained that he came to Georgia for work to support his elderly parents and a brother who is battling cancer. He appealed to the judge for release, emphasizing that continued detention would result in losing his job and his ability to provide for his family.

On December 7, Judge Tamar Mchedlishvili [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on Sivakov. On 10 January, Judge Ketevan Jachvadze [upheld](#) the decision to keep Sivakov in detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 4-6 years.**

24. Case of Revaz Kiknadze (Prosecutors - Vazha Todua, Giorgi Mukbaniani)

On December 6, 26-year-old Revaz Kiknadze was [arrested](#) on charges of participating in group violence. A letter Kiknadze wrote from pre-trial detention was shared by his lawyer, in which he claimed that police [pressured](#) him to name politicians who allegedly funded and directed him. Kiknadze denied such accusations, stating that he was unlawfully detained. He began a hunger

strike, which lasted for 80 hours, ending only at the request of his mother, Maia Lekishvili, who had also [joined](#) the hunger strike in solidarity.

Kiknadze's lawyer told "Radio Liberty" that although Kiknadze was not beaten during his arrest, he was handcuffed for six hours and denied access to the restroom. On January 21, it was reported that Kiknadze had resumed his hunger strike in solidarity with Mzia Amaghlobeli. On January 27, lawyer Elguja Avsajanishvili [stated](#) that Revaz Kiknadze ended his hunger strike.

On December 8, **Judge Tamar Mchedlishvili** [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on Kiknadze. On 10 January, **Judge Ketevan Jachvadze** [upheld](#) the decision to keep Kiknadze in detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 4-6 years.**

25. Case of Giorgi Terishvili (Prosecutors - Vazha Todua, Giorgi Mukbaniani)

Giorgi Terishvili was also [arrested](#) on charges of participating in group violence. Notably, his brother, [Mamuka Terishvili](#), was killed by a sniper on February 2, 1992, at the age of 17 during a protest. According to Giorgi's [mother](#), he regularly attended protests to honor his brother's memory. She stated, "His brother fought for freedom and independence - these people are fighting for the same cause."

Judge Tamar Mchedlishvili imposed pre-trial detention on Terishvili. On 10 January, **Judge Ketevan Jachvadze** [upheld](#) the decision to keep Terishvili in detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 4-6 years.**

26. Case of Valeri Tetrashvili (Prosecutors - Vazha Todua, Giorgi Mukbaniani)

On December 10, Valeri Tetrashvili, born in 1997, was also [arrested](#) on charges of participating in group violence.

Judge Tamar Mchedlishvili imposed pre-trial detention on Tetrashvili. On 10 January, **Judge Ketevan Jachvadze** [upheld](#) the decision to keep Tetrashvili in detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 4-6 years.**

27. Case of Sergei Kukharchuk (Prosecutors - Vazha Todua, Giorgi Mukbaniani)

On December 10, Sergey Kukharchuk was also arrested on charges of participating in group violence.

Judge **Tamar Mchedlishvili** imposed pre-trial detention on Kukharchuk. On 10 January, Judge **Ketevan Jachvadze** [upheld](#) the decision to keep Kukharchuk in detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 4-6 years.**

28. Case of Irakli Kerashvili (Prosecutors - Vazha Todua, Giorgi Mukbaniani)

On December 6, 29-year-old doctor Irakli Kerashvili was [arrested](#) on the street, accused by the prosecution of participating in group violence against a police officer. According to his lawyer, Kerashvili does not know the individuals with whom he is allegedly accused of committing the crime. Additionally, neither the indictment nor the pre-trial detention hearing specified the nature of the alleged violence. The lawyer stated that the case includes a 4-second video that does not substantiate the allegations, as it does not depict any act of violence.

Judge **Tamar Mchedlishvili** imposed pre-trial detention on Kerashvili. On 10 January, Judge **Ketevan Jachvadze** [upheld](#) the decision to keep Kerashvili in detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 4-6 years.**

e. Individuals Charged with Damaging or Destroying Property

29. Case of Lasha Chkhaidze

On December 4, 43-year-old Lasha Chkhaidze was [arrested](#) on charges of property damage. In his case, the alleged crime scene was Mziuri Park, rather than Rustaveli Avenue or its vicinity. However, MIA linked the incident to ongoing protests, stating, “After leaving the protest rally on Rustaveli, the accused intentionally damaged surveillance cameras in Mziuri Park.”

According to the Prosecutor’s Office, on the night of December 4, the accused deliberately damaged three surveillance cameras owned by the Tbilisi City Hall Security Service in Mziuri Park, causing significant property damage. Investigative authorities released [video footage](#) showing a man walking through Mziuri Park, approaching a camera mounted on a light pole, and damaging it.

Pre-trial detention was used as a measure of restraint against Chkhaidze as well. On 20 January, Judge **Lela Kalichenko** [upheld](#) the decision to keep Chkhaidze in detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 1-5 years.**

f. Individuals Charged with Damaging or Destroying Property by: a) setting fire, explosion, or using any other universally dangerous means; b) repeatedly; c) by a group of persons

30. Case of Archil Museliantsi (Prosecutor - Ani Khubejashvili)

On November 30, Archil Museliantsi was [arrested](#) on charges of setting fire to surveillance camera cables. According to his lawyer, Dimitri Vardiashvili, Museliantsi was subjected to physical abuse before being brought to the detention center. Additionally, his right to legal representation was unlawfully restricted, and he was threatened after he refused to implicate opposition politicians who were allegedly giving him orders.

Judge Nana Shamatava imposed pre-trial detention on Museliantsi. On 22 January **Judge Lela Kalichenko** [upheld](#) the decision to keep Museliantsi in pre-trial detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 3-6 years.**

31. Case of Daniel Mumladze (Prosecutor - Tamar Iakobidze)

23-year-old Daniel Mumladze was [arrested](#) on December 9 on charges of damaging surveillance cameras on Rustaveli Avenue. Mumladze is married and has a 2-year-old child. He works as a waiter in a restaurant and is the sole provider for his family, relying on this income to support them.

On December 11, **Judge Arsen Kalatozishvili** [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on Mumladze. On 30 January **Judge Lela Kalichenko** [upheld](#) the decision to keep Mumladze in pre-trial detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 3-6 years.**

32. Case of Guram Khutashvili (Prosecutor - Tamar Iakobidze)

26-year-old Guram Khutashvili was [arrested](#) on December 11 on charges of damaging surveillance cameras. He comes from a socially vulnerable family. He is a friend and coworker of Daniel Mumladze. According to the prosecution, they, along with two other individuals, damaged the surveillance cameras installed on Rustaveli Avenue. Khutashvili's lawyer states that both Khutashvili and Mumladze do not deny that they were taking turns climbing the stairs and damaging the cameras in various ways.

Judge Arsen Kalatozishvili [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on Khutashvili. On 30 January **Judge Lela Kalichenko** [upheld](#) the decision to keep Khutashvili in pre-trial detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 3-6 years.**

33. Case of M. G. (Minor) (Prosecutor - Tamar Iakobidze)

17-year-old M.G. was [arrested](#) on charges of damaging property by setting a fire. According to the MIA, he threw a burning object towards the Parliament building, causing a fire to break out in one of the rooms of the building.

Judge **Eka Barbakadze** [replaced](#) detention as a measure of restraint with the placement under parental monitoring based on the motion of the Prosecutor. **Possible term of imprisonment: 3-6 years.**

g. Individuals Charged with Violence Committed by a Group of Persons and/or against two or more persons

Cases of: Mamuka Jorbenadze (34); Guram Mikeladze (35); Davit Gvianidze (36); Giorgi Davitadze (37); Andro Kakabadze (38) (Prosecutor - Paata Tsetskhladze)

In December, Mamuka Jorbenadze, the dean of Batumi Art University, and four of his students (Guram Mikeladze, Davit Gvianidze, Giorgi Davitadze, Andro Kakabadze) were [arrested](#). They are accused of participating in a group act of violence.

Mamuka Jorbenadze was involved in organizing a strike at Batumi Art University, and he and his students were active participants in the ongoing protests. According to the prosecution, in early December, a group of protest participants entered the university to hang a banner near the rector's office. The university lecturer Tea Tsaguria prevented them, which led to Mamuka Jorbenadze verbally insulting her.

The authorities further claim that later, Mamuka Jorbenadze and his students physically assaulted Tea Tsaguria's husband, Irakli Devadze, and his friend, I.N., inside the university building. According to [one of the students](#), Irakli Devadze verbally insulted Mamuka Jorbenadze, which escalated into a physical confrontation.

On December 11, Judge **Levan Kolbaia** [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on Jorbenadze, Mikeladze, Gvianidze, Davitadze, and Kakabadze. On January 28, Judge **Levan Kolbaia** [released](#) Mamuka Jorbenadze and his three students - Guram Mikeladze, Davit Gvianidze, and Giorgi Davitadze - from pre-trial detention in exchange for bail. However, one student, Anri Kakabadze, remained in detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: up to 2 years.**

h. Individuals Charged with Illegal Possession of Drugs in Particularly Large Quantities

39. Case of Giorgi Akhobadze (Prosecutor - Shmagi Gobejishvili)

On the night of December 8, doctor Giorgi Akhobadze was [arrested](#) while on his way home from a protest for possessing a particularly large amount of drugs. Giorgi Akhobadze claims that during the arrest, he felt something being slipped into his pocket, and he asserts that the drugs were planted on him.

It is important to note that since the spring protests of 2023, he has been actively opposing the policies of GD on social media.

During his court hearing on December 10, Akhobadze [spoke](#) about his mother's health condition, mentioning that he is responsible for her care, as she suffered a stroke, lost her ability to speak, and is bedridden. Despite this, he was ordered to remain in pre-trial detention.

On January 14, Akhobadze's mother [passed away](#). He was [given](#) a few hours' release from Gldani N8 Penitentiary to attend her funeral. During the January 23 court session, Akhobadze [addressed](#) the prosecutor, stating that by their decision to keep him in pre-trial detention, they increased the risk of illness and mortality of his mother and they had not allowed him to care for his most important patient - his mother.

On December 10, **Judge Lela Maridashvili** [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on Akhobadze. On 23 January, **Judge Davit Mgeliashvili** [upheld](#) the decision to keep Akhobadze in detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 8-20 years or life imprisonment.**

40. Case of Nikoloz Katsia (Prosecutor - Nugzar Tchitadze)

Journalist Nikoloz Katsia was [arrested](#) on December 8. Similar to Akhobadze, he also claims that drugs were planted on him. During his court hearing on December 9, Katsia stated that around ten policemen had arrested him and were verbally insulting him.

Katsia had been working with the "Coalition for Change" and was involved in planning their election campaigns.

Later, it was [reported](#) that Katsia was not being provided with food in the penitentiary, and other prisoners were using his personal bank account. This was [confirmed](#) by Katsia himself to a representative of the Public Defender. The Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA) [responded](#) to these claims, urging the Special Investigation Service to conduct a timely and effective investigation.

On December 9, Judge Tamar Mchedlishvili [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on Katsia. On 23 January, Judge Nino Tarashvili [upheld](#) the decision to keep Katsia in detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 8-20 years or life imprisonment.**

41. Case of Tedo Abramov (Prosecutor - Nugzar Tchitadze)

22-year-old Tedo Abramov was [arrested](#) by the police on December 7, 2024, as he was leaving his home, heading towards a protest on Rustaveli Avenue.

The Prosecutor's Office claims that during the search, 5 grams of club drugs were found in the front pocket of his jacket, which is considered a particularly large amount.

Tedo Abramov's lawyer, Gocha Jabanishvili, stated that the detainee denies the charges, has never been convicted, and has never used drugs.

Judge Irakli Khuskivadze [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on Abramov. On January 28, Judge Lela Kalichenko [upheld](#) the decision to keep Abramov in detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 8-20 years or life imprisonment.**

42. Case of Anton Chechin (Prosecutor - Nugzar Tchitadze)

Anton Chechin, a Russian citizen who arrived in Georgia after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, was [arrested](#) for drug-related charges. He had previously participated in protests against Putin in Russia, including demonstrations against the war in Ukraine.

Chechin was detained in the early morning hours of December 3, 2024, outside his home as he was heading to work. He is accused of purchasing and possessing a particularly large amount of drugs.

According to his lawyer, individuals without any identifying signs confronted him near his apartment building, forced him into a vehicle, assaulted him, and planted drugs on him.

Anton Chechin was also [subjected](#) to pre-trial detention. On January 28, Judge Davit Mgelashvili [upheld](#) the decision to keep Chechin in detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 8-20 years or life imprisonment.**

i. Individuals Charged with Persecution of persons because of their political activities committed with violence or threat of violence

43. Case of Aleksandre (Aleko) Elisashvili (Prosecutors - Zviad Gubeladze, Ana Metreveli)

46-year-old politician Aleko Elisashvili was [arrested](#) on December 4 near Freedom Square, outside the Courtyard Marriott Hotel, where a meeting of opposition politicians was taking place.

He is accused of persecution for political activity. Elisashvili was forcefully detained, sustaining injuries during his arrest. The prosecution alleges that on December 2, he attacked Ali Babaev, the chairman of the “National Congress of Azerbaijanis of Georgia.” [Footage](#) from surveillance cameras showing a minor confrontation between Elisashvili and Babaev was disseminated by propaganda media aligned with GD.

Elisashvili’s lawyer, Giorgi Rekhviashvili, [stated](#) that serious violence was inflicted on Elisashvili after his arrest, causing him significant pain. Elisashvili later [released](#) a medical examination report confirming he had suffered broken ribs.

On January 30, Elisashvili [stated](#) that he had appealed to the police to initiate an investigation against Ali Babaev on charges of attempted murder. According to him, the video evidence used against him actually depicts a crime committed by Ali Babaev, who chased him with an iron rod. He added that if not for the intervention of a woman who witnessed the incident, his life and health would have been in serious danger.

On December 6, **Judge Tamar Mchedlishvili** [ordered](#) pre-trial detention for Elisashvili. On December 16, **Judge Levan Gelovani** [replaced](#) the detention with bail set at 4,000 GEL. **Possible term of imprisonment: up to 3 years.**

j. Individuals Charged with Attempt to Commit Explosion

44. Case of Davit Khomeriki (Prosecutor - Vazha Todua)

25-year-old musician Davit Khomeriki was [arrested](#) on December 3 on Tamarashvili Street. The prosecution accuses him of possessing a “Molotov cocktail.”

According to his lawyer, it’s impossible to identify Davit Khomeriki in the video evidence presented by the prosecutor. Furthermore, even if the search protocol is considered valid, expert analysis does not confirm that the seized item was an explosive or flammable substance.

Pre-trial detention was used as a measure of restraint against Khomeriki as well. On January 22, **Judge Nato Khujadze** [upheld](#) the decision to keep Khomeriki in detention. **Possible term of imprisonment: 4-7 years.**

Criminal cases initiated in relation to April-May, 2024 protests

In relation to the protests against the reintroduction of the Russian-style Foreign Agents Law, criminal proceedings have been initiated against around 10 individuals (one of them has been pardoned by Salome Zurbashvili). The court hearings held in 2024 in connection with several cases raised suspicion that the proceedings have been [deliberately prolonged](#), precluding the possibility of pardoning the particular person by Salome Zurbashvili.

This section provides information **only on those cases in which the new developments were revealed at the end of December and January 2025.**

Case of Omar Okribelashvili and Saba Meparishvili

20-year-old Omar Okribelashvili and 23-year-old Saba Meparishvili were [arrested](#) in May 2024 during protests against the Russian-style Foreign Agents Law for damaging an iron protective barrier (causing approximately 400 GEL (around 135 EUR) in damages, which was later compensated) and charged for property damage committed in groups. The charge carried a penalty of 3-6 years imprisonment.

The court hearings on this case have been [rescheduled](#) several times, while on January 20, **Judge Natia Gudadze** [found them guilty](#) on charges and approved the prosecution's motion to finalize the plea bargain. Under the terms of it, Omar Okribelashvili and Saba Meparishvili were sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment, reduced to 2.5 years due to the Amnesty Act. Of this, 1 year was suspended as a conditional sentence, while 1.5 years were to be served in prison. Having already served 8 months, they will remain in detention for an additional 10 months.

Case of Pridon Bubuteishvili

20-year-old Pridon Bubuteishvili was [arrested](#) in May for allegedly damaging the Parliament gate (causing approximately 500 GEL (around 168 EUR) in damages) and throwing a stone at a firefighter, injuring his shoulder. According to [GYLA](#), "In the case of Pridon Bubuteishvili, the hearing was postponed for more than a month after November 14 - to December 26." On January 20, **Judge Zviad Sharadze** found 20-year-old Pridon Bubuteishvili guilty and [sentenced](#) to 5 years in prison.

Case of Irakli Meghvinetukhutsesi

On December 30, 2024, **Judge Zviad Sharadze** [found](#) Irakli Meghvinetukhutsesi guilty of assaulting a police officer and possession of marijuana in connection with protests against the Russian-style Foreign Agents Law, sentencing him to 5 years of imprisonment.

GYLA [responded](#) to this decision, noting that the verdict delivered on December 30 (the following day after the inauguration of GD President Kavelashvili) further strengthened suspicions that the prosecution and judiciary were intentionally delaying criminal cases of activists to prevent President Salome Zurbashvili from having the opportunity to pardon them.

Case of Giorgi Okmelashvili

The [suspicion](#) of deliberately prolonging the court proceedings was also raised in the Giorgi Okmelashvili case.

The prosecutor's office accuses Giorgi Okmelashvili of assaulting a police officer. He was [arrested](#) on May 15, 2024. Initially, the prosecutor's office also charged Okmelashvili with the first part of Article 260 of the Criminal Code (possession of narcotics), but this charge was [dismissed](#) at the January 15 court hearing (due to the Amnesty Act).

The verdict in Giorgi Okmelashvili's case was postponed for the third time. According to the available information, the decision is [planned](#) to be announced on February 3, 2025. (**Judge Giorgi Gelashvili**).

According to GYLA, the court already [delivered](#) the judgment of conviction on the cases of **Andrei Rautberg and Vazha Durglishvili**.