



**FACT SHEET PART 10**

**Sharp Democratic Backsliding and Continuous Systemic Repression in Georgia**

**The document includes major developments from July 29 to September 26, 2025**

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1. Ongoing protests across the country continue despite systemic repression</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1. Repressive administrative proceedings against protest participants continue	3
1.2. Mass administrative detentions on Rustaveli Avenue on September 2	4
1.3. Physical assault of protest participants by individuals from the GD election headquarters	5
1.4. Threat against protest participants with the use of a weapon	5
1.5. Stopping, searching of belongings, and detention of protest participants	6
1.6. New repressive measures against individuals fined for “artificially blocking the road”	6
1.7. Attack on the protest participant	7
<b>2. Adoption and/or initiation of other restrictive measures for the consolidation of the Georgian Dream's systemic repression</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1. Freezing of CSOs’ bank accounts in the framework of a criminal investigation	7
2.2. Application of repressive mechanisms by the Anti-Corruption Bureau against CSOs	9
2.3. The “Parliamentary Investigative Commission” has completed its work	10
2.4. Initiation of criminal case against Elene Khoshtaria	10
2.5. Initiation of new criminal cases against two opposition politicians	11
2.6. Adoption of legislative amendments simplifying asset seizure procedures from convicted persons and their associates	11
2.7. Repressive mechanisms activated against the critical media	12
2.8. Dismissal of public servants continues	13
<b>3. Updated information on the criminal cases initiated against the demonstrators</b>	<b>13</b>
3.1. Verdicts of the first instance court for individuals who have been in pre-trial detention since late 2024 and early 2025	14
3.2. Initiation of a new criminal case regarding an incident at Rustaveli Avenue	17
3.3. Initiation of a new criminal case concerning damage to the GD election banner	18
3.4. Nino Datashvili’s compulsory psychiatric examination	18
3.5. Concerns about Anastasia Zinovkina’s health condition	19
3.6. Concerns about harsh conditions in the penitentiary institution	19
3.7. Placement of convict Giorgi Okmelashvili in a closed-type penitentiary facility	20

## Introduction

For more than 300 consecutive days, the pro-European protests continue with daily rallies in Tbilisi and other cities of Georgia. The protesters have two main demands: **1. release of all regime prisoners; 2. holding of new elections.**

In response, the Georgian Dream continues systemic repression against demonstrators, civil servants, civil society organizations, media, political opponents, and other critical voices.

Considering the complexity of the situation 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, **covering the period from July 29 to September 26, 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. Ongoing protests across the country continue despite systemic repression

This chapter focuses on major incidents during the recent phase of the protests and the forms of repression used against critical voices. The list of issues covered in this section is not exhaustive and may not include all events that occurred during the specified period.

#### 1.1. Repressive administrative proceedings against protest participants continue

On August 9, Ioseb (Ioska) Jandieri (Sharinger), an active participant in the protest rallies, was administratively [detained](#) near the Parliament building. He was [arrested](#) on charges of “disobedience to police orders” and “petty hooliganism”. The information on what preceded the arrest is not publicly available. On August 11, Judge Zviad Tsekvava [sentenced](#) Jandieri (Sharinger) to **7 days of administrative detention.**

On August 17, at the end of the daily protest rally taking place on Rustaveli Avenue in Tbilisi, two participants of the demonstration - Zura Menteshashvili and Lado Berozishvili - were administratively [detained](#) on charges of “disobedience to police orders” and “petty hooliganism”. On August 19, Judge Nino Enukidze [fined](#) Zura Menteshashvili 4,000 GEL (approximately 1,260 EUR). Lado Berozishvili's court hearing was [postponed](#), and it is unknown whether the court has concluded the case.

As noted in the previous Fact Sheet, on July 24, an eviction [was carried out](#) in one of the settlements in Tbilisi, during which several individuals were [arrested](#) on charges of “disobedience to police orders,” including residents and participants of the ongoing pro-European protest who had come to support them. On August 5, Judge Koba Chagunava [fined](#) activists Mariam Mekantsishvili 3,500 GEL (approximately 1,100 EUR) and Sophio Markozia 2,500 GEL (approximately 790 EUR). On August 13, activists Nikoloz Tkemaladze and Vaso Beridze were each [fined](#) 5,000 GEL (approximately 1,570 EUR).

On August 20, activist Tamar Kuratishvili was [fined](#) 2,000 GEL (approximately 630 EUR) by Batumi City Court Judge Mariana Phomaeva for creating a stencil on the entrance gate of the Adjara Police Department, on the day the verdict against Mzia Amaghlobeli was announced, which read “A slap to the regime.” At the hearing, Kuratishvili [stated](#) that the stencil was indeed made by her, but that her action fell within the scope of freedom of expression.

On September 23, during a protest rally on Rustaveli Avenue, activist Isako Devizde was administratively [detained](#). On September 25, Judge Zviad Tsekvava [sentenced](#) Isako Devidze to **20 days of administrative detention**. On September 26, it was [reported](#) that Isako Devidze went on a hunger strike due to the conditions in his cell.

## 1.2. Mass administrative detentions on Rustaveli Avenue on September 2

On September 2, the hearing of the report by the “Parliamentary Investigative Commission” [sparked](#) a protest among citizens, who gathered on Rustaveli Avenue during the day. The police [began](#) detaining them on charges of “artificially blocking the road” and “disobedience to a police order.” [According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs](#), a total of 16 individuals were detained, but [Radio Liberty](#) and [Publika](#) reported that the number of detainees reached 22-24. One of the detainees, Luka Devdariani, [reported](#) physical abuse by police officers after his arrest.

Among those detained was activist Albi Kordzaia, who was [sentenced](#) to **12 days of administrative imprisonment** on September 5. Additionally, according to publicly available information, a fine of 4,000 GEL (approximately 1,260 EUR) was imposed on [Rusudan Maghradze](#), [Nutsa Maghradze](#), [Anuki Chrdileli](#), and [Luka Chokhonelidze](#). [Shushana Matsaberidze](#) and [Davit Gunashvili](#) were fined 5,000 GEL (approximately 1,570 EUR) each.

### 1.3. Physical assault of protest participants by individuals from the GD election headquarters

On September 8, the daily pro-European protest march was heading towards Rustaveli Avenue when, along the way, individuals at the election headquarters of Georgian Dream's Tbilisi mayoral candidate, Kakha Kaladze, located on Melikishvili Avenue, [attempted](#) to provoke the march participants with obscene gestures. They then [attacked](#) and physically assaulted the protesters, despite the presence of police at the scene. Numerous [videos](#) were publicly released showing the assailants brutally attacking not only the protesters but also [journalists](#). One of the videos [shows](#) a man striking a young woman in the face. The footage also [reveals](#) that at least one of the attackers was armed with a baton.

On September 8, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) [announced](#) that it had launched an investigation into the incident under the article of group violence. According to the September 10 statement, the MIA [detained](#) 3 individuals, two of them on charges of group violence, and one protest participant was detained on charges of property damage, with detailed information provided in Section 3.3. In previously circulated [footage](#), one of the individuals detained on charges of group violence, Irakli Buachidze, is seen holding a rubber baton, which he uses to attack protesters, and then tells police officers not to take it from him because he is “one of them.” The second detainee, Zaza Mamaladze, is the one who [strikes](#) Ketil Alaverdashvili in the face.

On September 12, the MIA [stated](#) that both individuals detained in connection with the group violence of September 8 had been released because “the victim activists did not cooperate with the investigation, and based on their testimonies, it became impossible to prosecute the two individuals detained on charges of group violence.” Alaverdashvili [clarified](#) that it is a lie that she refused to cooperate with the investigation during the interview. She [indicated](#) that she simply could not invent injuries to artificially aggravate the situation, as in the case of Irakli Dgebuadze (a reference to the police officer for whose slapping Mzia Amaghlobeli was sentenced to 2 years in prison).

### 1.4. Threat against protest participants with the use of a weapon

On September 15, a minor [threatened](#) participants of the daily protest march heading toward Rustaveli Avenue with a weapon. Protesters [reported](#) that a group of 5-6 people followed their march and verbally insulted them, prompting several demonstrators to pursue them. The minor entered a café and aimed a weapon at the legs of two demonstrators, after which the protesters [disarmed](#) him and handed both the weapon and the minor over to the police.

On September 18, regarding the incident, demonstrator Levan Jobava - who had disarmed the minor - was [questioned](#) before a magistrate judge. On September 19, it was reported that the attacker was [released](#). [According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs](#), he was released because an expert examination determined that the weapon he possessed was pneumatic.

[According to Levan Jobava's lawyer](#), the ongoing investigation into the unlawful possession of a firearm will likely be terminated. However, she [added](#) that a criminal investigation has also been launched under the article of violence, which explains the “provocative questions” investigators asked Jobava during his questioning. [According to Jobava](#), during his questioning, investigators asked him whether he had insulted the attacker or used violence against him. On September 21, the pro-government TV channel Rustavi 2 [released](#) footage of the attacker being disarmed and described the incident as follows: “The protesters are physically assaulting the minor and, through the use of force, are taking him out into the street.”

### 1.5. Stopping, searching of belongings, and detention of protest participants

On the night of September 10, at the end of the daily protest rally on Rustaveli Avenue, police [stopped](#) several participants, demanded identification, and [inspected](#) their backpacks and other personal belongings. In addition, police [placed](#) two citizens, [Natia Tokhadze and Eka Lomtadidze](#), who were wearing face masks, into a police car. [According to Tokhadze](#), Eka Lomtadidze handed over her identification document to the police officers, while Tokhadze did not have hers with her, but dictated her personal information. Despite this, the police [transferred](#) them to a police station and claimed that they were not detained but rather brought in “for identification purposes.” [According to Tokhadze](#), at the police station, their communication was restricted, the police searched their bags, and they were fined 2,000 GEL (approximately 630 EUR) for wearing face masks at a protest rally.

### 1.6. New repressive measures against individuals fined for “artificially blocking the road”

Based on legislative amendments adopted on July 2, 2025, and [published](#) on the webpage of Legislative Herald of Georgia on July 8, it was established that if a person is fined during a demonstration for “artificially blocking the road” and fails to pay the imposed fine, and then commits the same offense again, administrative detention must be applied instead of a fine.

On this basis, on September 17, Judge Manuchar Tsatsua [sentenced](#) activist Konstantine Mikaia to **10 days of administrative detention**. On September 18, Judge Lela Tsagareishvili [sentenced](#) activist Nika Narsia to **15 days of administrative detention** on the same charge.

On September 26, it was reported that the representatives of the National Bureau of Enforcement [visited](#) the home of Natia Letodiani, a member of the political party “Droa,” to inventory the items in the house. [According to Letodiani](#), the representatives explained to her that the matter concerned the enforcement of a 5,000 GEL (approximately 1,570 EUR) fine imposed on her for “artificially blocking the road” during a protest rally held in Batumi on January 31. Letodiani had [refused](#) to pay the fine, as a result of which her bank accounts were frozen two months ago. [According to Letodiani](#), the house where the enforcement officers came to conduct the inventory is under the ownership of her grandmother and grandfather. She further [stated](#) that a representative of the National Bureau of Enforcement explained to her that since she resides in that house and uses the movable property within it, an inventory of those belongings must be carried out.

### **1.7. Attack on the protest participant**

Nino Kalandia, an active participant in the protest rallies, [stated](#) that on the night of September 25, as she was returning home from a protest, she was confronted by an unidentified individual who physically assaulted her, verbally abused her, and threatened her because she was carrying symbols related to the protest. [According to Kalandia](#), she eventually freed herself and struck the attacker with her backpack. The assailant [fled](#) after other people appeared at the scene.

## **2. Adoption and/or initiation of other restrictive measures for the consolidation of the Georgian Dream's systemic repression**

The Georgian Dream and institutions under its effective control continue to announce and/or adopt further repressive measures against critical voices.

The following chapter aims to provide information about the recent decisions/initiatives aimed at further targeting media, civil servants, CSOs, political opponents, and other critical voices.

### **2.1. Freezing of CSOs' bank accounts in the framework of a criminal investigation**

On August 27, 2025, it was [announced](#) at a Prosecutor's Office briefing that, for a period of 12 months, all bank accounts of 7 independent Georgian CSOs were frozen based on a motion by the Prosecutor's Office, approved by the Tbilisi City Court.

The organizations whose accounts were frozen are: Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI), Civil Society Foundation (CSF), International Society for Fair Elections and

Democracy (ISFED), Sapari, Social Justice Center (SJC), Georgian Democracy Initiative (GDI), and Democracy Defenders.

The organizations' bank accounts were frozen within the framework of a criminal case, which, [according to the Prosecutor's Office](#), concerns "facts of sabotage, attempted sabotage under aggravating circumstances, assistance to foreign organizations and organizations under foreign control in hostile activities, and mobilization of finances for activities directed against Georgia's constitutional order and foundations of national security."

Prosecutor's Office [claims](#) that the equipping of protest participants with special means (gas masks, helmets, face-covering masks, medical masks, protective goggles, batons, and pepper spray) was carried out in a coordinated manner with the financial support of NGOs. In addition, the Prosecutor's Office [alleged](#) that the heads of the organizations called on protesters to be disobedient and provided financial protection to "violent protesters" and their family members, which was expressed by paying fines on behalf of offenders, providing for defense costs, and more.

On August 27, pro-government TV Imedi [broadcast](#) a list of items for the purchase of which the organizations were accused of organizing criminal acts. These items [included](#) a small quantity of safety respirators and goggles, raincoats, pepper spray, and others.

In the subsequent days, within the framework of the investigation, the following individuals were questioned (the list is not exhaustive): [Giorgi Kldiashvili](#) – Executive Director of IDFI; [Tamta Mikeladze](#) – Director of SJC; [Giorgi Mshvenieradze](#) – Chair of Democracy Defenders; [Baia Pataraiia](#) – Head of Sapari; [Nino Dolidze](#) and [Levan Natroshvili](#) – former and current directors of ISFED. Within the framework of the same investigation, the heads of two organizations whose bank accounts had not been frozen were also questioned: [Eka Gigauri](#), Executive Director of TI Georgia; [Nino Evgenidze](#), Head of Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC). Notably, within the same investigation, in March of this year, the bank accounts of funds financially supporting victims of systemic repression had also been [frozen](#) (as detailed in Fact Sheet Part 4). Accordingly, in addition to the above individuals, the following persons were also questioned in September 2025: [Lela Tsiskarishvili](#) – Chair of Human Rights House Tbilisi; [Aleko Tskitishvili](#) – Head of Human Rights Center (member organization of Human Rights House Tbilisi); [Nanuka Zhorzholiani](#) – Founder of Nanuka's Fund; and [Mariam Dolidze](#) – Chair of the Board of Shame Movement.

According to comments by those questioned, the investigation was interested in their [public statements](#) and [posts on social media](#), as well as in purchases made by the organizations of items such as [flags](#), [pepper spray](#), etc. **The organizations [explained](#) that these items were**



needed for internal use, to ensure the safety of their staff or [journalists](#), as evidenced by the small quantities purchased.

## 2.2. Application of repressive mechanisms by the Anti-Corruption Bureau against CSOs

As noted in Fact Sheet Part 8, in June, according to the publicly available information, eight non-governmental organizations were [served](#) with court orders issued based on motions filed by the Anti-Corruption Bureau, requiring them to provide various types of detailed information to the Bureau — a decision that the civil society organizations [appealed](#) to the Court of Appeals. The appeals were [rejected](#) by the Tbilisi Court of Appeals. However, the civil society organizations indicated that they will [continue](#) to protect personal data and sensitive information related to beneficiaries and third parties.

On August 15, six civil society organizations (Civil Society Foundation, Sapari, Transparency International – Georgia, ISFED, Social Justice Center, Media Development Foundation) [announced](#) that they had received another letter from the Anti-Corruption Bureau, accusing them of violating “FARA” threatening them with criminal liability, and demanding explanations as to why they had not registered as “agents”. On August 20, the Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC) [announced](#) it had received a letter with similar content. The civil society organizations [sent](#) individual reply letters to the Anti-Corruption Bureau, explaining why they considered the Bureau’s demands unlawful.

On September 22, civil society organizations [released](#) a joint statement indicating that, through the Anti-Corruption Bureau, the Georgian Dream party has begun a new phase of repressive measures against up to 30 Georgian civil society organizations. [According to the statement](#), civil society organizations, including IDFI, had received a letter from the Bureau on the initiation of monitoring under the “Law on Grants.” The Bureau [demanded](#) from the organizations extensive information in various categories related to their activities for the period from April 16, 2025. In response, the organizations [explained](#) why the Bureau’s demand violated the law. They further [informed](#) the Bureau that, following the entry into force of the repressive amendments to the law, they had not concluded any new grant agreements nor had they made amendments to existing ones. Accordingly, the initiation of monitoring procedures against them under the “Law on Grants” was [unlawful](#). This process is ongoing, and other organizations are also [releasing](#) information regarding receiving the Bureau’s requests for information.

The statement further [notes](#) that the Bureau is gradually filing motions with the court against civil society organizations. On September 17, the Tbilisi City Court [issued](#) an order against nine organizations, including IDFI, obliging them to provide the Bureau with extensive information related to their activities.

### 2.3. The “Parliamentary Investigative Commission” has completed its work

The “Parliamentary Investigative Commission,” whose mandate was “to investigate the activities of the United National Movement committed from 2003 to this day,” [held](#) its final session on August 4. At the session, a 430-page conclusion was [approved](#), which was [published](#) on September 2.

On September 26, the Commission’s Chairperson, Tea Tsulukiani, [announced](#) that by decision of the Georgian Dream party, the commission’s conclusion “will serve as the basis for initiating appropriate legal procedures at the Constitutional Court, the purpose of which will be to ban the political activities of the “[United] National Movement” and its members.”

As for the criminal cases initiated on charges of refusing to appear at the Commission session, on August 12, the Lelo party [announced](#) that the Court of Appeals upheld the 8-month imprisonment imposed on Mamuka Khazaradze for refusing to appear at the commission session. On September 5, Mikheil Kavelashvili [pardoned](#) the leaders of the political party Lelo — **Mamuka Khazaradze and Badri Japaridze**. Kavelashvili [linked](#) the pardon to Lelo’s decision to participate in the municipal elections on October 4.

Thus, the following individuals are currently serving sentences of imprisonment for refusing to appear at the Commission’s session: **Zurab “Girchi” Japaridze** (Girchi – More Freedom Party); **Giorgi Vashadze** (Strategy Aghmashenebeli Party); **Givi Targamadze** (MP from 2004 to 2016); **Nikanor Melia** (Akhali Party); **Nika Gvaramia** (Akhali Party); **Irakli Okruashvili** (former Prosecutor General and minister in various ministries from 2004 to 2006).

### 2.4. Initiation of criminal case against Elene Khoshtaria

On September 14, in solidarity with Megi Diasamidze (a protest participant facing criminal charges of property damage for writing an inscription on a Georgian Dream election banner (detailed information is provided in Section 3.3)), **Elene Khoshtaria**, leader of the Droa party, [wrote](#) the same words as Diasamidze, “Russian Dream”, on a banner of Kakha Kaladze (GD’s Tbilisi mayoral candidate). On the same day, the MIA [announced](#) that an investigation had been launched under the same article as in the case of Diasamidze. On September 15, Elene Khoshtaria was [arrested](#). Following her arrest, Khoshtaria [refused](#) to exercise her right to defense or to appear in court, after which the judge [appointed](#) her a state-appointed lawyer, with whom she also [refused](#) to meet. On September 17, Judge Arsen Kalatozishvili [set](#) bail at 5,000 GEL (approximately 1,570 EUR) secured by imprisonment (if the bail is not paid, she

remains imprisoned), giving a 20-day deadline for payment. Khoshtaria has [stated](#) that she does not intend to pay the bail and requests that no one else pay it on her behalf.

## 2.5. Initiation of new criminal cases against two opposition politicians

On September 11, the State Security Service (SSS) [arrested](#) Levan Khabeishvili, leader of the United National Movement (UNM) party. [According to the SSS](#), the basis for his arrest was the fact that he was making public calls on television and social media and “promising to bribe law enforcement officers.”

On July 25, Khabeishvili publicly [addressed](#) law enforcement agencies, particularly the employees of the Special Tasks Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, stating: “I am convinced that we can agree on this – each of you should receive \$200,000 as a reward if you do not participate in dispersing the people.”

These statements were mainly connected to the rally announced for October 4, where, [according to Khabeishvili](#), the “peaceful overthrow of the regime” was supposed to take place.

The SSS [considered](#) Khabeishvili’s statement as a promise of bribery. In addition, Khabeishvili was charged with calling for the violent overthrow of Georgia’s constitutional order or the removal of state power. On September 13, Khabeishvili was [placed](#) in pre-trial detention.

Another opposition politician, Murtaz Zodelava, who was with Khabeishvili at that time, was also [arrested](#). [According to the SSS](#), at the time of arrest, Khabeishvili handed his phone to Zodelava, who “attempted to flee to conceal the phone, during which he physically resisted SSS officers and assaulted one of them.” He has been [charged](#) with violence against a public official. As a measure of restraint, Zodelava was [granted](#) bail in the amount of 25,000 GEL (approximately 7,900 EUR).

## 2.6. Adoption of legislative amendments simplifying asset seizure procedures from convicted persons and their associates

On September 3, [legislative amendments](#) aimed at simplifying the procedures for seizing assets from individuals convicted of financial crimes and their associates were [adopted](#) in the third and final reading (a detailed description of the amendments is provided in Fact Sheet Part 7 and Part 9).

As noted in Fact Sheet Part 7, representatives of Georgian Dream [indicated](#) that one of the inspirations for the amendments was the case of Giorgi Bachiasvili, who has been [sentenced](#) to

11 years of imprisonment for allegedly embezzling \$39,215,820 worth of cryptocurrency and has been [ordered](#) by the court to pay nearly 9,000 bitcoins to Bidzina Ivanishvili as compensation.

On September 13, the Prosecutor's Office [announced](#) that, within the framework of the criminal case against Giorgi Bachiashvili, the bank accounts of his parents and the assets "acquired by Giorgi Bachiashvili during and after the commission of the crime" had been seized. [According to the Prosecutor's Office](#), Bachiashvili laundered illicit income through associated persons; accordingly, the investigation is also underway to determine whether his family members or other individuals were involved in the crime.

As noted in Fact Sheet Part 9, on July 11, Bachiashvili was [beaten](#) in his prison cell. Bachiashvili [claimed](#) that the assault was organized by Bidzina Ivanishvili in coordination with penitentiary officials. On August 21, the Penitentiary Service [stated](#) that, within the framework of the ongoing disciplinary proceedings, there was a reasonable suspicion "that certain employees of the Special Penitentiary Service, inmates under their influence, and convict Bachiashvili might have been acting in collusion." On August 22, the lawyer [released](#) Bachiashvili's response to the aforementioned statement, wherein he asserted that the narrative of him organizing his own assault was as absurd as the version of his arrest disseminated by the State Security Service.

On September 26, it was [reported](#) that the person (Kakhi Metreveli) whom Bachiashvili had accused of attacking him in his cell had left the penitentiary facility. [According to the Ministry of Justice](#), Metreveli's prison term expired, and no leniency was applied to him.

## **2.7. Repressive mechanisms activated against the critical media**

On July 29, TV Pirveli [reported](#) that Cartu Bank had initiated legal proceedings against the TV channel, demanding that it no longer be referred to as "Ivanishvili's bank" or "the oligarch's bank," since "the bank has no connection whatsoever with Bidzina Ivanishvili." [According to a representative of the TV company](#), the report in question, which prompted the bank's lawsuit, was broadcast in a news program and was based on a resolution of the European People's Party (EPP), one of the demands of which was the disconnection of Cartu Bank from the international payment system SWIFT.

On September 26, TV Pirveli [released](#) a statement denying the information disseminated by the pro-government POSTV, which [claimed](#) that "a room on the premises of TV Pirveli had been given to the 'Coalition for Change' for secret meetings where illegal activities were being planned." [According to TV Pirveli](#), the dissemination of such information "resembles the preparation of grounds to shut down the television's broadcast."

## 2.8. Dismissal of public servants continues

On August 12, it was [reported](#) that after 7 years of service, Alimi Kherkhadze was dismissed from the Kutaisi Military Hospital. [According to him](#), in November 2024, he joined a petition published by employees of the Ministry of Defense condemning the actions of the Georgian Dream party. Kherkhadze [stated](#) that afterwards, he felt he was no longer considered a desirable employee and had been preparing for this outcome, which eventually came to pass.

On September 8, Manana Marsagishvili-Eloshvili [stated](#) that she was dismissed from the Kazbegi Public Service Hall, where she had worked for 10 years, based on “incomprehensible” amendments to the “Law on Public Service.” She [links](#) her dismissal to her firm stance on Georgia's European future.

Various measures are also being taken against employees of the Georgian Public Broadcaster (GPB). On August 30, it was [reported](#) that GPB dismissed another employee, Meri Shikhashvili. On August 28, it was [revealed](#) that the GPB deducted 30% of one month’s salary from one of its employees, Giga Kitia, for delivering a speech at a rally on Rustaveli Avenue.

## 3. Updated information on the criminal cases initiated against the demonstrators

One of the most repressive measures taken by the Georgian Dream is the opening of criminal cases against **more than 50 individuals** in connection with the ongoing protests, while **no individual responsible for torture, inhuman treatment, or violence against peaceful demonstrators and media has been held criminally liable**.

Previously, criminal proceedings have also been initiated in connection with the April-May 2024 protests. In the first week of February 2025, the first instance court completed a review of these criminal cases and [issued](#) judgments of conviction for all persons detained under criminal charges.

For the individuals who were placed in pre-trial detention in November-December 2024 and January-March 2025, the court of first instance has delivered its verdicts (detailed information is available in Section 3.1). In the coming months, it is expected that verdicts will also be delivered in the criminal cases initiated since June 2025, where the individuals charged are placed in pre-trial detention.

There are also several other ongoing criminal cases where the accused individuals are not placed in pre-trial detention, including against 8 persons from the [February 2 rally](#). According to

publicly available information, no verdicts have been announced in these cases as of September 26, 2025.

### **3.1. Verdicts of the first instance court for individuals who have been in pre-trial detention since late 2024 and early 2025**

This section compiles information on criminal cases concluded in the first instance courts. It also includes information on verdicts provided in previous fact sheets.

**According to the publicly available information, as of September 26, the first instance court has delivered verdicts for 44 individuals, of whom 41 were found guilty and 3 were acquitted. Of the 41 convicts, 37 were sentenced to imprisonment.**

**a.** Article 353<sup>1</sup>-1 of the Criminal Code of Georgia (CCG): Attacking a police officer - 6 individuals were found guilty:

1. **Mate Devidze** was [sentenced](#) to **4 years and 6 months** of imprisonment by Judge Nino Galustashvili;
2. **Giorgi Mindadze** was [sentenced](#) to **5 years of imprisonment** by Judge Nino Galustashvili;
3. **Saba Jikia** was [sentenced](#) to **4 years and 6 months of imprisonment** by Judge Tamar Mchedlishvili.
4. **Anzor (Anri) Kvaratskhelia** was [sentenced](#) to **4 years and 6 months of imprisonment** by Judge Jvebe Nachkebia.
- 5-6. **Davit Lomidze and Temur Zasokhashvili** were [sentenced](#) to **4 years and 6 months of imprisonment** by Judge Nino Galustashvili.

**b.** Article 353-1: Resisting a police officer with the aim of obstructing the protection of public order or hindering, suspending, or altering their duties - 2 individuals were found guilty:

7. **Mzia Amaghlobeli** was [sentenced](#) to **2 years of imprisonment** by Judge Nino Sakhelashvili;
8. **Anatoli Gigauri** was [sentenced](#) to **2 years of imprisonment** by Judge Jvebe Nachkebia.

*Note: In these cases, the initial charge was “attacking a police officer” (punishable by imprisonment for a term of 4-7 years), but the **judges reclassified the charge.***

c. Article 120-1: Intentional infliction of minor injury - 1 individual was found guilty:

9. **Saba Skhvitaridze** was [sentenced](#) to **2 years of imprisonment** by Judge Jvebe Nachkebia.

*Note: In this case, the initial charge was “harming the health of a police officer” (punishable by imprisonment for a term of 7-11 years), but the **Prosecutor’s Office reclassified the charge.***

d. Article 226: Organizing group actions that disturb public order, or actively participating in such actions - 19 individuals were found guilty:

10-12. **Zviad Tsetskhladze, Vepkhia Kasradze, and Vasil Kadzelashvili** were [sentenced](#) to **2 years and 6 months of imprisonment** by Judge Tamar Mchedlishvili;

13-17. **Tornike Goshadze, Insaf Aliyev, Irakli Miminoshvili, Giorgi Gorgadze, and Nikoloz Javakhishvili** were [sentenced](#) to **2 years of imprisonment** by Judge Tamar Mchedlishvili;

18-28. **Revaz Kiknadze, Valeri Tetrashvili, Giorgi Terishvili, Andro Chichinadze, Onise Tskhadadze, Ruslan Sivakov, Irakli Kerashvili, Luka Jabua, Jano Archaia, Sergey Kukharchuk, and Guram Mirtskhulava** were [sentenced](#) to **2 years of imprisonment** by Judge Nino Galustashvili.

*Note: In these cases, the initial charge was “organizing (punishable by imprisonment for a term of 6-9 years) or participating (4-6 years) in group violence”, but the **judges reclassified the charge.***

e. Article 187-1: Damaging or destroying property - 1 individual was found guilty:

29. **Denis Kulanin** was [sentenced](#) to **2 years of imprisonment** by Judge Maia Kokiashvili.

f. Article 187-2: Damaging or destroying property: a) by setting fire, explosion, or using any other universally dangerous means; or c) by a group of persons - 3 individuals were found guilty:

30-31. **Guram Khutashvili and Daniel Mumladze** were [sentenced](#) to **3 years of imprisonment** by Judge Lili Mskhiladze;

32. **Archil Museliantsi** was [sentenced](#) to **4 years of imprisonment** by Judge Giorgi Arevadze.

g. Article 18-229-1: Preparation of an explosion - 1 individual was found guilty:

33. **Davit Khomeriki** was [sentenced](#) to **4 years and 6 months of imprisonment** by Judge Nino Galustashvili.

h. Article 126-1<sup>1</sup>: Violence committed by a group of persons and/or against two or more persons - 5 individuals were found guilty:

34. **Anri Kakabadze** was [sentenced](#) to **9 months of imprisonment (already [served](#) the sentence)** by Judge Viktor Metreveli;

35-38. Judge Viktor Metreveli [ordered](#) **Mamuka Jorbenadze to pay a fine of 20,000 GEL (18,000 GEL after deduction), and Guram Mikeladze, Davit Gvianidze, and Giorgi Davitadze to pay fines of 17,000 GEL (15,000 GEL after deduction) each.**

i. Article 260: Illegal possession of drugs in particularly large quantities - 3 individuals (citizens of Russia) were found guilty, 3 individuals (citizens of Georgia) were acquitted:

39. **Anton Chechin** was [sentenced](#) to **8 years and 6 months of imprisonment** by Judge Jvebe Nachkebia;

40-41. **Artem Gribul and Anastasia Zinovkina** were [sentenced](#) to **8 years and 6 months of imprisonment** by Judge Nino Galustashvili;

42. **Giorgi Akhobadze** was [acquitted](#) by Judge Romeo Tkeshelashvili;

43. **Tedo Abramov** was [acquitted](#) by Judge Tamar Mchedlishvili;

44. **Nikoloz Katsia** was [acquitted](#) by Judge Tamar Mchedlishvili.

It is noteworthy that, according to publicly disseminated information, **the prosecution appealed/will appeal to the appellate court all acquittals ([Akhobadze](#), [Abramov](#), [Katsia](#)), as well as the convictions in the case of [Anatoli Gigauri](#), in the case of [8 persons](#), and in the case of [11 persons](#) (in which the judges reclassified the charges). In addition, Anri Kvaratskhelia's lawyer [announced](#) that the prosecutor had appealed Kvaratskhelia's sentence to the appellate court. (This list may not be exhaustive.)**

*It should be noted that from the list of criminal cases related to pro-European rallies, 1 case (Lasha Chkhaidze) has been excluded, which had been included in the total number in previous Fact Sheets, since, [according to the lawyer](#), Chkhaidze himself denies any connection to the rallies (initially, the MIA [linked](#) this person to the protest rallies), and only very limited information is available regarding the case.*



### 3.2. Initiation of a new criminal case regarding an incident at Rustaveli Avenue

On August 16, the Ministry of Internal Affairs [announced](#) that in connection with an incident that occurred during a protest rally on Rustaveli Avenue on August 1, two protest participants, **Tornike Toshkhua and Mindia Shervashidze**, were arrested on charges of violence committed by a group of people, an offense punishable by a fine, community service, or **imprisonment for up to two years**.

The MIA released [video footage](#) of the incident and [stated](#) that on August 1, participants of the rally on Rustaveli Avenue engaged in group violence against former football player Beka Gotsiridze based on a verbal dispute. On August 16, Toshkhua and Shervashidze were officially [charged](#), and on August 18, Judge Eka Barbakadze [imposed](#) pre-trial detention on them. The case prosecutor, Nino Zhvania, [stated](#) at the court hearing on August 18 that the rally participants, about a dozen men, of whom only Mindia Shervashidze and Tornike Toshkhua have been identified so far, pushed, kicked, and knocked down Beka Gotsiridze, who had come to the rally.

[According to the defendants' lawyer](#), the former football player came to Rustaveli armed with a knife and insulted those present, which led to a fight. Several witnesses [confirm](#) the existence of the knife and [state](#) that the protest participants handed it over to the police. One of the witnesses, Mariam Darbaidze, [states](#) that Gotsiridze initiated both the verbal and physical abuse. A knife does not appear in the prosecution's case materials, and the prosecutor [denies](#) that the "victim" had a knife.

The defendants' lawyer also [noted](#) that before the incident, the former football player Beka Gotsiridze often published videos on social media where he openly threatened protesters, insulted them, and made calls for violence against them. He also [published](#) a [video](#) on social media after the incident, where he refers to the protest participants with offensive language and says that they attacked him, but he "wasn't beaten or anything."

Notably, on September 3, activist Mariam Mekantsishvili [stated](#) that Beka Gotsiridze attacked her and physically assaulted her.

On September 6, it was [reported](#) that Tornike Toshkhua ended his 21-day hunger strike, which, according to him, had been prompted by his unlawful detention.

### 3.3. Initiation of a new criminal case concerning damage to the GD election banner

As noted in Section 1.3, on September 8, individuals at the Georgian Dream election headquarters [attacked](#) participants of a protest march and physically assaulted them. In response, on September 9, protesters [held](#) a large demonstration directly outside the election headquarters, during which 23-year-old activist Megi (Irma) Diasamidze [wrote](#) the words “Russian Dream” on the banner of the Georgian Dream mayoral candidate displayed at the headquarters.

On September 10, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) [announced](#) that it had launched an investigation into the banner damage incident under the article on damaging or destroying property. On the same day, the MIA [arrested](#) Megi Diasamidze. On September 11, she was formally [charged](#). [According to her lawyer](#), the prosecution accuses Diasamidze of causing damage in the amount of 380 GEL (approximately 120 EUR). On September 12, Judge Davit Kurtanidze [set](#) bail at 2,000 GEL (approximately 630 EUR) as a measure of restraint and released her from the courtroom.

As noted in Section 2.4, a criminal case on the same charge [is ongoing](#) against Elene Khoshtaria.

### 3.4. Nino Datashvili’s compulsory psychiatric examination

On August 2, the lawyer of Nino Datashvili, who was [charged](#) with allegedly assaulting a court bailiff and [placed](#) in pre-trial detention, [stated](#) that the prosecutor’s office requested a psychiatric evaluation for Nino Datashvili, which the court [granted](#), while Datashvili herself did not participate in the proceedings. [According to the lawyer](#), the court also issued a permit for her to be forcibly transferred to a psychiatric facility if she resisted the evaluation.

In response, the Prosecutor’s Office [released](#) a statement noting that in the health documents provided by the defense, psycho-emotional lability was listed as a co-occurring condition for Nino Datashvili, and in such cases, a psychiatric evaluation is always appointed.

[According to the lawyer](#), the emotional lability is a symptom accompanying Nino Datashvili’s serious spinal problems and not a separate diagnosis. She [added](#) that the prosecutor’s office is trying to stigmatize Nino Datashvili by speculating about her mental health.

At a court hearing on August 7, Datashvili’s lawyer [stated](#) that the psychiatric evaluation was conducted in a penitentiary institution instead of a psychiatric facility. Specifically, she [said](#) that psychiatrist Davit Maghradze was brought in to conduct the evaluation to avoid transferring the defendant to a psychiatric facility.

The prosecutor [filed](#) a motion to attach the psychiatric evaluation report from the Levan Samkharauli National Forensic Bureau to the case file and to add two experts, Tamar Nikolozishvili and Davit Maghradze, to the list of persons to be questioned.

On August 20, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders Mary Lawlor [stated](#) that she is “very concerned by Datashvili’s continued detention and the attempt of forcible transfer to a psychiatric facility.” She also [called](#) for her release.

On September 8, a court hearing was scheduled in the case of Nino Datashvili, however, it was [postponed](#) because, according to her lawyer, Datashvili is suffering from nerve inflammation, which prevented her from attending the hearing. It was also [reported](#) that Datashvili is having difficulty moving independently. [According to the lawyer](#), she repeatedly requested Datashvili’s transfer to a hospital, but to no avail.

### 3.5. Concerns about Anastasia Zinovkina’s health condition

Anastasia Zinovkina, who was [convicted](#) of committing a drug-related crime, [states](#) that her health has significantly deteriorated and that she requires medical treatment. [According to her lawyer](#), she suffers from a spinal condition that causes pain and numbness in the neck and lower back areas; she also experiences pain in different parts of the body, including severe headaches and numbness in her limbs. As a result, Anastasia sometimes has difficulty eating and cannot fall asleep without painkillers. [According to the lawyer](#), the penitentiary facility does not provide Zinovkina with support in following medical and rehabilitation recommendations. Therefore, she [demands](#) that proper conditions for her health be ensured.

### 3.6. Concerns about harsh conditions in the penitentiary institution

On August 11, it was [reported](#) that Insaf Aliyev, who was [arrested](#) in connection with the ongoing protest, began a hunger strike in protest. [According to Aliyev’s lawyer](#), the reason for the hunger strike was the severe conditions in his cell, specifically a large number of cockroaches. Furthermore, Aliyev and his cellmates [were moved](#) to another cell, but the new cell had no water, and the sewage was clogged. They [could not](#) wash their hands, faces, or dishes, which prevented them from eating and effectively restricted their access to food.

[According to the lawyer](#), Insaf Aliyev appealed to an authorized official for help, but there was no response for five hours. During this time, food and hygiene [remained](#) a problem. Finally, he

[knocked](#) on the door with his foot to get someone's attention, but was [moved](#) to a solitary confinement cell on charges of disorderly conduct.

The lawyer [stated](#) that Aliyev has health problems and informed the relevant officials about his need for medication; however, in the solitary cell, he [was not adequately provided](#) with the necessary medicine.

On August 12, Insaf Aliyev [ended](#) his hunger strike at the request of his family members.

### **3.7. Placement of convict Giorgi Okmelashvili in a closed-type penitentiary facility**

As noted in the Fact Sheet Part 4, Giorgi Okmelashvili, who was arrested during protests against the Russian-style Foreign Agents Law and [sentenced](#) to five years in prison on February 3 for “violence against a police officer,” was [transferred](#) to a more restrictive prison facility.

On September 25, Publika (online media) [reported](#) that the Tbilisi City Court began hearing Giorgi Okmelashvili’s complaint concerning his transfer. [According to Publika](#), on March 13, the penitentiary institution gave a positive evaluation of Okmelashvili, but on March 14, “based on classified information”, the assessment team determined an “increased risk”, as a result of which he was placed in a closed-type facility. At the court hearing, Okmelashvili’s defense [filed](#) a motion requesting access to this information, which the court denied.