



**FACT SHEET PART 7**

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

**The document includes major developments from May 28 to June 13, 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 mechanisms targeting protesters and undermining freedom of expression	3
1.2. Announcement of a new large-scale repressive mechanism – targeting citizens for expressing protest on social media	5
1.3. Imposition of fines on journalists and protest participants for “artificially blocking the road”	6
1.4. “Disobeying police order” – a charge used to detain activists	6
1.5. Use of physical force against protesters and journalists	7
1.6. Rewarding political officials and public servants involved in repressive actions	8
1.7. Tensions and arrest at the courthouse during Mate Devidze’s trial proceedings	9
1.8. Alleged abduction of Kote Ioseliani	9
<b>2. Adoption and/or initiation of other restrictive measures for the consolidation of the Georgian Dream's systemic repression</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1. Dismissal of public servants continues	10
2.2. Criminal proceedings for refusing to appear before the “Parliamentary Investigative Commission” continue	11
2.3. New repressive mechanisms against the media	12
2.4. Updates on Foreign Agents Registration Act: Adoption of enforcement rules by the Anti-Corruption Bureau	13
2.5. Adoption of new amendments to the Law on Grants	14
2.6. Legislative amendments to simplify asset seizure procedures from convicted persons and their associates	15
<b>3. Updated information on the criminal and expulsion cases initiated against the demonstrators</b>	<b>16</b>
3.1. Judgments begin to be announced in the first instance court on criminal cases initiated from November 2024	17
3.2. Initiation of new criminal cases regarding incidents at the courthouse	18
3.3. Temur Katamadze’s expulsion from Georgia	18
3.4. Media reported on the referral of Nikoloz Katsia’s case to the Prosecutor’s Office regarding possible police misconduct	19
3.5. Alleged ill-treatment of Anton Chechin by penitentiary representatives	20

## Introduction

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 May 28 to June 13, 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 part is not exhaustive, as many things happen during the day. More detailed day-by-day information on protests and repression can be found in English on Civil Georgia's Live Blog: Resistance 2025 (Vol. 2).

#### 1.1. Repressive mechanisms targeting protesters and undermining freedom of expression

As noted in the previous Fact Sheet, administrative proceedings [were initiated](#) against three female activists based on a complaint filed by GD MP Mariam Lashkhi for “insulting a political official” — an offense introduced by a repressive amendment to the Administrative Offenses Code in February 2025. The offense is punishable by a fine ranging from 1,500 to 4,000 GEL (approximately from 474 to 1,264 EUR) or **up to 45 days of administrative detention.**

The case concerns an incident that occurred on May 17, when the activists [encountered](#) Mariam Lashkhi, who was at a café with her minor children, and expressed their protest by chanting: “Freedom for the regime’s prisoners,” “No to Russia’s slaves,” and “Down with Russia’s slaves.” **On May 30, the court [sentenced](#) two of the activists involved in the incident — 19-year-old Lika Lortkipanidze and 20-year-old Tatia Apriamashvili — to 12 days of**

**administrative detention. The third activist, Magda Mamukashvili, [was fined](#) 4,000 GEL** (approximately 1,264 EUR).

On June 4, Albi Kordzaia [was sentenced](#) to **10 days of administrative detention** on charges of insulting GD MP, Tea Tsulukiani. The case concerns a protest held on April 12 in front of Tsulukiani's residence, following her controversial statement describing Georgia's national hero, Giorgi Antsukhelidze, as someone who was "senselessly sacrificed for someone's PR." During the protest, Kordzaia [chanted](#) slogans in front of Tsulukiani's home, including: "Antsukhelidze is immortal," "Tea, you Russian traitor," and "Our heroes don't die for PR — they die because of Russian traitors like you."

On June 6, activist Beka Papashvili was also [sentenced](#) to **7 days of administrative detention** for participating in the April 12 protest held in front of Tea Tsulukiani's residence, during which he swore at traitors and at all those "who believe that Georgia started the war." In Papashvili's case, he was held liable not for "insulting a political official" but under the charge of petty hooliganism.

On June 5, yet another GD MP, Davit Matikashvili, [filed](#) a complaint against activist Lekso Samkharadze for "insulting a political official." On June 2, Samkharadze posted a [video](#) on social media in which he chants a protest slogan directed at Matikashvili, containing offensive language toward members of the Georgian Dream party. A court hearing in the case was scheduled for June 13. On the same day, Samkharadze [informed](#) the judge's assistant that he would not be appearing at the hearing. Notably, as mentioned in Fact Sheet Part 5, Samkharadze [was physically assaulted](#) by unknown individuals in April. On March 27, Samkharadze and two of his friends [were taken](#) to a police station for attempting to restore damaged graffiti; however, they were released after several hours. Additionally, in the spring of 2024, during demonstrations against the adoption of the Russian-style Foreign Agents Law, Lekso Samkharadze [had a verbal altercation](#) with MP Viktor Japaridze.

Administrative proceedings continue not only on charges of "insulting political officials" but also for allegedly insulting police officers. As noted in Fact Sheet Part 5, on April 17, police witness Mirian Kavtaradze [testified](#) during the hearing of Saba Skhvitaridze, who had been [detained](#) on criminal charges during the pro-European protests. Following his testimony, Kavtaradze [exited](#) the courtroom amid protest chants, including: "Slave," "Disgrace to the Kavtaradze name," "Coward," and "Scoundrel." It was in connection with this incident that administrative proceedings [were initiated](#) against Saba Skhvitaridze's brother, Tornike Skhvitaridze, and Ani Kavtaradze (as noted in Fact Sheet Part 6, Miranda Baghaturia and Ana Kurasvhili have already been [fined](#) 4,000 GEL (approximately 1,264 EUR) each in the same case). On May 30, the court [sentenced](#) Tornike Skhvitaridze to **5 days of administrative detention**, while Ani Kavtaradze [was](#)

[fined](#) 5,000 GEL (approximately 1580 EUR) (the law prohibits administrative detention in her case due to her being the parent of a minor child).

## 1.2. Announcement of a new large-scale repressive mechanism – targeting citizens for expressing protest on social media

On June 6, Irakli Kirtskhalia, First Deputy Chair of the Georgian Dream parliamentary faction, [announced](#) that the faction will file an administrative complaint with the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) in response to what he described as an “externally funded hate campaign” targeting faction members. [According to him](#), the complaint will be based on the same article that was used against the activists mentioned in section 1.1. and will concern “vile expressions” posted on social media directed at political officials. He also [stated](#) that the individuals targeted by the complaint have been identified in the filing.

On June 11, citizens [received](#) notifications from the court that hearings had been scheduled for June 12 regarding alleged “insults” directed at members of Georgian Dream and police officers via posts published on social media. The posts in question used terms such as “slave,” “despicable coward,” “traitor to the homeland,” “modern Bolshevik,” and others to refer to members of Georgian Dream.

As of June 13, according to the publicly available information, the list of individuals summoned to court on June 12 included a total of 18 people:

- **Journalists:** Misha Mshvildadze, Vakho Sanaia, Nanuka Zhorzholiani, Vika Bukia, Ekaterine Mishveladze, Dea Mamiseishvili;
- **Politicians:** Tamar Chergoleishvili, Elene Khoshtaria, Levan Khabeishvili, Aleksandre Elisashvili;
- **Activists and Civil Society Representatives:** Mariam Geguchadze, Ana Subeliani, Giga Makarashvili, Ketii Molashvili, Davit Katsarava, Baia Pataraia, Giorgi Kadagidze, Giorgi Tumasyan.

In response to the court summonses, Shalva Papuashvili [stated](#) that “it is the responsibility of the [EU ambassador to Georgia] that individuals funded by him are insulting women, children, and politicians - both in the streets and on social media.” He also [claimed](#) that “extremism is being supported, encouraged, and funded by Brussels, including the EU delegation,” and therefore, according to him, the real addressee of these complaints is the EU ambassador.

On June 12, the court [fined](#) Misha Mshvildadze and Giga Makarashvili 4,000 GEL (approximately 1264 EUR) each, while Mariam Geguchadze and Dea Mamiseishvili were [fined](#) 3,000 GEL

(approximately 948 EUR) each. On June 13, the court [fined Ekaterine Mishveladze](#), Aleksandre Elisashvili, and Giorgi Tumasyan 4,000 GEL (approximately 1264 EUR) each.

### 1.3. Imposition of fines on journalists and protest participants for “artificially blocking the road”

The imposition of fines on participants of the ongoing protest for “artificially blocking the road” continues. Furthermore, several media actors have been fined 5,000 GEL (approximately 1580 EUR) under this charge, since the courts are disregarding that they were performing their professional duties during the protest. Among the latest to be added to this list are journalist [Natia Gogsadze](#) and photographer [Goga Chanadiri](#), who were found in violation of the law by judges Lela Tsagareishvili and Nino Enukidze, respectively.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs also refused to annul the fines imposed on the editor-in-chief of the online media outlet “April,” [Khatia Ghoghoberidze](#); OC Media (online media) co-founder and photographer [Mariam Nikuradze](#); and Publika (online media) journalist [Basti Mgaloblishvili](#) — even though **all of them stated they were performing their professional duties at the time of the fines, were wearing press identification**, and submitted [evidence](#) of this to the Ministry.

In addition to journalists, heavy financial penalties are also being imposed on family members of individuals criminally detained in the context of the pro-European demonstrations. On May 30, Marizi Kobakhize, mother of Tornike Goshadze, who [was arrested](#) on charges of participating in group violence, [wrote](#) on social media that during a visit to her son in prison, she was handed a court decision ordering her to pay a 5,000 GEL (approximately 1580 EUR) fine.

On June 12, the fifth President of Georgia, Salome Zurbashvili, [announced](#) that she had been fined 5,000 GEL (approximately 1580 EUR) for “artificially blocking the road” during her participation in the “Mothers’ March” protest on March 3.

### 1.4. “Disobeying police order” – a charge used to detain activists

On June 6, Ucha Kemashvili [was sentenced](#) to **10 days of administrative detention** for “disobedience to a lawful police order.” Kemashvili [was arrested](#) on May 26. His sister [links](#) the arrest to Kemashvili’s act of burning the Georgian Dream party flag on Rustaveli Avenue. [According to his lawyer](#), the real reason for the arrest was precisely the burning of the Georgian Dream party flag; however, since the destruction of such symbols is not punishable under the law, the authorities [made up](#) a legal basis for his detention by alleging that he disobeyed police orders.

On June 5, Batumi City Court Judge Mariana Fomaeva [fined](#) Batumi-based activist Tsiala Katamidze 1,000 GEL (approximately 316 EUR) under the charge of “defacement of appearance.” The case concerns the protest held on January 11, 2025, in front of the Adjara Police Department, during which Mzia Amaghlobeli was also detained. On that day, Katamidze placed a sticker on the pavement, for which she was [arrested](#) and [released](#) within a few hours based on a written pledge.

[According to Batumelebi](#), Katamidze, like Mzia Amaghlobeli, was detained for affixing the sticker. However, since the act of placing a sticker (classified as “defacement of appearance”) does not grant police the legal authority to carry out an arrest, senior police officials allegedly [fabricated](#) the grounds for her detention by falsely claiming that Katamidze and Amaghlobeli had disobeyed a lawful police order.

As a result, on March 27, Katamidze [was fined](#) 2,000 GEL (approximately 632 EUR) by the court for “disobeying a police order,” and on June 5, she [was fined](#) an additional 1,000 GEL (approximately 316 EUR) for defacement of appearance. Batumelebi [reports](#) that in reality, both fines were imposed for the same act of placing a sticker, and the charge of disobeying police orders was fabricated to retroactively justify Katamidze’s arrest on January 11.

On the same charges, activist Tamar Kuratishvili was [fined](#) 5,000 GEL (approximately 1580 EUR) by Judge Lela Tsagareishvili on June 13. She was [detained](#) by the police on March 28 during a rally near the Parliament building, when a protest was taking place in response to statements made by representatives of the Georgian Dream party regarding the 2008 war during a session of the “Parliamentary Investigative Commission.” Kuratishvili was standing on the sidewalk holding a banner when she was detained.

### 1.5. Use of physical force against protesters and journalists

On June 3, TV Pirveli [reported](#) that its crew was confronted by representatives of the Special Tasks Department (STD) of the MIA. [According to the channel](#), the crew had gone to the department’s building to find out whether recent personnel changes had affected the now former department’s head, Zviad Kharazishvili (publicly known as “Khareba”), following the appointment of Gela Geladze as the new Minister of Internal Affairs after Vakhtang Gomelauri. TV Pirveli [stated](#) that during their visit, STD representatives prevented the crew from carrying out their professional duties and filming, and also attempted to damage their broadcasting equipment. The [footage](#) shows an officer using physical force to prevent journalists from having the opportunity to film.

On June 3, a confrontation also [took place](#) at the Georgian National University (SEU), where students attempted to hang a banner from the building with the inscription: “We fight for students’ freedom.” [According to the students](#), the security personnel of the university did not allow them to do so. [Video footage](#) shows security guards using force in an attempt to seize the banner from the students, during which, [according to Publika](#), one of the students sustained an injury to their hand.

On June 10, activist Ana Petrosiani [stated](#) that she and her friend, Tamar Totladze, were subjected to physical and verbal abuse during a protest in Tbilisi. [According to Petrosiani](#), the youth movement “Unity” was holding a protest in the Dighomi district, where they were distributing newspapers containing letters from individuals criminally charged and detained in relation to the protests. At that time, several individuals verbally assaulted the protesters and physically confronted them. As a result, Petrosiani [reported](#) that her neck was stiff, and her friend showed signs of redness.

On June 11, participants of the “Unity” protest march were [physically assaulted](#) by unknown individuals on a subway train. Further details on this incident are not available at this stage.

#### **1.6. Rewarding political officials and public servants involved in repressive actions**

On May 31, during an event dedicated to Police Day, employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs [were awarded](#) various honors. Mikheil Kavelashvili [awarded](#) the now-former Minister of Internal Affairs, sanctioned official Vakhtang Gomelauri, the Vakhtang Gorgasali First Rank Order “for outstanding service to the homeland and the nation.” Among the award recipients [were also police officers](#) who have been granted “victim status” in ongoing criminal cases related to the pro-European protests. Mariam Kereselidze, a representative of the MIA Legal Department — who, among other cases, represented the ministry in the administrative proceedings against Mzia Amaghlobeli — was also [honored](#). In addition, heads and employees from various units of the MIA, including the Special Tasks Department and the 112 Video Surveillance Division, [received](#) awards.

On June 4, MIA lawyers involved in administrative cases [were presented](#) with letters of appreciation. The awards [cited](#) their “conscientious performance of official duties and high professionalism.” Among the recipients [were MIA lawyers](#) who requested the imposition of administrative detention against activists in the cases described in Section 1.1.

Awards were also [granted](#) within the Prosecutor’s Office. On May 30, then-Prosecutor General Giorgi Gabitashvili [awarded](#) certificates of appreciation, early conferral of special state ranks,



and honorary titles to prosecutors, [including those](#) involved in ongoing criminal cases against individuals detained in the context of the pro-European protests.

### 1.7. Tensions and arrest at the courthouse during Mate Devidze's trial proceedings

On June 12, Judge Nino Galustashvili [issued](#) a guilty verdict in the criminal case of 21-year-old Mate Devidze (detailed information is provided in section 3.1). During the court session, large numbers of citizens were [gathered](#) in the courthouse yard and building, and police were also mobilized. Against the backdrop of tensions, physical confrontations [occurred](#) multiple times between citizens and court bailiffs. During one such confrontation, activist Natia Chikovani [sustained](#) injuries. [According to her](#), after bailiff officers forcibly removed her from the courthouse building, she was talking to a police officer when one of the bailiffs struck her hand with full force and threw her onto the stone floor, after which she sustained injuries.

During Mate Devidze's trial proceedings, Tazo Datunashvili, a member of the Lelo party, was also [arrested](#). [Footage](#) recorded at the courthouse shows bailiffs detaining him and taking him into one of the rooms. [According to Radio Liberty](#), after his arrest, he was taken to the courthouse basement and physically assaulted. After a few hours, Datunashvili was [released](#) from the police building on the basis of a written pledge.

### 1.8. Alleged abduction of Kote Ioseliani

On June 9, the chairperson of the UNM and Ioseliani's wife, Tinatin Bokuchava, [stated](#) that her husband had been abducted for several hours, and that as a result of coercion, he disseminated an apology video. [According to Bokuchava](#), five masked individuals ambushed Ioseliani near his residence, assaulted him, and abducted him while blindfolded and with his hands tied. She [said](#) the abductors subjected him to pressure for eight hours and threatened the safety of their minor children. Bokuchava [claimed](#) that the motive behind her husband's "violent abduction" was to silence her.

On June 8, Kote Ioseliani, a former member of the political council of the opposition party United National Movement (UNM), [published](#) a video on social media in which he apologized to Uta Ivanishvili, the son of the founder of Georgian Dream, Bidzina Ivanishvili, "for a statement made a few years ago regarding Uta Ivanishvili." For context, in 2018, Kote Ioseliani had already publicly [apologized](#) for the [statement](#) made.

On June 9, Ioseliani himself also [commented](#), saying that he had already rightfully apologized once before for his statement, and that repeating the apology did not represent a moral compromise, especially under the circumstances, as, [according to him](#), the apology was tied to ensuring the safety of his children. “The Russian, base, treacherous, and anti-Georgian regime must be destroyed, and I still stand exactly where I always have,” Ioseliani [stated](#).

On June 9, Kote Ioseliani and Tinatin Bokuchava were [summoned](#) for questioning at the Tbilisi Police Department. They [agreed](#) to be questioned before a magistrate judge.

## **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 demonstrators, media, civil servants, CSOs, political opponents, and other critical voices.

### **2.1. Dismissal of public servants continues**

On June 1, Nato Bolkvadze [stated](#) that she had been dismissed from the Revenue Service — a legal entity of public law (LEPL) under the governance of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia — after 14 years of service. [According to her](#), the grounds for dismissal were disciplinary proceedings initiated based on a 5,000 GEL (approximately 1580 EUR) fine issued for “artificially blocking the road” during protests on Rustaveli Avenue.

On June 6, Noe Megrelishvili [stated](#) that he had been dismissed from the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture after 21 years of service. He [claimed](#) that he had been asked to remain silent to keep his job, which he refused.

On June 7, Ana Komladze [announced](#) that she had been dismissed from Tbilisi City Hall. [According to her](#), the pro-government TV channel Imedi [reported](#) on March 5 that she had been dismissed for being “a supporter of the radical opposition and a participant in protest rallies,” and she was officially notified of her dismissal a few days later, on March 14.

On June 8, Tea Dzotsenidze [stated](#) that, as a result of a reorganization at the Ministry of Education, Science, and Youth of Georgia, the Department of Preschool Education was abolished. At the same time, the Ministry terminated its contract with her. [According to her](#), she

was dismissed because she was one of the co-authors of a petition signed by public servants condemning Irakli Kobakhidze's November 28 Statement on the Suspension of European Union Accession.

On June 12, Tako Kavkasidze also [announced](#) that she had been dismissed from the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia after 10 years of service, due to signing the same petition.

As noted in the previous Fact Sheet, a reorganization has been [announced](#) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On June 4, it was [revealed](#) that, as of July 1, the LEPL "Information Center on NATO and the EU," operating under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will be dissolved. On June 7, a similar announcement [was made](#) regarding another LEPL under the Ministry — the "Diplomatic Training and Research Institute." Employees of both LEPLs were formally notified in writing about the liquidation of the entities and the termination of their employment. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been designated as the legal successor of both LEPLs.

## **2.2. Criminal proceedings for refusing to appear before the "Parliamentary Investigative Commission" continue**

The "Parliamentary Investigative Commission," whose mandate is "to investigate the activities of the United National Movement committed from 2003 to this day," continues its sessions. Attending a session upon the commission's request is mandatory, and failure to comply carries criminal liability, punishable by a fine or **imprisonment for up to one year**, and disqualification from holding office or engaging in specific activities for up to three years.

In parallel with the commission's sessions, criminal proceedings are ongoing against opposition politicians and former political officials who are under prosecution. As noted in the previous Fact Sheet, the leader of the coalition "For Changes" and the party "Akhali," Nikanor Melia, [declared](#) that as a sign of protest, he would refuse not only to pay the bail imposed on him, but also to attend the court hearing. The deadline for Nikanor Melia to pay bail was set for May 29, and the court hearing was also [scheduled](#) for this date. However, on May 28, it was [confirmed](#) that, based on the prosecution's request, the hearing was postponed to May 30.

On May 29, Nika Melia was [arrested](#). Later that day, the Ministry of Internal Affairs [claimed](#) that Melia's arrest was not related to the ongoing criminal case against him, but rather, he was detained administratively for "insulting a police officer." Melia, who was detained administratively, [was brought](#) to the criminal case hearing on May 30 by the prison service. [According to Melia's lawyer](#), the real purpose of Melia's groundless administrative detention was precisely to ensure his appearance at the May 30 court hearing, which he did not intend to attend.

During the hearing, Nikanor Melia [stated](#) that he had not violated the law on May 29. His car was stopped by police, and after his identification, he was put into a minibus where 11 people were sitting, none of whom had police identification badges. [According to Melia](#), he was forcibly put into the vehicle, his phone was taken away, and one person was trying to unlock his phone.

While recounting this incident at the criminal court hearing, Melia expressed dissatisfaction with Judge Irakli Shvangiradze as he was “not interested” in this matter, and because of this, he [poured](#) water toward him, after which the judge [expelled](#) Melia from the courtroom. On May 30, Judge Irakli Shvangiradze [granted](#) the motion of the Prosecution and replaced Melia's 50,000 GEL bail with pre-trial detention.

On June 2, the MIA [announced](#) that it had launched a criminal investigation against Nikanor Melia for contempt of court after he splashed water toward the judge. The offense is punishable by a fine, community service, or up to one year of imprisonment.

On June 13, a court session [was held](#) concerning Nika Gvaramia, another leader of the “Coalition for Change” and the political party “Akhali.” Gvaramia had previously [stated](#) publicly that he did not intend to pay the bail imposed on him or appear before the court. Instead of attending the proceedings, Gvaramia [went](#) to the Rustavi penitentiary facility. During the session, the Prosecutor's Office [requested](#) that Gvaramia's bail be replaced with pretrial detention, a motion that Judge Jvebe Nachkebia [granted](#). Gvaramia was then [transferred](#) by police officers from the penitentiary facility's reception area to a police station, after which he [was](#) placed in prison.

At this stage, pretrial detention has been imposed on Irakli Okruashvili, Zurab “Girchi” Japaridze, Nikanor Melia, and Nika Gvaramia due to their refusal to pay bail. Criminal proceedings are also ongoing in court against other opposition politicians and former state officials, such as Givi Targamadze, Mamuka Khazaradze, Badri Japaridze, and Giorgi Vashadze, who have paid the bail imposed on them.

### **2.3. New repressive mechanisms against the media**

On June 2, it [was reported](#) that Georgian Dream filed complaints with the Communications Commission (ComCom) against the TV channels “Formula,” “TV Pirveli,” and “Mtavari Arkhi” (the latter currently operating on a website and social platforms only), citing their use of various terms during broadcasts and on social media while covering current events.

[According to the complaints](#) submitted by Georgian Dream, the use of terms such as “regime,” “oligarchic regime,” “pro-Russian political regime,” “prisoners of the regime,” “judicial clan,”

“so-called Speaker of Parliament,” and other similar expressions constitutes a violation of the law, as they fail to distinguish between factual reporting and opinion. The complaints argue that the TV channels should face appropriate sanctions for using such terms.

On June 4, more than 30 civil society organizations [responded](#) to Georgian Dream’s complaint, stating that the complaints aim to impose censorship and are intended to intimidate critical media and suppress independent journalism. The statement [emphasized](#) that Georgian Dream’s move is especially dangerous given that the ComCom is not an impartial arbiter, but rather an institution under the control of Georgian Dream.

On June 5, the ComCom [accepted](#) for consideration the complaints filed by Georgian Dream. The hearing on the merits of the complaints before ComCom is [scheduled](#) for June 19.

In addition to the aforementioned complaints, on June 12, Georgian Dream [adopted](#) in third reading a bill that grants the **ComCom the authority to obtain confidential information about broadcasters from commercial banks**. [According to GD MP Archil Gorduladze](#), the purpose of the amendments is to enable the ComCom to verify, through the use of an effective mechanism, whether or not broadcasters receive funding from abroad, which [was prohibited](#) by legislative amendments adopted in April 2025.

#### 2.4. Updates on Foreign Agents Registration Act: Adoption of enforcement rules by the Anti-Corruption Bureau

On May 31, the Anti-Corruption Bureau [adopted](#) the administrative and enforcement rules for the Foreign Agents Registration Act, outlining procedures for registering as an “agent”, exemptions from registration, inspection procedures, and more.

[According to the rules](#), the basis for initiating an inspection is the Bureau’s possession of information regarding a possible violation of law. Following the inspection, the Bureau issues a conclusion on whether a violation has occurred. This inspection report can serve as the basis for registration as an “agent”. In such cases, the subject is given the opportunity to voluntarily register as an “agent”; **otherwise, the Bureau may apply to the court requesting that the subject be compelled to submit a registration application.**

**In addition, if it is determined that the subject may have committed, is committing, or may commit a violation of the law in the future, the Bureau may refer the matter to an investigative body for further action.**

On May 31, the Head of the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Razhden Kuprashvili, also [issued](#) an order exempting certain individuals from the obligation to register as “agents.” The order [states](#) that

individuals employed in diplomatic missions/consular offices accredited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, as well as private domestic staff of such personnel, are exempt from the registration requirement. The exemption also [applies](#) to staff members of representations of international organizations accredited by the Ministry. In addition, individuals who are not accredited members of diplomatic missions, consular offices, and international organizations, as well as staff members of international and/or bilateral financial institutions (regardless of accreditation), [are not subject](#) to registration.

On June 2, Radio Liberty [reported](#) that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had informed accredited international organizations and diplomatic missions in the country that the Foreign Agents Registration Act does not apply to them. [According to the outlet](#), the Ministry confirmed that the letter had been sent.

For reference, as noted in the previous Fact Sheet, [according to information](#) disseminated from the informational meetings held by the Head of the Anti-Corruption Bureau in May, Georgian Dream intended to apply the law to Georgian employees of foreign embassies and international organizations operating in Georgia.

## 2.5. Adoption of new amendments to the Law on Grants

As noted in Fact Sheet Part 5, on April 16, Georgian Dream [adopted](#) amendments to the “Law on Grants” in an expedited manner. Under these changes, grant recipients may receive grants from foreign donors only “with the consent of the Government of Georgia or an authorized person/body designated by the Government of Georgia.”

On June 12, the Georgian Dream [adopted](#) a second set of amendments to the same law in a third reading. [The initiated version](#) exempted two international programs (later two more programs were added to this list) from obligations arising from the law; however, it was [radically changed before the plenary hearing](#).

Following the committee hearing on June 9, **additional provisions were [introduced](#) to the initiated version, among other things, expanding the definition of a grant.** [Under the new provisions](#), “technical assistance provided to the grant recipient in the form of transfer of technology, specialized knowledge, skills, expertise, and/or other forms of support” is also defined as a grant.

[According to IDFI’s assessment](#), the grant regulations have been extended to virtually all forms of international assistance, covering almost all natural and legal persons, regardless of the form of assistance or support. Consequently, IDFI [considers](#) that “the purpose of the amendments introduced in the Law of Georgia on Grants is not only to establish a political

**filter on democratic international support/assistance, but also indirectly prohibit such support and, for this purpose, create substantial operational or other difficulties”.**

As for the exceptions the version adopted in the third reading [states](#) that in addition to the previously established exceptions, the requirement for government consent will not apply to grants awarded under the EU’s research and innovation program “Horizon Europe,” the “Erasmus+” program, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and the “Creative Europe” program implemented within the framework of cooperation between Georgia and the European Union.

**The amendments have already been [published](#) on the Legislative Herald of Georgia and have legal force.**

On June 11, the British Embassy Tbilisi [issued](#) a statement noting that they had to cancel planned grant proposals aimed at supporting the transparency and competitiveness of the upcoming municipal elections, because Georgian authorities informed them that “the planned Government Decree establishing a procedure for grant approvals is not finalised, and therefore no mechanism or timeframe currently exists for grant approval decisions.”

In response, Mamuka Mdinaradze [characterized](#) the Embassy’s statement as an attack on the state, arguing that they should have waited a few more days until the relevant procedures were adopted. [According to Shalva Papuashvili](#), the aim of the statement issued by the British Embassy was to expose Georgian Dream, but in the end, it exposed itself, as everyone learned that their real goal was to fund “radical political groups.” “The British Ambassador must think the Georgian people are fools if he believes that funding the NGO “Academy of the Future” is somehow about preparing for municipal elections,” Papuashvili [stated](#).

## **2.6. Legislative amendments to simplify asset seizure procedures from convicted persons and their associates**

On June 11, Mamuka Mdinaradze, Executive Secretary of Georgian Dream, [announced](#) a new legislative initiative aimed at simplifying the procedures for seizing assets from individuals convicted of financial crimes and their associates. [According to Mdinaradze](#), whereas such cases previously required “various lengthy procedures, including civil litigation that could take years,” the process will now be streamlined.

In addition, Mdinaradze [noted](#) that under the proposed changes, a convicted individual may be restricted from leaving the country even after serving their prison sentence, until they compensate for the damage caused.

Mdinardze also [stated](#) that one of the inspirations for the amendments was the case of **Giorgi Bachiashvili**. Bachiashvili is a businessman formerly close to Bidzina Ivanishvili and was referred to as his “personal financier.” Until May 2019, he also served as the CEO of the Co-Investment Fund of Georgia, a company founded at Ivanishvili’s initiative.

In 2023, criminal proceedings [were launched](#) against Bachiashvili based on a complaint filed by Ivanishvili. The Prosecutor’s Office accused him of embezzling \$39,215,820 worth of cryptocurrency. On July 6, 2023, Bachiashvili [was released](#) on bail set at 2.5 million GEL and was prohibited from leaving the country. Nevertheless, on March 2, 2025, he [managed](#) to leave Georgia. On March 10, Bachiashvili [was found guilty](#) and sentenced to 11 years in prison. On May 1, the court [ordered](#) him to pay nearly 9,000 bitcoins to Ivanishvili as compensation. (Two additional criminal cases were initiated against Giorgi Bachiashvili — one for the illegal crossing of the border (after leaving Georgia in March 2025), and another for negligence in connection with the “Mtkvari HPP” project during his tenure as head of the Co-Investment Fund.)

On May 27, 2025, the State Security Service of Georgia [announced](#) that Bachiashvili had been detained while moving near a section of the so-called green border between Armenia and Georgia. However, Bachiashvili [claimed](#) that he had been abducted from Abu Dhabi and brought to Georgia, and that the head of the State Security Service, Anri Okhanashvili, had accompanied him on the flight.

### **3. Updated information on the criminal and expulsion 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.

Previously, criminal proceedings have also been initiated in connection with the April-May 2024 protests, and 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.

**As of June 13, 2025, no individual responsible for torture, inhuman treatment, or violence against peaceful demonstrators and media has been held criminally liable, and police forces continue to commit systemic physical violence.**

**As of June 13, 2025, according to public information, criminal investigations have been initiated against 55 persons in connection with the ongoing protests from November 2024. Out of the overall number, 41 persons are detained. Between May 28 and June 13, 2025, not a**



single case resulted in the substitution of pretrial detention with an alternative measure of restraint.

Furthermore, two more criminal investigations have been initiated in relation to the developments at the courthouse. (Details are available in section 3.2.)

The following chapter provides major updates covering the period from **May 28 to June 13, 2025**.

### **3.1. Judgments begin to be announced in the first instance court on criminal cases initiated from November 2024**

On June 2, Judge Lili Mskhiladze [delivered](#) a verdict, sentencing 26-year-old Guram Khutashvili and 23-year-old Daniel Mumladze **to 3 years of imprisonment each**. Khutashvili and Mumladze were working as waiters at a restaurant near Rustaveli Avenue, and the Prosecutor's Office charged them with damaging surveillance cameras during the pro-European protests (damaging or destroying property by a group of persons – punishable by 3 to 6 years of imprisonment).

It is noteworthy that Khutashvili and Mumladze [admitted](#) to committing the offense, expressed their willingness to compensate for the damage, estimated at 12,100 GEL (approximately 3822 EUR) according to the Prosecutor's Office, and sought to enter into a plea agreement. However, the Prosecutor's Office refused to conclude such an agreement.

On June 12, Judge Nino Galustashvili [sentenced](#) 21-year-old Mate Devidze **to 4 years and 6 months of imprisonment**. The Prosecutor's Office charged Devidze with assaulting a police officer, an offense punishable by 4 to 7 years of imprisonment. In a [video](#), Devidze can be seen waving a small stick-like object at police officers, retreating, and attempting to flee. [According to Devidze's lawyers](#), he did not even wave a stick — the object was a rolled-up protest banner, and he did not cause any harm to any police officer.

On June 13, it was [reported](#) that Russian citizen Denis Kulanin was sentenced to **two years of imprisonment**. The Ministry of Internal Affairs [released](#) information on March 31 stating that during the protest on March 28, Kulanin had allegedly damaged a police vehicle. He was [charged](#) with damaging another person's property, for which, along with other types of sanctions, imprisonment from 1 to 5 years is provided. [According to Publika](#), the verdict was delivered on June 4 by Judge Maia Kokiashvili. The prosecution's evidence in the case was [deemed](#) undisputed, the defendant admitted to the offense, and during the pre-trial hearing, he also apologized for his actions.

### 3.2. Initiation of new criminal cases regarding incidents at the courthouse

On June 11, the Ministry of Internal Affairs [announced](#) that it had launched an investigation into the incident at Tbilisi City Court under Article 353<sup>2</sup> of the Criminal Code, which pertains to an assault on a public official in the course of performing official duties (punishable by a fine or by imprisonment for up to three years).

[According to the Ministry](#), on June 9, at Tbilisi City Court, Nino Datashvili attempted to enter an ongoing court hearing involving members of the opposition party and civil activists. She allegedly disobeyed a lawful order from the court bailiffs and physically assaulted one of them.

Datashvili herself [claims](#) that she was at the courthouse during the hearing of the eight prisoners and was trying to approach Courtroom No. 1, where the session was being held, to see a friend. However, the officers denied her access and **used physical force against her**. [Video footage](#) shows Datashvili being forcibly removed from the courthouse by several bailiffs amid a verbal altercation.

On June 12, the Prosecution Service of Georgia [announced](#) that, based on a statement by the pro-government TV Company POSTV, the Special Investigation Service has launched an investigation into the “unlawful interference with the professional activities of journalist Mariam Nebieridze”. The offense is punishable by a fine, community service, correctional labor, or house arrest for a term of six months to two years. [According to the Prosecutor’s Office](#), individuals present on the premises of the Tbilisi City Court confronted the journalist both physically and verbally. It is noteworthy that the case concerns an incident that occurred in the courtyard of the court following the conviction of Mate Devidze, when his supporters and family members had gathered there.

### 3.3. Temur Katamadze’s expulsion from Georgia

On June 5, the Tbilisi Court of Appeals [denied](#) Temur Katamadze the right to remain in Georgia. He was given a 5-day deadline to voluntarily leave the country. Since Katamadze is solely a citizen of Turkey and his Turkish passport had expired, he was unable to travel to any country other than Turkey. At the same time, it was [revealed](#) that the Social Justice Center had applied to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) requesting an interim measure in his case.

On June 11, immediately after the expiration of the deadline for voluntary departure, Katamadze was [expelled](#) to Turkey. [According to Aleksandre Darakhvelidze](#), Katamadze did not

take advantage of the opportunity to leave the country voluntarily; therefore, his expulsion was carried out through enforcement, “in full compliance with Georgian legislation.”

Darakhvelidze also [stated](#) that the ECtHR had not granted the defense’s request for an interim measure. Meanwhile, human rights defender Tamta Mikeladze [said](#) that after applying to ECtHR, the defense had also submitted a request to the UN Human Rights Committee, but the MIA did not wait for its response and deprived Katamadze of the opportunity to fully exhaust international mechanisms.

On June 11, it was [reported](#) that Temur Katamadze had not been detained in Turkey; he was questioned by investigative authorities in Ordu and then released. The details of the case remain unknown at this stage.

#### **3.4. Media reported on the referral of Nikoloz Katsia’s case to the Prosecutor’s Office regarding possible police misconduct**

On June 4, media [reported](#) that the Public Defender’s Office had referred Nikoloz Katsia’s case to the Prosecutor’s Office, requesting an investigation into possible misconduct by police officers.

Katsia is charged with illegal possession of drugs in particularly large quantities. Notably, the circumstances of Katsia’s arrest are [described](#) in fundamentally different ways by the defense and the prosecution; the parties’ accounts of the time and location of the arrest do not match.

According to Publika (Online media), in the submission prepared by the Public Defender’s Office, it is [stated](#) that the ongoing court proceedings cannot establish whether a crime was committed by Katsia, as the defense was not given the opportunity to obtain and examine essential evidence.

Specifically, according to the lawyer, the court [rejected](#) the defense’s motion to question a taxi driver, who, according to Katsia, observed his arrest as a witness. The court also [denied](#) motions to obtain footage from surveillance cameras located at the actual arrest site, as identified by Katsia, and to retrieve data from the taxi app.

Therefore, [according to the Public Defender’s Office](#), an investigation must be launched to determine the actual time and place of Katsia’s arrest and to examine the possible intentional inclusion of false information in the official records.

### 3.5. Alleged ill-treatment of Anton Chechin by penitentiary representatives

Anton Chechin, another individual detained on charges of illegal possession of drugs in particularly large quantities, was subjected to verbal and physical abuse by penitentiary representatives, as [stated](#) by his lawyer. [According to the lawyer](#), he reported the incident to the Public Defender's Office, and after visiting Chechin, they confirmed the presence of physical injuries.

[According to Chechin](#), the physical abuse occurred after he requested a transfer to a non-smoking cell and asked that this request be conveyed to the prison director. [According to him](#), he also informed the penitentiary staff that he had a tumor in his head, experienced pain in his chest and arms, and requested a medical consultation. Instead, he was [placed](#) in solitary confinement for approximately two hours. Ultimately, Chechin [says](#) that after seeing a doctor, he was prescribed medication and was instructed to receive a painkiller injection due to the severity of the pain.