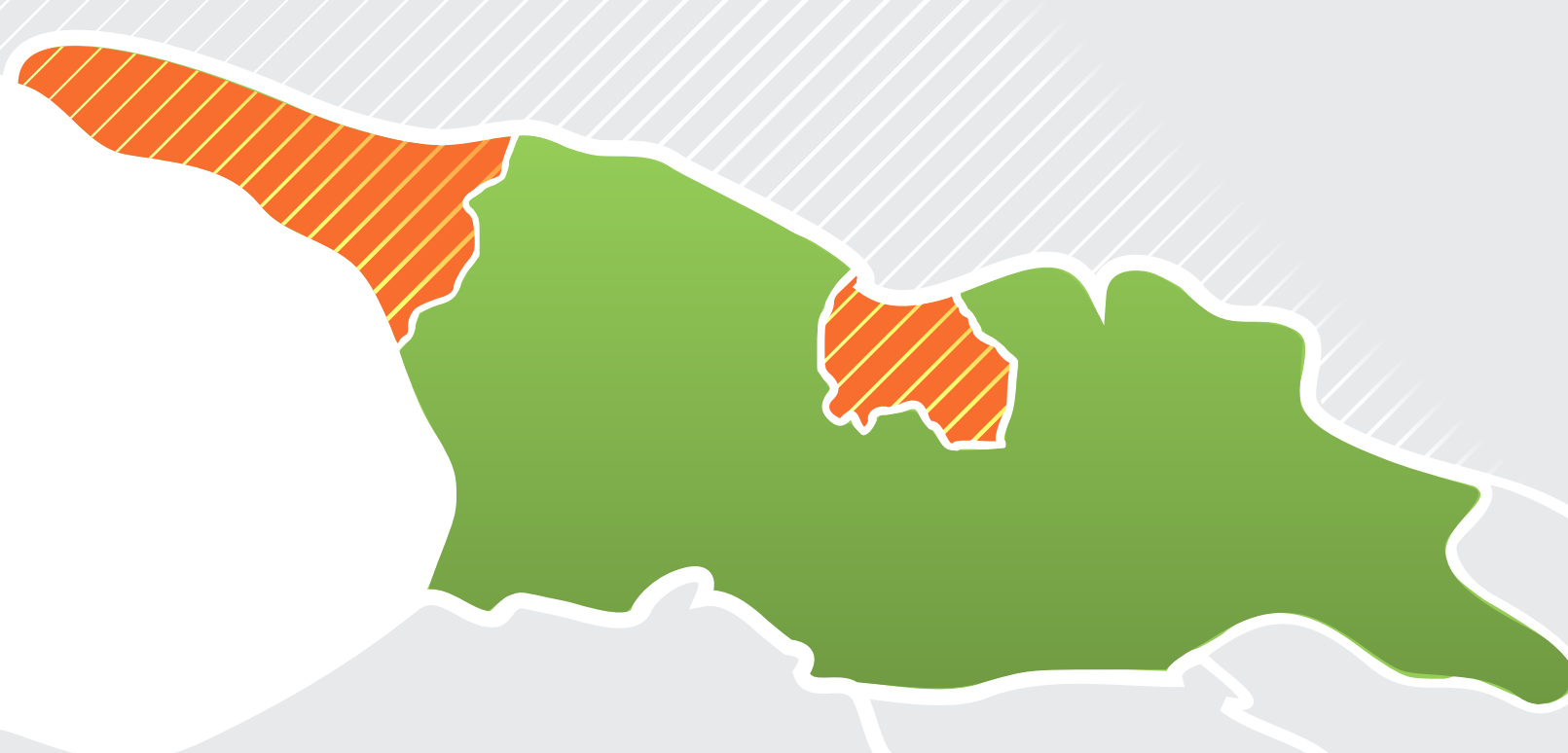
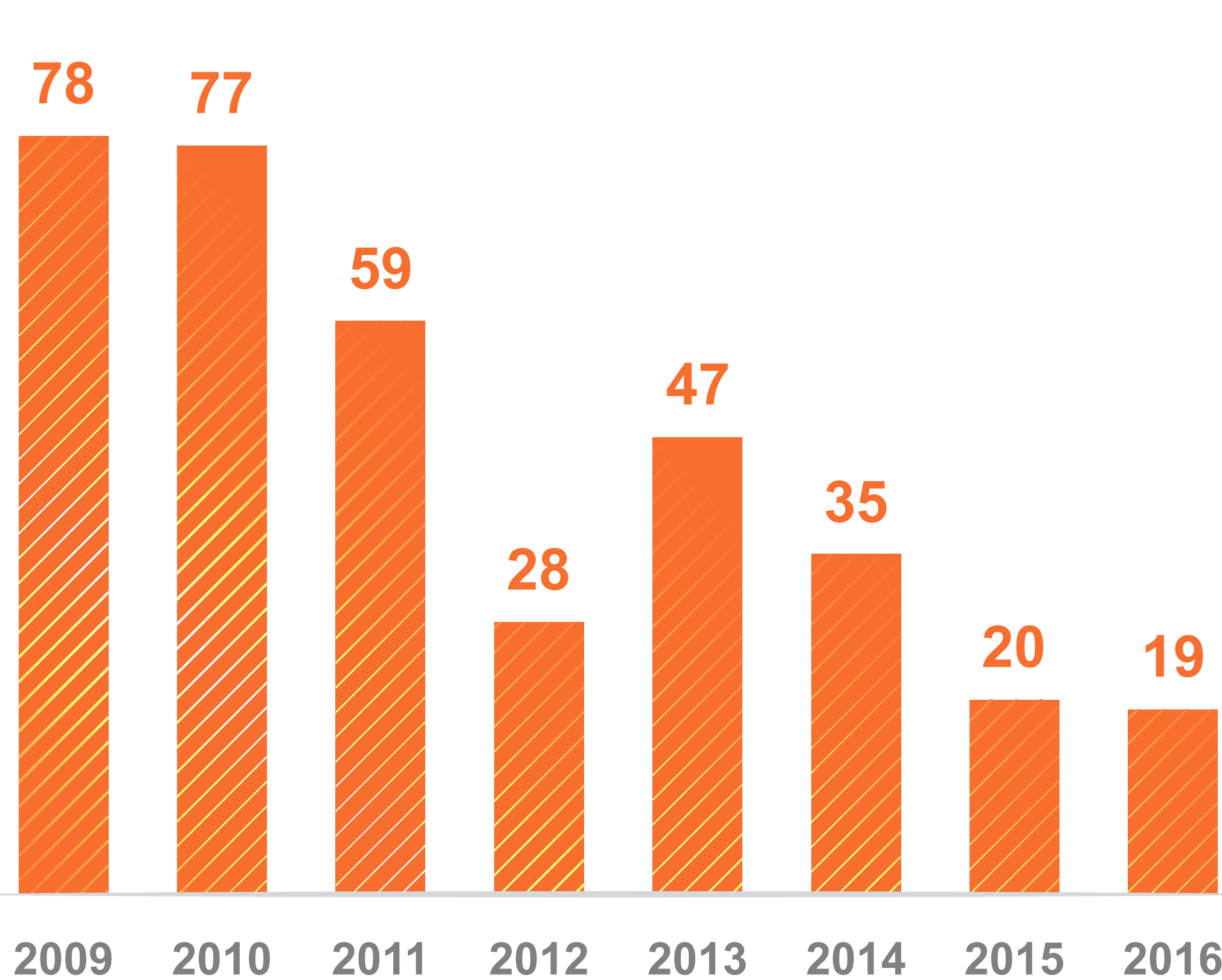


Is Law of Georgia on Occupied Territories Enforced?

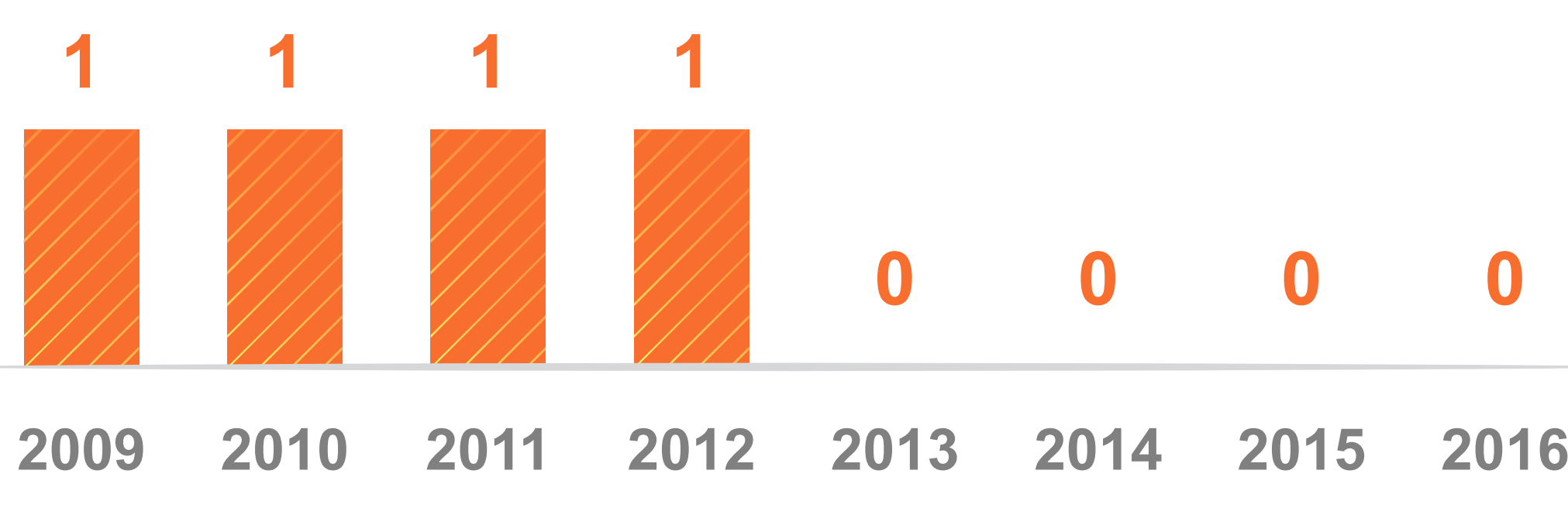
After the Russian-Georgian war of August 2008, and the recognition of the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia by the Russian Federation, Georgia adopted a Law on Occupied Territories, which limited the ability of foreign citizens to travel and conduct economic activities on the occupied territories.



Number of Illegal Entries into Occupied Territories



Number of Cases of Illegal Economic Activity in Occupied Territories

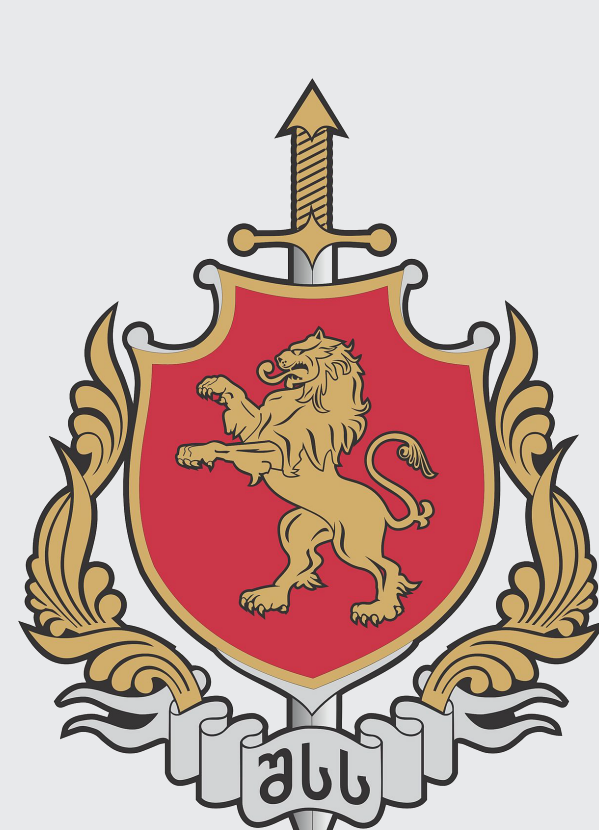


The Ministry of Internal Affairs refuses to disclose statistics about the number of persons being arrested or denied entry into Georgia due to the violation of the law in 2009-2016.

The Ministry also refuses to disclose the so-called black list of foreign public officials that have violated the law, and the dates when they were added to the list.



Despite of the fact that Former Mayor of Moscow **Yuri Luzhkov** illegally entered the territory of Abkhazia in 2010, he still managed to enter and leave Georgia (in May, 2017) without any problems.



- In case of Yuri Luzhkov, the Ministry explained that he was not on the black list at the time of his visit in May, 2017; therefore, the border police could not deny him entry. However, since the Ministry refused to disclose the black list, it is impossible to verify this claim.
- The Ministry also stated that it was unable to launch an investigation against Yuri Luzhkov because he had illegally visited occupied territories in 2010 and the 6 year limitation period had already passed by the time he visited Georgia in 2017.



The justification given by the Ministry of Internal Affairs about Luzhkov's case indicates that it either fails to keep the black list up to date, or does not have the political will or is otherwise unable to execute the Law on Occupied Territories.