



Chronicles of Georgian Women
Political Resistance 2024-2025

DAUGHTERS Maro

Daughters of Maro

Chronicles of Georgian Women Political Resistance 2024/2025

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SilkRoadFragments

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Forward

A single mother separated from a group of brutally beaten protesters and broke through a police cordon built of shields... Before going out to the protest, the woman wrote on her arm that she had allergies and asked doctors not to administer certain medications if she were found unconscious... The World Press Photo winning image shows a woman standing in front of riot police with her arms outstretched, demanding to be detained because her friend had already been arrested. In the isolator, she was humiliated and filmed. But who could have imagined that, a year after, people would be publishing photos of burns caused by water cannons, explaining them by the possible addition of chemical substances. Agents banned since the World War One.

On November 28, 2025, the continuous political protest in Georgia surpassed the 365-day mark, and still nothing is certain. However, it can definitely be said that it has become part of the world's newest history and that this chapter bears a woman's face.

In anticipation of major changes, an unnoticed revolution has already taken place. It can be called a rethinking of civic equality and responsibility. In a conservative country of the South Caucasus, a protest led by women has become one of the 21st century's longest running examples of continuous resistance and resilience. But it would be wrong to see this process merely as the formation of a new identity... For the majority, it is more about defending their own identity and reconnecting with cultural roots that the Sovietization of Georgia had suppressed for nearly a century.

After the 2024 parliamentary elections, the statement by the newly appointed PM regarding the halt of Georgia's EU accession impacted not only Georgia but also the central corridor of the Silk Road. The West began seeking alternative transit routes, which in turn facilitated the peaceful resolution of the thirty-year frozen conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan and initiated negotiations on models of economic cooperation with the European Union.

Peace - was the main electoral slogan of the Georgian Dream party. Yet the European Parliament awarded the

Sakharov Prize to Mzia Amaglobeli, a media manager who became the first female journalist imprisoned in the history of independent Georgia. International diplomats and local audiences alike speak of a hybrid annexation and of novel methods restricting media freedom and freedom of speech... And although the ruling political force denies the accusations and insists on its European aspirations, the fact remains unchanged. On October 16, Elina Valtonen, the Chair of the OSCE and Finland's Foreign Minister, on an official visit to the country, was fined 5,000 GEL for allegedly blocking a road. But even this can be considered a mild punishment, especially when compared to the potential criminal liability if the same act were repeated.

Almost all small media outlets face the threat of closure. Some even launched a separate campaign titled "The Light must stay on". One of the main opposition channels, Mtavari, has already shut down, while two others, TV Pirveli and Formula, remain under constant financial and legal risk.

To keep things brief, this book represents only a small part of an archival installation created over the past year through the systematization of materials circulated via the media and the personal pages of the participants themselves. It offers the reader a chronological and subjective understanding of the essence of the political protest and the formation of its female face. Same time, Daughters of Maro also resonates with the global phenomenon we have been observing for years in Iran, Belarus, Venezuela... a phenomenon to which Georgia is still contributing...
Day 407 by January 8, 2026.

Calling it an archive might be too bold. Daughters of Maro can better be described as a chronicle, since even in its expanded form, countless names remain unrecorded, without whom speaking of this epic resistance would be unimaginable.

It should be said that, despite the exemplary struggle of Georgian women, this is not an attempt to idealize this people. A time will come when a detailed analysis of the events will be necessary. But these details risk being lost in the stream of collective memory and the continuous feed of social networks, to the point that even the author may not remember their existence. Not to mention the attempts to shut down media organizations, which would erase published materials from circulation. Unfortunately, examples of this already exist...

The disappearance of memory, that was exactly what I worried about when I titled the work Daughters of Maro... Maro is the name of a young girl born into a well-off and influential family in Georgia, who in 1921 joined the ranks of fighters resisting the approaching Red Army near Tbilisi. Tragically, the 19-year-old nurse, Maro Makashvili, was killed the very next day by an exploding grenade. After the Soviet occupation, even

mentioning her name or the names of her fellow fighters was prohibited, and anything that could revive fragments of memory faced brutal persecution. Only decades later, in 2015, Maro Makashvili was posthumously awarded the title of Georgia's first female National Hero, and her name became a symbol of political resistance. Even more symbolic is the fact that today the epicenter of this protest is exactly where Maro Makashvili's remains are buried. At the steps of the Georgian Parliament building, which was built on the ruins of the Russian military church...

I was concerned, that energetically the ongoing protest might be associated with failure, but according to the vast majority of those involved, what is happening in Georgia now is a direct continuation of a story that began a hundred years ago and its next chapter. As I have already noted, this work, through the individual and collective protest acts and experiences of the women involved, seeks to provide a chronological and firsthand understanding of the events, while also attempting to preserve these singular examples, acts through which history is written.

No matter how sentimental it may sound, I need to add one important detail at the end, which gave me the main inspiration to complete this work. Despite everything said above, *Daughters of Maro* is not primarily about violence against women, restrictions on freedom of speech, or the process of self-determination.

For me, the main motivation for working on this project was my daughter, Vivien, for whom I wanted to show, through living examples, the kinds of challenges she may face in her own struggles. Challenges that anyone might encounter in life and despite everything, the courage with which she can meet them.

I hope that the interviews and personal notes archived in *Daughters of Maro* will, in the future, also facilitate the work of other researchers and contribute to the interpretation of the events that have unfolded.

21 Nov / 2024

Monologue

*Dea Mamiseishvili speaks
about the results of
Georgian Parliament Elections
aired live on TV Channel: Mtavari*

Continuous protest in the streets, while the “Georgian Dream” remains detached from time and context, preparing to gather in the so-called parliament. That so-called parliament, where only 89 seats will be filled, all by “Dream” members.

A month has passed since the elections, and no one from Europe has congratulated the so-called government. Well, except for one—who only pretends to be European, Putin’s friend, Orbán. Meanwhile, young people taking to the streets are still being pursued, assaulted, and arrested by Gomelauri’s police force. This country, lost in its dreams, continues its familiar cycle.

When a single man’s words are worth more than the honor of the uniform, everything and everyone gets trampled underfoot. And once that last nerve snaps, it never heals; you forever act beyond the red line you once crossed. Speaking of nerves, after questioning everyone unrelated to the case, the Prosecutor’s Office finally, summoned the CEC chairman, Kalandarishvili. They kept his arrival a secret, but when he left, he ran. Kalandarishvili disappeared from the Prosecutor’s Office. Through which exit, we don’t know. But the fact remains — he vanished from the journalists’ sight. Isn’t it said that the innocent don’t run? Today, you might manage once, but in the long run, staying out of sight will be difficult, Mr. Giorgi. Unlike many “Dream” soldiers who disappeared without a trace, you have, no you are a symbol. A stain.

Not entirely a bad one, right? So many of “Dream’s” men have vanished unrecognized, but flags have even been made in your name.

And finally, the Special Forces stormed Tbilisi State University once again. Of course, not for education, but to disperse the students and clear the territory. This university has carried the karma of armed gang formations since the distant past, and the 21st century, under the so-called rule of the Russian oligarch Ivanishvili — is no exception. This is tonight’s main story. I am Dea Mamiseishvili. We are speaking about Georgia, country that fights.

24 Nov / 2024

*Anna Gogoladze interview from
the Women's March
aired on TV Channel: Mtavari*

We are staying - You leave

In just the last three years alone, 160,000 women have left the country. This means that hundreds of thousands of children are growing up here without their mothers. If anyone has borne the heaviest burden of the authoritarian regime over the past 12 years of economic hardship, injustice, the absence of democracy — it has been women and the children they were forced to leave behind.

The only alternative that Bidzina Ivanishvili announced back in April, when he told us that he would take away the elections, and with the elections, our homeland — was emigration. And today he is offering us exactly that... emigration. He offers this to those of us who do not want to live in Russia and to those who do not want to remain in a country without prospects.

Throughout Georgia's history, the main line of struggle has always run through fighting Georgian women. And at the head of this movement, too there have always been, there are, and there will be women. It is crucial to understand that today, Bidzina Ivanishvili has driven the country into a dead end, and the only way out of this dead end is a movement for change, a movement toward transformation.

What the "Georgian Dream" wants most today is to stop this movement. But we must remember: this movement will not stop until new elections are held in this country.

*Performance by the
Women's March Participants
with empty suitcases near
Bidzina Ivanishvili's palace.
photo: Vakho Kareli / Aprili Media*



28 Nov / 2024

Entering with dignity

*Full Text of newly appointed
PM - Irakli Kobakhidze's statement
on halting EU integration process*

Georgia is a European country for which traditional European values are both organic and precious. As one of the oldest Christian nations, Georgia has always looked toward Europe as the main bastion of Christian defense. We are the country of Ilia Chavchavadze and Vazha-Pshavela, who turned European values into the leitmotif of Georgian civic thought. It is our responsibility—before Georgia's history and our great ancestors—to make Georgia a full-fledged member of the European family. Accordingly, it is our state goal for Georgia to become a member of the European Union by 2030, and we will spare no effort to achieve this.

It must be emphasized that Georgia–EU relations, by their nature, are bilateral and can only be bilateral. We are a proud and dignified nation with a long history. Therefore, for us, it is absolutely unacceptable to view EU integration as a handout that the European Union must grant us. On the contrary, we believe that Georgia, with its rich culture and potential, can enrich the EU just as much as the EU can enrich Georgia. Against this backdrop, it is categorically unacceptable for the Georgian people when some European politicians and bureaucrats try to portray Georgia–EU relations as a one-sided affair. Even more unacceptable is the cascade of insults we've heard from these individuals over the years.

Our country's ill-wishers have turned the European Parliament into a blunt weapon of blackmail against Georgia—this is a great shame for the European Union. Over the past three years, the European Parliament has adopted five resolutions filled with lies and insults—resolutions that were rejected not only by Georgian society, but also by the European Commission and the European Council. All of Georgia witnessed the interference of certain European politicians and bureaucrats in our parliamentary elections—a gross violation of democratic electoral principles. And today, those same individuals attack the legitimacy of our elections. Moreover, they assault the OSCE/ODIHR observer mission's assessments with the same zeal as the radical opposition in Georgia does. We also see that European politicians and bureaucrats use allocated grants and loans as tools to blackmail Georgia. We all remember how, just weeks before the 2021 elections, they planned to cancel a €75 million loan in an attempt to illegitimately influence the outcome. A similar step was taken ahead of the 2024 parliamentary elections—yet it had no effect on the will of the Georgian people. The use of money as a tool of blackmail is an offensive practice and will never be acceptable to the proud Georgian people. We also remember how the issue of candidate status was used to blackmail Georgia, to foment unrest, and to divide society. At a time when Georgia most needed calm—amid war in Ukraine—some European politicians and bureaucrats used the topic of candidate

status as a tool to incite revolution. Organizations funded by the EU were openly involved in this attempted revolution. For nearly two years, the candidate status issue was used to fuel radicalism and so-called polarization in Georgia, further reflecting an unhealthy attitude toward our country. Now, we see these individuals have replaced the candidate status with the idea of opening negotiations. The opening of negotiations is now being used to blackmail and divide our society, just as candidate status was before. This is an entirely artificial issue, especially since the date of opening negotiations has no bearing on the date of accession.

The key is not when negotiations open, but when they close. Georgia began negotiations on the Association Agreement, the Free Trade Agreement, and visa liberalization later than Ukraine and Moldova—yet in all three cases, Georgia achieved results earlier or at the same time. Let us also recall that Montenegro and Serbia opened accession talks with the EU in 2012 and 2014, respectively, but their European integration has not accelerated. Turkey, which opened talks in 2005, had them suspended entirely in 2016. From a technical perspective, it takes only 1.5–2 years from opening negotiations to EU accession. No eastern enlargement of the EU is planned before 2030. This proves how artificial—and thus profoundly offensive—the blackmail being practiced by some European politicians and bureaucrats is. Moreover, in this context, Georgia is not being asked to undertake reforms, but to take steps that amount to renouncing its dignity. This includes repealing the law on NGO transparency, repealing the anti-LGBT propaganda law, imposing sanctions, dismantling our economy with our own hands, releasing Mikheil Saakashvili, and more. We will proceed toward the EU only with dignity. This is the mandate of the Georgian people—the 1,120,000 voters who gave strong support to Georgian Dream and its direction.

Taking all of this into account, we have decided not to place the issue of opening negotiations with the EU on the agenda until the end of 2028. We also refuse any budgetary grants from the EU until then. The end of 2028 is when Georgia will be economically prepared to open accession talks in 2030. We are not stopping—we will continue to fulfill the obligations under the Association Agenda and the Free Trade Agreement, and, as indicated in today's approved government program, we will have fulfilled over 90% of these obligations by 2028. Furthermore, we will do this with our own funding—without any EU financial assistance. We intend to join the EU not by begging and standing on one foot, but by entering with dignity—with a functioning democratic system and a strong economy.

We will continue toward the EU, but will not allow anyone to keep us in a constant state of blackmail and manipulation, which is utterly degrading to our nation and society. We believe today's decision will contribute significantly to restoring healthy relations between Georgia and the EU. The relevant European politicians and bureaucrats—who have completely abandoned European values—must clearly see that they must speak to Georgia with dignity, not blackmail and insult. Using the topic of opening negotiations as a tool for manipulation and division is causing serious reputational damage to the EU in Georgia. Our decision today will help the EU avoid this reputational harm going forward. In conclusion, we boldly declare that by 2030, Georgia will be more prepared for EU membership than any other candidate country. Georgia will join the European Union only through peace, dignity, and prosperity. That is our promise to the Georgian people—and we will fulfill it.

28 Nov / 2024

*Citizens protesting in front of
“Georgian Dream” headoffice.
Sophie Shamanidi comments on
decision to pause negotiations.
aired on TV Channel: Mtavari*

Let them read Article 78

In reality, we all knew that this was where Georgian Dream was heading. Unfortunately, their supporters denied it, insisting, “No, we stand on our two and with dignity...” Well, now, standing tall and with dignity, you may as well head to Russia, Georgian Dream supporters.

Because what the Russian Irakli Kobakhidze has just announced to you, and the fact that Putin congratulated and praised him for it... Maybe now, just maybe, you will finally use your brains and realize where Georgian Dream is leading you.

I don't know, what more do you need? The only thing left is for them to bring in Russian troops because Ivanishvili and his henchmen have already done everything else.

It is truly unimaginable what they have dared to do to us. They have shredded the Constitution. Let them read Article 78. They have completely ignored the will of 85% of the Georgian population, who want European integration. They don't care about anything—except making money.

These people are nothing more than Bidzina Ivanishvili's money keepers. They guard his fortune like the Holy Grail. Nothing else matters to them. Until now, we thought they were merely Ivanishvili's slaves. But now it turns out they are directly Putin's slaves. Even Dugin is congratulating Kobakhidze, calling him a great athlete. We saw what happened today, and honestly, I don't know what more it will take



Whom did you swear an oath to?

President Salome Zourabichvili addresses Special Forces dislocated on Liberty Square aired on Formula

Your duty is to protect the sovereignty of this country. To protect its citizens. Your duty is not to disperse the people. Are you serving Russia or Georgia? Whom did you swear an oath to? I want an answer...

Do you not answer to your President? Can you lower your shields?... You don't answer to your President? Do you not think about your future? About the country's future? About your children? Take this chance — before you end up with a Russian President...



29 Nov / 2024

Injured journalist - Anna Mdivani describes effect of water cannon from the emergency vehicle. aired on TV Pirveli

Only just able to open my eyes

We were covering the events when the water cannon suddenly turned toward us and sprayed me directly in the face... I've been in the ambulance for twenty minutes now, and I'm only just able to open my eyes. I've covered many protests before, and I've experienced pepper spray, but what they're using now is unimaginable. I had a spasmodic attack—I couldn't breathe. I'm telling you, I've been sitting in this ambulance for twenty minutes... I have burns, everything that got hit by this water is burning. My eyes burn, my entire face burns. I couldn't open my eyes. I have no idea what's mixed into this water, but it's unbearable, you simply cannot breathe... I don't know what it is, but the Ministry of Internal Affairs must answer for it.

29 Nov / 2024

*Disability rights activist -
Anna Sikhashvili speaks in front of
the riot police
published by Netgazeti*

We will not allow this to happen

The decision to halt European integration is deadly. However, I want to emphasize that the country will survive because we will save it—we will not allow this to happen. But what Georgian Dream did today was indeed political suicide.

Why did I come here?

I came because we must send a clear and firm NO to Russia once again. We cannot let this country slip away. Our ancestors built this nation, so much blood has been shed, and we cannot allow its destruction. We cannot let this country be killed by the hands of its own people.

Because the riot police, the officers standing behind me, are also Georgians. Yet they have chosen to destroy our state.



*Journalist - Guram Rogava's selfie
from the hospital after the riot
police assault on him*

30 Nov / 2024

Sophio Kuntsaria demanding open studio and fair coverage of the events from the Georgian Public Broadcaster heads aired live on GPB

Where were you, explain to me

– Yesterday, when they were killing our children, you want to talk to me about forms? Which form are you talking about? Where were you when they were killing our children? Why weren't you at the rally, why didn't you come out, tell me? If I, as a journalist, stand there from morning till night protecting not only my own children but everyone's children... then where were you, explain to me?

– We were covering it... — Vasil Maghlaperidze

– Covering what? When Papuashvili was sitting there the other night... while Papuashvili was lying to us during the dispersal, what are you even talking about? What are you talking about at all? What truth are you talking about, what's making you laugh, Vasiko?

– Bitterness makes me laugh.

– And bitterness makes me shout, Vasiko!

– You think by insulting and bullying a person, you're expressing yourselves...

– What insult, what bullying...? Hand me that... Give me Guram Rogava's photo — she asks for the photo of Guram Rogava, the journalist deliberately injured the previous night — These are journalists. Them, and at the same time as their beating...

– Why didn't you bring our photo, why didn't you bring it? I would have liked that very much if you had — Tina Berdzenishvili

– Tina, I spoke about it live on air today. Rewind and watch what I said and how I said it...

– Listen, the journalist, the cameraman, the editor... You can come at me, but don't touch them — Tina Berdzenishvili

– Don't twist the conversation, because I don't target journalists, or cameramen, or editors. They are our colleagues. Right now it would be better if you go in and do the live — Shopio Khuntsaria



30 Nov / 2024

Nino Laghidze speaks about the reasons and the protest in demanded open studio aired live on GPB

Do you know what a good state is?

I stand there with a hundred thousand people, and they still tell me that we are few... not enough... Do you know what a good state is? A good state is when I stand there alone, and my voice is heard across the whole country — that is a state... I never lived to see such a state in this country, never. Every time I went somewhere and spoke the truth, the vultures descended on me — just like they stormed me in the foyer today... Apparently, I am the bad one, because supposedly I called someone a Russian...

- Whom do you mean? - Tina Berdzenishvili

Your employees... I promised the people I would say three things from this studio. If you are afraid — and you certainly will be. Every police officer should be afraid for their child in this country, because it is their children who will be used most brutally in all this filth... Their children will become the main tools of blackmail in the future, because this Russian system we live in is rotten, and we have never been able to get out of it...



Lower your cameras!

*Special forces attack journalists
with the pepper spray
aired live on TV Channel: Mtavari*

- Right now, you can see in the frame—this black-masked officer... Let go of my hand! Let go! Act properly and don't hit me... Don't hit me! Many citizens have been detained, and now they're preventing the media from working here as well. They're pushing us around... Film these people! They're cursing at us because they don't want us to capture how they're detaining people and the force they're using against those who were simply standing here on Shevchenko Street. Can you film over there? There are so many of them...

- Lower the cameras!

- We're doing our job, so you need to leave this area.

- Lower the cameras!

- We're doing our job—leave! They're shouting obscenities... Balu, film this girl—see how they're treating her... She's a citizen whose friend was just detained and dragged inside. They're treating us, the media, aggressively as well because they didn't want us to capture the footage that was just aired live a few moments ago...

*During the live coverage TV Pirveli
journalist - Mariam Gaprindashvili
was severely injured and brought
to the hospital
video still: TV Pirveli*



30 Nov / 2024

Citizen speaks about the methods of police chasing and assault aired on Formula

You cannot imagine what they did

They grabbed me by the throat, cursed at me, you just can't imagine what they did. I'm in complete shock... I was just trying to shield myself. They opened the doors, there were quite a lot of us, but we couldn't even get others inside because they were storming in and hitting us. I don't even want to repeat on live air the obscene words they used against me. The way they cursed at me, the way they hit me on the head... even my family... Who do you think you are to insult someone's family?

You standing there, two-meter 'men' no, not men, cowards! The fact that you could even raise a hand against a woman just to show your strength proves your disgrace. You grabbed me by the throat, hit me, cursed at me, kicked me I'm in total shock. I'm trying so hard to control this rage.

Those of us who managed to get inside tried to hold the doors shut while they were trying to break in. But we were many, so we pushed from behind and managed to close the doors. Do you know what they did to me? They hit me in the torso, the hands, the head.

We saw what happened today, and honestly, I don't know what more it will take



Did you see the blooded people?

*Dea Mamiseishvili addresses the Deputy of Police Department - Sergi Bzishvili while he is commanding forces
aired live on TV Channel: Mtavari*

- Sergi, is this a proportional force? Tell me, what's happening on Rustaveli Avenue?

- Nothing is happening.

- People are bloodied, Sergi, didn't you see?

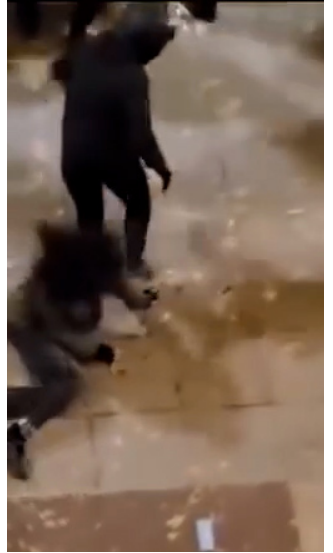
- Nothing is happening.

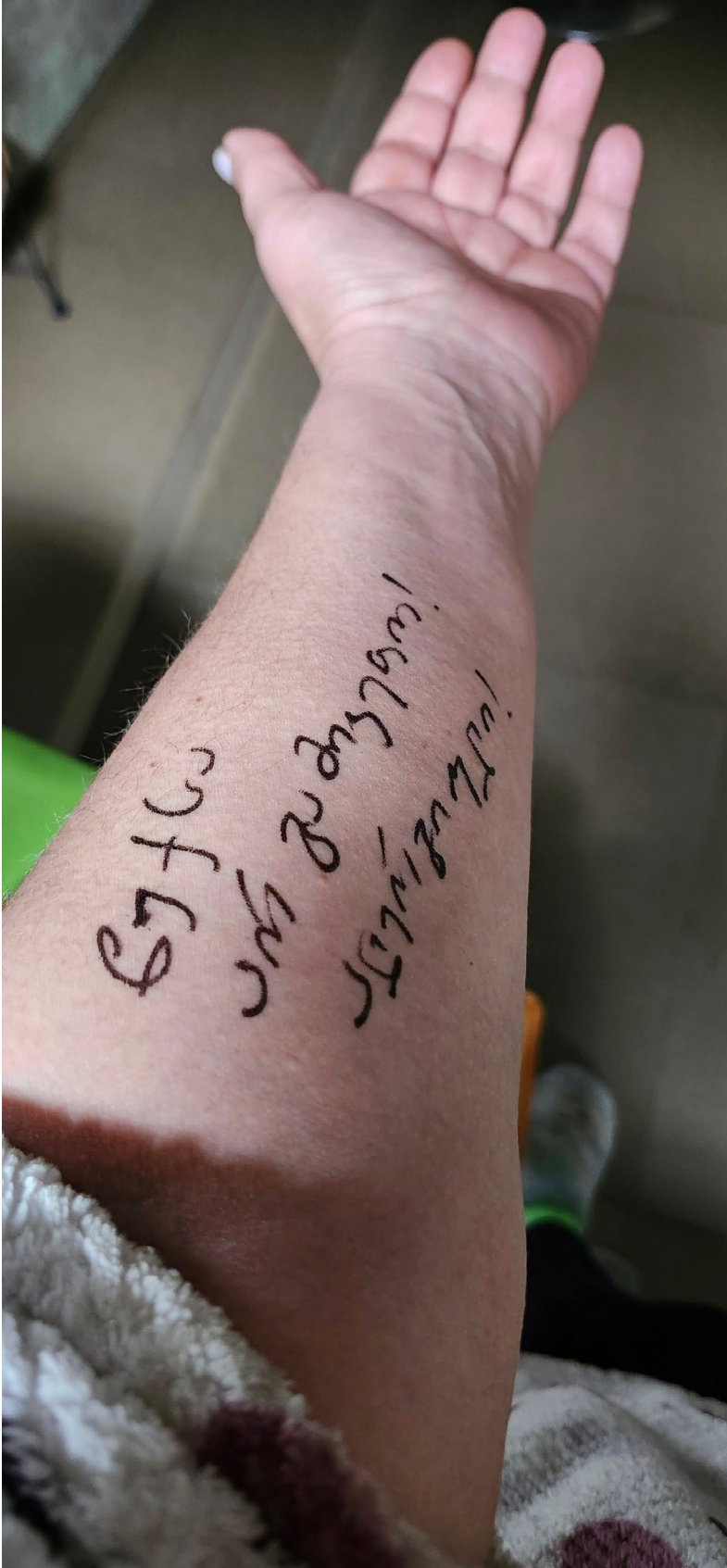
- Whose service are you working for? Tell me! Sergi, whose service are you in? Sergi, whose orders are you following? Did you see the footage of the bloodied people, or do you not have a phone and only a radio? Did you see the footage of bloodied people being punched in the face? Being punched in the face... Sergi, for what you don't want to answer, you have no answer... It was Sergi Bzishvili...

*Protester on the barricades
photo: Guram Muradov*









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2023/09/01

10/10/2023

30 Nov / 2024

Don't give me Dexa, I am allergic
- writes a woman on the hand and
posts it on social networks before
leaving the home to protest
photo: Inga Abiglukoza

back:
A sequence of video stills showing
riot police officers playing football
with a protester's head is
included here to illustrate the
situation in general
video still from Teona Chalidze

-
*Mother of Georgia holding brutally
beaten protester Zviad Maisashvili*
artwork: Ekaterine Kato Beqishvili

1 Dec / 2024

This is not how you treat brothers

- Behind the barricades, there is a girl who was just addressing the special forces... What did you want to say? Your voice is now being heard across all of Georgia.

- My voice is to ask you to think, to look into your hearts, to remember that we are one, we are brothers, we are friends. But this is not how you treat brothers — not even enemies should be treated like this. A Georgian should not treat another Georgian this way.

- Thank you very much. The whole of Georgia just listened live to this very emotional appeal. This is the girl standing behind the barricades. She is the only one left because a little while ago tear gas was fired here, and it was practically impossible to stand, Inga...

Manana Samkharadze - standing all alone behind the barricades addressing special forces. Two days later, her husband, Anton Chechin, was arrested after police claimed to have found an excessive quantity of drugs. aired live on TV Pirveli



Impossible to sit at home

*Mother of two
aired on TV Channel: Mtavari*

For the past few days, I have practically been living on the streets. I truly wish I could be doing my work, and I am a mother of two children — I deeply wish I could be home with them right now...

But as we have all seen, in recent days, events have escalated to a point where not only have they taken away our voice, they have stripped us of all our rights; they have torn up the Constitution before our eyes. They have trampled

on every human right, crushed every shred of dignity. They have crossed every boundary — whether it be Christian values, civic values, or simply human values...

I don't know — for me, it is impossible to sit at home right now and watch, on a screen, people the age of my children or my parents being beaten in the streets.

2 Dec / 2024

*Lady from the protest
aired on TV Channel: Mtavari*

For the sake of children and their future

Needless to say, we will not give up our country. For so many centuries, we have fought these Russians and still haven't gotten rid of them. Of course, now that we have achieved independence, we will not surrender it, even if it costs us blood.

I am old now, my time is near. I stand here for the sake of my children, my grandchildren, and future generations, my child. We will win — do not be afraid. This is a land chosen by the Virgin Mary. She protects us and will continue to protect us... I know many more things, but I cannot say them...

Stones

It was most likely a stone thrown by a special forces officer, because it hit me from behind. As a result, I felt heavy bleeding. It turned out that I had a wound on my head. They put three stitches in yesterday

*Injured young woman
from the emergency vehicle blames police in
throwing stones
aired on TV Pirveli*



3 Dec / 2024

After repeatedly denying the facts, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Aleksandre Darakhvelidze was confronted during the briefing when journalist Keta Tsitskishvili held up her smartphone to show him the footage of the violence. aired live on TV Channel: Mtavari

Have you seen these photos and videos

- Mr. Aleksandre, have you seen these photos? Have you seen this video? Have you seen the video of the attack on Guram Rogava?
- I have seen all the videos... Please take a seat, ask your question, and I will answer...
- Can you tell me who this law enforcement officer is?
- Please sit down... Ask your question.
- Who is this employee of the Special Tasks Department? I want an answer.
- Take a seat, I will answer you... Let's not provoke. Ask your question and I will answer.
- Mr. Aleksandre, answer the question... Who is this employee of the Special Tasks Department?
- Calm down, ask your question, and I will answer you...
- Tell me the name and surname of the attacker on Guram Rogava, the one you just showed. This person who is a Special Tasks Department officer, has a criminal case been launched against him? Has he been dismissed from the force? Is he still showing up at the protests? Is he still on duty? This is what I want to know.
- I want to urge everyone to stay within the framework of the press conference... I am ready to answer all your questions and provide the relevant information, but these kinds of provocations are unacceptable to me... As for your question, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has made several statements on this matter. As you know, it was a very serious incident and we have addressed it... However, regarding the possible crime committed by a law enforcement officer...
- Possible, Mr. Aleksandre?
- This falls under the competence of another agency... As for whether an investigation has been launched, the relevant agency has confirmed that an investigation is underway...

Appropriate investigative actions are being carried out. As to whether the specific person has been identified and whether legal action will be taken against them, the appropriate agency will answer that.

- Alright, second question: From the loudspeaker, someone from the Special Tasks Department — likely Zviad Kharazishvili — whom we couldn't see, was shouting obscenities non-stop for about ten minutes. What legal framework does this fall under? Can you respond to this? I'll show you the video if you haven't seen it.

- Regarding whether a specific person used the loudspeaker for other purposes, I don't have information about that...

- I'll show you the video...

- As for the use of the loudspeaker, at the rally it's used to inform participants... The public constantly sees us using this tool. It plays a pre-recorded message that repeats the same text continuously... So if other individuals used it for a different purpose, I haven't seen that... However, the public also saw that many opposition parties had copied our message and broadcasted it in a different interpretation at protests, so it's not impossible that others may have used it too...

Noise in the room — everyone speaking at once. Aleksandre tries to present statistics on injured police officers. Keta Tsitskishvili tries to play a recording, but others in attendance deliberately prevent her from doing so.



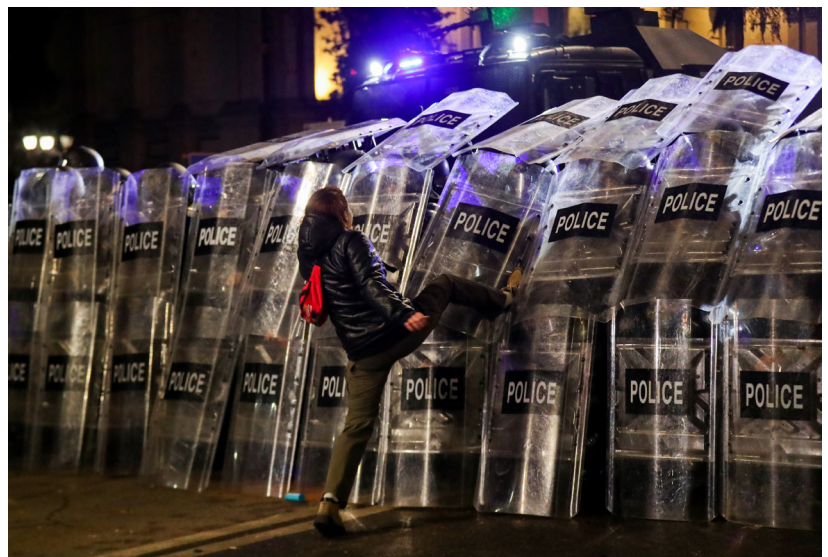
3 Dec / 2024

*Nana Tomaradze breaks into
the police cordon
photo: Nikoloz Urushadze*

Are you afraid of me?

Everything I see here is against Georgia. So, you want to see us on our knees? And why, for what damn reason? You miserable people...

I'm exhausted... But I will stay in this Georgia of yours... So what is it that you want? What is it that you want? What is it that you want? Are you afraid of me? You're fucking pricks.



4 Dec / 2024

*Journalist Eliso Jariashvili
confronts appointed PM - Irakli
Kobakhidze on press conference
aired live on Formula*

In whose name?

– Let me finish the question: who do you represent when you speak? You're not recognized by any democratic state. From time to time, you get congratulations and praise — mostly from a drunk Medvedev or Dugin... Whose name are you speaking in right now? Let me finish the question, and you remember the questions too... Next question...

– Let's go one at a time... What matters to me is that you acknowledged me, because today you officially came to the Government Administration building.

– This building doesn't belong to you. I entered as someone coming to an institution. If you consider asking you a

question as “recognition”—then so be it. You represent a Russian regime and use captured institutions. Who else am I supposed to ask?

– In a debate with a representative of Kezerashvili’s television... Kezerashvili has been proven to have looted the army. That’s one. As for business racketeering—I personally have information...

– With all due respect, your party has had power for 13 years. Please, let’s drop this worn-out rhetoric. Let’s not bore our viewers. You promised me... I’ll continue asking questions—I still don’t know who you represent, whose name you speak in.

– Don’t speak with such arrogance... You represent Kezerashvili, that’s what matters.

– Whose name are you speaking of? I’m not ashamed of who I represent—I represent Formula TV. Who do you represent?

– I speak in the name of the Georgian people.

– Which Georgian people? The ones you’re maiming in the streets? Let me ask you this: wasn’t your promise peace?

– One moment—I speak in the name of 1,110,000 voters. That’s one. Second, regarding peace, we must distinguish between terms. That’s the first thing. We saved this country from war.

– And what’s happening in the streets now—what is that, if not war? Who gives the order to mutilate young people? Is that an order from Russia, from Bidzina Ivanishvili, or his own initiative? Also, I’d like to know—do you get paid for betraying your homeland, or is that voluntary? I’m asking you as a citizen—when Guram Rogava was brutally beaten, who gave that order? Who committed that crime, and why hasn’t it been investigated?

– Send my regards to Kezerashvili...

– Send my regards to Bidzina Ivanishvili and the Russian oligarchs. Who gave the order to maim young people and journalists? Was it Ivanishvili, was it a Russian order, or your own initiative? Answer me...

– I understand your emotions...

– You understand no one’s emotions. I’m asking you—answer the specific question.

– Fine. It’s shameful.

– You know what’s shameful? Beating people in the streets. It’s shameful when people are deliberately hit in the head. Hospitals are overflowing. Detention centers are full. All opposition parties are being raided. What does that mean? Who gave the order?

– You should be ashamed...

– I’m not ashamed of anything. I’m asking you: what price did you sell your homeland for? Or are you doing it for free?

– You’re selling the homeland for Kezerashvili’s money...

– I’m a journalist and I only get paid for my work. We’ve already addressed the Kezerashvili issue—you had 13 years to act if you had something to say. Who is giving you orders now?

– You’re taking dirty money from Kezerashvili...

– You want to be seen as legitimate, right? You believe you are legitimate. So tell me—who institutionally gives the orders to mutilate young people? Are they coming from Russia, or are they homegrown decisions?

– We won’t let a “Nazi-Maidan” happen...

– No one wants a Nazi-Maidan. You’re killing people in the streets. What do you want, to drive someone to death?

– You wanted debates, right? Come to our channel for a debate.

– Why would I go to Kezerashvili’s channel? Let’s debate anywhere you want.

– You mean the channel where Vasil Maghlapidze, a political party member, became director? Or the ones you’ve turned into propaganda tools?

– Why are you talking to me from the war party?

– Which war? The one you’re waging in the streets against young people?

– Don’t get nervous.

– I’m not nervous. And if I am, do you know why?

– You’re shaking...

– Do you know why I’m upset? Because my colleagues have been beaten.

– Don’t shake...

– Young people...

– My colleagues, the police, have been beaten because of your shameful actions—because of the United National Movement and the “Nazi-Maidan.” You are the disgrace... Don’t shake.

– I’m the disgrace? The public has already delivered its verdict on you... Russian. Laugh all you want...

Kobakhidze leaves the briefing. Then returns.

– You’re all pathetic.

– You’re pathetic. Am I pathetic? Once the media thought you were a normal person...

4 Dec / 2024

Hands stained with the blood



Human Rights activists gathered in front of the police station to protest the violent actions published by RFE / RL

The hands of the police are stained with the blood of our children... That’s why I came, to say this. They beat them mercilessly and sacrifice them. Their faces may be covered, but they know exactly who they are — and not a single one has been held accountable.

4 Dec / 2024

You will be ashamed

*Neighbor of the political prisoner -
Zviad Tsetskhladze -
after police entered his home
aired on TV Pirveli*

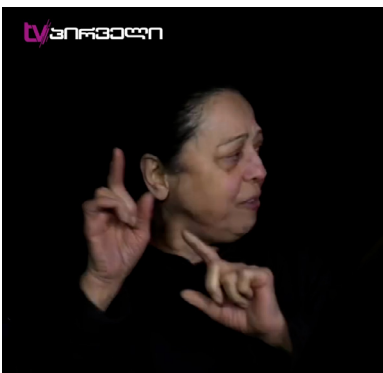
- You're not even human... Look what Bidzina has turned you into... You animals, you... You dare call yourself a man? You scoundrel, you...

- What was happening?

- Nothing, I was at home. I've had two surgeries... I'm a teacher, I work right up there at the school and I can't go out because if I fall again, if anything hits me, I'm only one month post-surgery, I won't survive it. My three grandchildren are all out there, constantly protesting... I've spent my whole life fighting so that my children and my students could have a better future. May Bidzina never know peace... Death and destruction will befall him. I will live to see the day when he suffers. But he must live a long life, his loved ones must suffer too, just as he has brought my Georgia to this state. And all of them, especially these people (points at microphones of propaganda channels), you should be ashamed child, you're a young woman and you will be ashamed to live in this country... Your disgraceful television... Get out of here. You are not worthy of being spoken to... What? What, you don't like insults? Everyone will be held accountable, everyone who circled 41 (the ruling party's number on ballots) and brought my country to this. No one will escape... not even your own children.

- What was happening in Zviadi's house?

- I don't know anything... I didn't even know. I noticed something strange with that kid a few months ago, but I didn't know anything else... Now my children wrote me that he lives there, in apartment number eight, and I rushed out just like I was... locked the door and ran out.



6 Dec / 2024

*Nana Sander is seen arguing with special-forces officers stationed at the entrance of Parliament.
posted by Netgazeti
photo: Francis Prymerski*

You have nothing to say, you're a criminal

- You criminal... I'm the provocateur? You're using violence against me, and I shouldn't say you're violent? And I'm the provocateur? Your colleagues, the abusers assaulted pregnant women, children, the elderly, women... Who did it? You don't watch TV, you coward? Look at me... I'm asking you a question, answer me. Who used violence?! You blind yourself to the truth, you servant? Your bastard criminal colleagues... Who was violent?!

- You're rude

- You're rude and poorly raised. Your mother should be ashamed for raising someone who sold out their country... You're selling your homeland. You don't even know what a homeland is, because mentally, culturally, you are Russian. And you're not only stealing the homeland from the people living here but you're stealing it from over a million emigrants like us... My friend came here from Germany, specifically to be here and there are many more like her. Why? Are we crazy for coming back? We left our lives, our studies, our jobs in Germany to stand here? Are we crazy? No, we're smart. We love our country, unlike you. And we will not give it up to you. We won't hand it over to Russia-loving bastards. To Khareba's servants, to Bidzina's servants, to Putinists. Go move your ass to the occupation line if you have any guts... You have nothing to say. You're a criminal.



7 Dec / 2024

Murder attempt in live

During the live - TV Pirveli crew - Maka Chikhladze and her cameraman - Giorgi Shetsiruli were attacked by the unknowns. Both of the journalist were hospitalized with multiple injuries video still: TV Pirveli

— One second, I said, who are you?! These are the ones— Maka found the attackers... Move your hand. Maka identified the attackers, they are on Mtatsminda, they're beating citizens. This is a live broadcast. Police are not on the scene. You see, there's a bloody crackdown near the conservatory, and there is no police presence... - Nodar Meladze

- Excuse me, who are you? Don't touch - Maka Chikhladze

- People have been brutally beaten... Don't touch the camera... - Nodar Meladze

- Get the fuck out of here, you motherfucker... - attacker

- There is no police presence - Nodar Meladze

Chikhladze's scream. A masked man covers her mouth. Camera falls

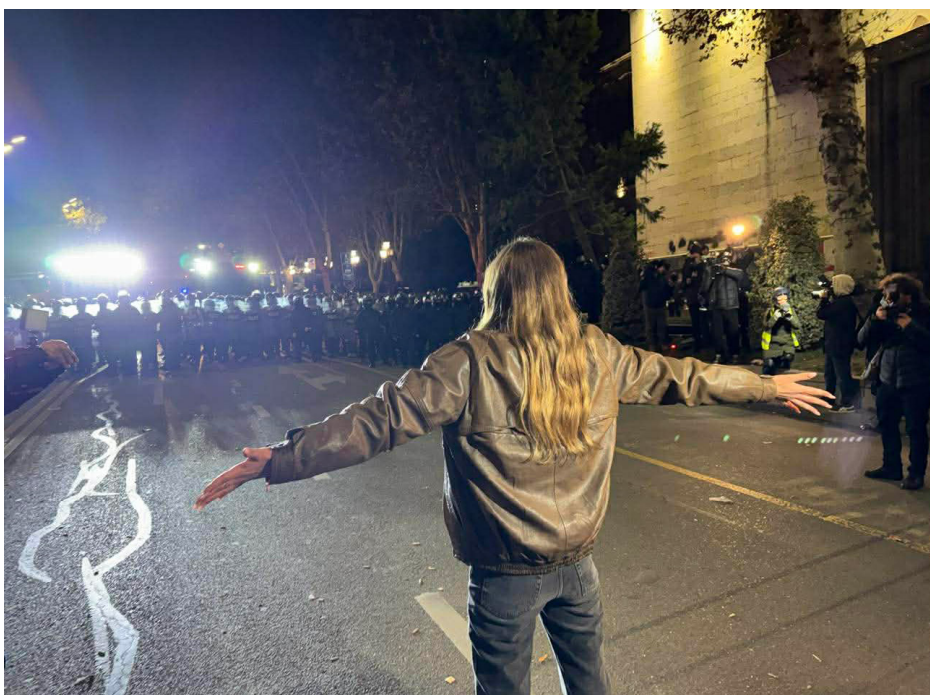
- I'll fuck your mother... - attacker

- We don't know what's happening... Send all crews to the scene... - Nodar Meladze



I am right here!

My friend was detained over there... I'm not moving from here, no, no way. Let them come, I'm right here, I'm standing here, let them come. I'll stand here, I'll stand here... and I will fight to the end. Let them come, I'm not afraid.



*Beatrice Gazdeliani stands in front of the special forces, asking them to detain her as well.
photo: Basti Mgaloblishvili / Publika*

When I was arrested, they took me to the station... they brought me into some room where there were Ministry of Internal Affairs officers wearing masks. They filmed me... they insulted me, both psychologically and verbally.

I can tell you with certainty that they did the same to other detainees as well... and this is completely unacceptable behavior from law enforcement. I don't yet know if I will file a complaint. I'm thinking about it... I just don't really trust the police, so I honestly don't know what to do in this situation. All forms of violence are unacceptable... and it breaks my heart that this is even happening at all. But I still plan to go out to the protest, and I still plan to fight for Georgia's freedom.



7 Dec / 2024

*Reconstruction of the scene:
mother pleading on her knees
to the police for her ill child
posted by RFE / RL*

He's just a little child

- That's my child, oh God, let him go!
- Don't film...
- Help me, please! Oh God...
- Ma'am, who is this person to you?
- Don't touch my child. Let me through to my son, I beg you... I beg you, let me through!
- Step aside.
- That's my child. I have nothing to do with you.
- Move over that way.
- I have no business with you...
- Move your hand off the phone. I'm with the media, please, I'm not just a phone. Read it – Radio Liberty - journalist
- Guys, he's just a little child, let me through...
- What are you going to do once you get in there?
- They took my husband and my child... - mother crying from a distance

These are your gangs

*Maka Janashia speaks out after
the assault on her by the
unknown masked people
aired on TV Channel: Mtavari*

As soon as I said I was a journalist, he immediately punched me in the eye. Then others swarmed in and just snatched my phone from my hand and took it. On top of that, he said, 'You're a journalist, right?' and kicked me. They were in masks, aggressive... they were not sober. These masked men dressed in black are walking around in groups. Several participants of the rally were beaten. This is a tragedy. I want to address the Ministry of Internal Affairs – Gomelauri, get rid of your raiding gangs. These are your gangs. You are illegitimate people who are sending raiding gangs against peaceful citizens...

8 Dec / 2024

*Journalist must be untouchable –
Nino Zautashvili about the
night of assaults
aired on TV Channel: Mtavari*

Ultimate sign of weakness

Violence against the media is the ultimate expression, the ultimate sign of weakness. And what we witnessed yesterday wasn't just violence; I would call it attempted murder. That's how I truly see it, because there was a very real chance, just like in the case of Guram Rogava, and also Maka Chikhladze and Giorgi Shetsiruli, that this could have ended in a horrific outcome.

I don't even want to speak about what that would have caused, because it's already painfully clear. Everything is so obvious now, so undeniable, that I no longer have any doubts about what we're dealing with. If anyone still has their own interpretations, that's between them and their conscience.

As for me, I've already said, we must all act according to the voice of our conscience. That's the one thing we must rely on when making decisions, especially now. This is the reality we are living in. This is our situation.

I wish a swift recovery to all those harmed. And I want to say, Georgian media will always stand on the front line, covering every significant event that unfolds in our country.

That is our profession, our duty, and journalists must be untouchable, especially when reporting from the most dangerous frontlines, bringing vital information to the public.

I am deeply shaken. Last night I had to watch those horrifying clips over and over again. We were standing just below the Conservatory, and somehow, I ended up in the very epicenter of that horror.

And now, I just want to say I hope this is the last time we have to witness something like this. May we finally begin walking down the path of progress, the one we all truly want.

One voice of truth can break the system

Thea Abashidze addresses one of the main propagandist - Shalva Ramishvili aired on Formula



- We are all at risk now. We're under threat of death. My child is right here next to me, my third, the youngest... I'm speaking to their father now, and telling him—my other children are here too. You should all know: there are armed provocateurs—"titushkas"—roaming around, looking for a reason to incite violence, so they can later blame it on us, as if we—the peaceful citizens here—were planning to hurt anyone.

- Who are you addressing, when you say you're speaking to the father of your children?

- The father of my children knows very well who he is. It's Shalva Ramishvili. These are the children I raised in pain, in hardship. And now, they are in danger. Everything we went through because of this man was unbearable for them. And now he dares to preach from his safe distance? And to those of you who still believe this man, open your eyes. Show me even one government official who isn't rich... How can you believe these people, my friends? We are all in the same boat. All of us. We are oppressed by this system. I was a child on April 9th, and I was standing here. I've been at every protest since then. But I never supported individuals. I stood for a system that had crushed our spirit. But now we must wake up. Please, I'm begging all of you, stand before your conscience. Don't believe the propaganda. They're lying. They run troll factories. I beg you, my beloved people, I love you all. I love my coworkers too. And I call on everyone's conscience, wake up now. Stand tall. I know that in every place, there's at least one brave person. And one person can change everything. That's how history works. One voice of truth has the power to break entire systems. That's what moves humanity forward. Please, wake up. Protect us. You no longer belong in those government jobs. This whole system must stop. We need to end this misery they've forced us to live in for so long. Don't listen to personalities. Look at the facts. Everything is out in the open now. There is cruelty happening right now. I just came from there and saw how they were beating people... How can you believe someone who kicks a person that's already on the ground? Have a conscience, people. A conscience. That's the only thing you must answer now.

8 Dec / 2024

*Rusudan Gotsiridze – Bishop of
Evangelical Baptist Church talks
to the riot police
aired on Euronews Georgia*

Listen to love

I am standing here as a servant of God, as a citizen of this country, and as a mother who sends her children out every evening with the fear that they might encounter someone in uniform, someone who might beat them, injure them, break them, and send them back to me like that. I don't want my children to live in a country like this. I want to be able to look you in the eyes and not feel fear.

Do you know that every time I come to a protest, I'm afraid I'll recognize someone among you a relative, a classmate, a member of my congregation...

I don't want to live in a country like that. We come here for real peace. True peace is when you and I build a country together, a country where my children and your children can walk freely down this avenue. Every time you receive an order, remember: it's not just my children standing in front of you — your children are standing there too. Listen to the voice of your heart. Listen to justice.

Listen to love. We are all children of God, children of this country. We are a small nation and without one another, we have no future. Have mercy on our children. And have mercy on your own.



14 Dec / 2024

Toxic Christmas Tree

Police units and special forces were deployed on Rustaveli Avenue to prepare for the lighting of the Christmas tree, clearing the road so that the mayor could open the concert. It was shaping up to be perhaps the most scandalous and dangerous Christmas tree in history. City Hall had been calling on supporters and even children to attend the ceremony at the very same location that, just days earlier, had been saturated for twelve consecutive nights with an unidentified chemical gas.

Tensions escalated as the standoff continued a battle of nerves between the authorities and the protesters. Ultimately, the lighting ceremony was delayed. In a striking gesture of solidarity, President Salome Zourabichvili appeared on Rustaveli Avenue alongside the demonstrators.

- So it turns out that tonight's Christmas tree lighting has been postponed..." she said. "I feel as though I'm coming to you on St. Barbara's Day. I want to wish you a peaceful evening... Let there be no provocation here. The Christmas tree lighting will no longer happen tonight. And may you all stay together peacefully, be well. I am with you, because we will not allow anyone here, and we will not allow any provocation. I am with you, and you are in my heart

Mobilised police forces next to the Christmas Tree in Tbilisi photo: Mariam Nikuradze / OC Media



27 Dec / 2024

*Former Public Defender -
Nino Lomjaria together with the
other human rights activists
presented official account on
violence committed by police
against female protesters
aired on TV Channel: Mtavari*

Degrading treatment and sexual harassment

At today's briefing, we wish to address the issue of violence, sexual harassment, and threats of a sexual nature committed by police officers against female detainees.

As you know, in the months of November and December, the police were arresting not only men, but also women during the protests. Since November 28, ten reports have been submitted to the hotlines of Georgian non-governmental organizations regarding the detention of women. Unfortunately, due to the lack of official data, we do not have precise statistics or information on how many women were detained during the protests.

What is especially alarming is that several women detained during the protests have spoken publicly about being subjected to physical violence, inhumane and degrading treatment, sexual harassment, and threats of rape by the police during and after their detention. According to the women's statements, special forces physically assaulted them during arrest and threatened them with rape and death. These threats were made even more real by the officers describing in explicit and obscene language how the rape would be carried out, while threatening to take them into a special detention vehicle, further convincing the victims that the threats were serious.

One detained woman publicly stated that she was not allowed to sit in the vehicle and was forced to kneel for the entire ride, during which she was also sexually harassed. Another woman stated that she was videotaped in the police station and humiliated with sexually suggestive comments. One female protester, who had visible injuries to her face, publicly said that during the dispersal of the protest, she was supposedly escorted away for her own safety, only to be beaten afterward.

It is absolutely unacceptable for representatives of the state to commit or order such actions, which are humiliating, violate human dignity, and constitute sexual or other forms of harassment. Torture, inhumane, and degrading treatment is strictly prohibited and constitutes a criminal offense.



Therefore, we wish to reach out to those women who may have experienced similar incidents but have not yet spoken out. We, the Georgian non-governmental organizations, are ready to provide you with legal assistance, fully respecting your confidentiality, and to represent your interests both in Georgian and international legal forums. We will also help you access all the necessary rehabilitation services.

Additionally, we want all women to know their procedural rights:

- A personal search can only be carried out by someone of the same sex.
- A search must not be conducted in front of others.
- Only a same-sex officer may be present during the search.
- Full undressing is not permitted.
- Specific parts of the body must not be visible in the field of view of surveillance cameras during the search.
- During detention, women must be kept separate from men.
- Female detainees must be provided with adequate hygiene products.

*December 21 — Tens of thousands of dancers and ordinary citizens filled the main avenue, coming together to perform Khorumi, Georgia's traditional war dance, in a collective act of unity
photo: Koka Vashakidze*

You also have the right to request contact with a lawyer at any time during and after detention, and the detention facility administration is obligated to ensure you are able to make a phone call.





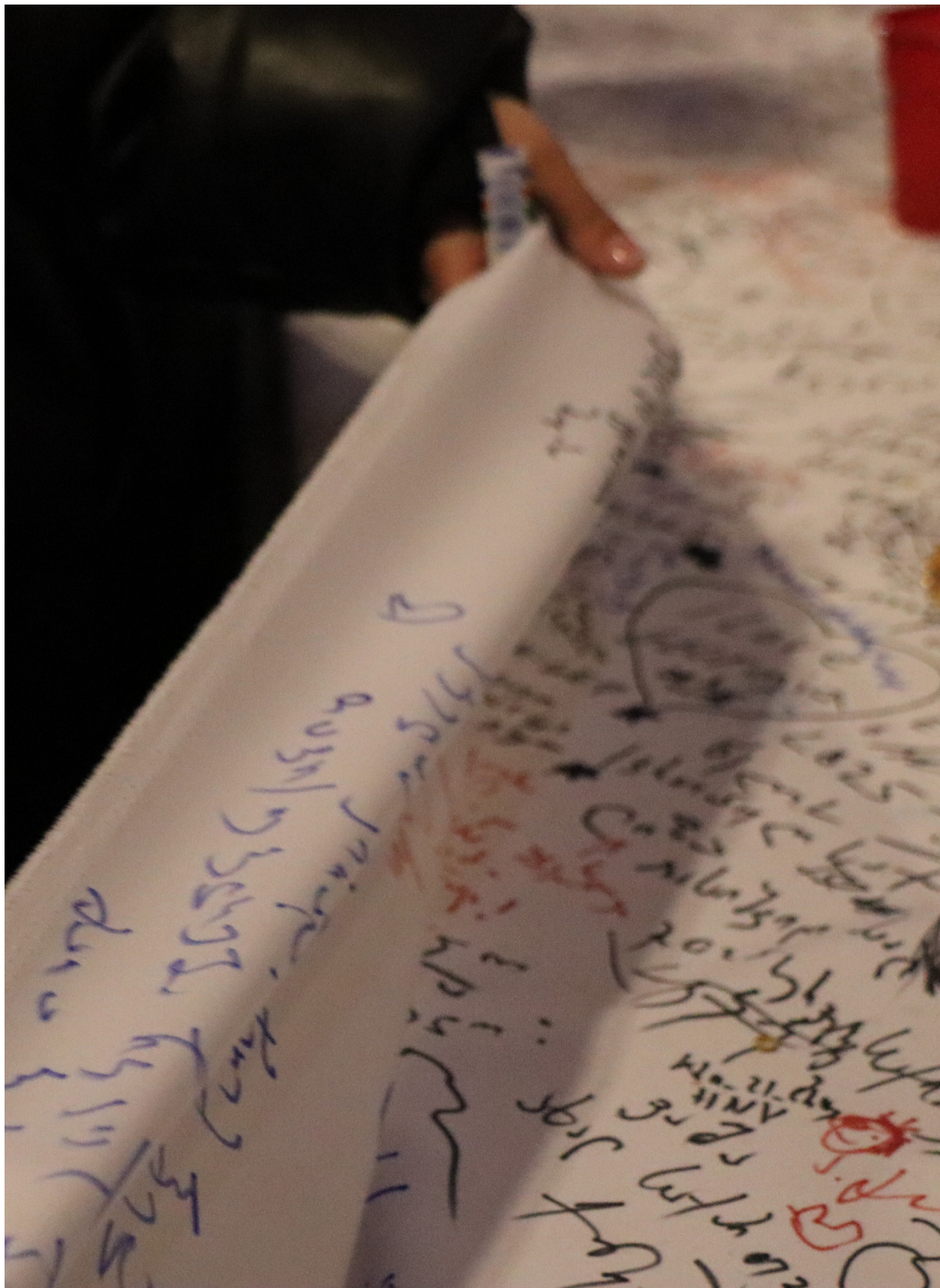
The photo dates back to 1997, when two Mother of Georgia statues stood on Sololaki Hill. It appears the photo was taken at the moment when the old statue was being replaced with the new one, and for two days, the two Mother of Georgia figures stood side by side.

The monument's author is Elguja Amashukeli. The original statue was erected on Sololaki Hill in 1958 to mark the 1500th anniversary of the city. The initial wooden sculpture was later covered with aluminum, and in 1997, the 20 meter tall Mother of Georgia statue was replaced with a new version.

*Published by At.ge on New Year's Eve
photo by B. Zurabishvili*

In 12 days
Ivanishvili's regime
detained more than 500 people

More than 300 of them
were subjected to torture and inhumane
treatment



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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
الحمد لله رب العالمين
والصلاة والسلام على
سيدنا محمد وآله الطيبين
الطاهرين

والله اعلم
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left:

Protesters left their signatures on the festive tablecloth.

Later, the cloth was preserved and then unfurled as a

banner at a subsequent demonstration

photo: Koka Vashakidze

right:

Waste collected after the massive festive table

on Rustaveli Avenue.

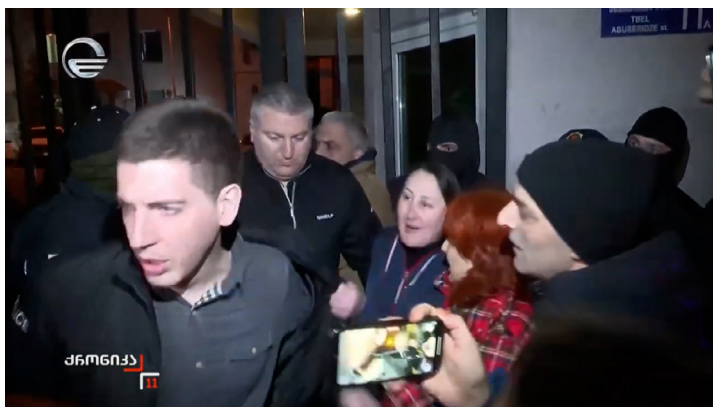
photo: Eka Eloshvili

11 Jan / 2025

Slap to the regime

Mzia Amaglobe, founder and director of Batumelebi and Netgazeti, was detained twice on January 11 and 12. The first arrest was for posting a sticker that read: “Georgia Strikes — January 15, 15:00.” Nine other protesters had previously been detained for the same reason. A few hours later, four of those detained: Mzia Amaglobe, Teona Beridze, Tsiala Katamidze, and Nana Shavadze were released.

Shortly afterward, commotion broke out unexpectedly near the main headquarters of the Adjara Police, and Mzia Amaglobe was arrested again, this time along with two others. Footage broadcast by TV channel Imedi shows Mzia Amaglobe speaking to the Head of the Adjara Police, Irakli Dgebuadze. Dgebuadze turns his back on Amaglobeli, after which she pulls on his arm and slaps him, leading to her arrest.



Journalist Mzia Amaglobeli, after being insulted, slapped the Head of the Adjara Police - Irakli Dgebuadze. text published on On.ge video still: TV Imedi

15 Jan / 2025

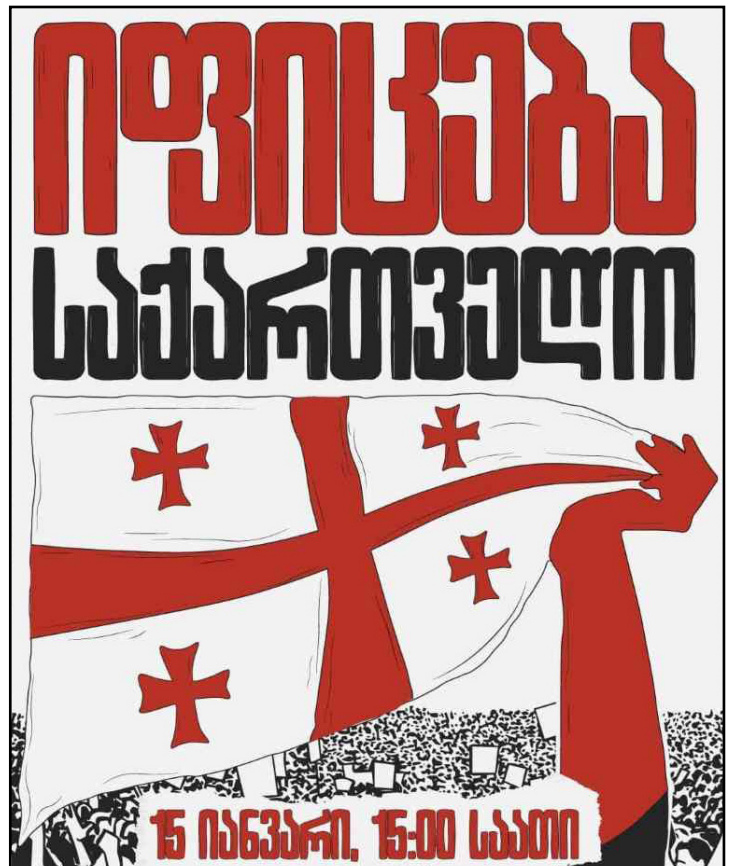
Georgia Strikes

Nino Mkheidze speaks about the importance of strike posted by Tabula

The strike itself is very important in the sense that it has a single demand: that those who have been illegally detained, against whom no charges can be proven, who have no accusers or witnesses, and yet remain in custody — must be unconditionally released. We may not be striking over economic conditions, we may not be striking over social issues, perhaps because that culture hasn't yet fully developed here, but this time, we are striking against injustice. And this injustice must be stopped.

The fact that so many people feel this deep sense of injustice, the authorities should reflect on that. Why do so many people feel this way?

They may think we're insignificant and few in number, but our numbers are growing, steadily growing. That's why this is so important.



Poster of the strike says Georgia Strikes 15 January, Time 15:00

16 Jan / 2025

Nino Zautashvili on the solidarity rally for detained journalist Mzia Amaglobeli posted by Netgazeti

Solidarity for Mzia

In front of the Public Broadcaster, a solidarity rally for Mzia Amaglobeli, founder of Batumelebi and Netgazeti, began today at 8 PM. A very wide range of journalists is represented here; many colleagues have gathered to defend Mzia Amaglobeli's rights and to express their support for her.

They are currently requesting airtime. They want to go on air on the Public Broadcaster to share their views and express solidarity with her, especially since, as far as I know, people, including those in detention, have access to watch the Public Broadcaster.

What I'm saying right now is truly heartbreaking, and I can't believe I'm saying it about Mzia. This person, in my opinion, has had her detention unfairly extended. She will have to remain in custody until March 4, which is an extremely harsh decision. We believe that maximum support must be shown in her case, so that no one is ever punished so severely and unjustly, as has happened with Mzia. Until there is justice, there will be no peace.



Which lawful order

- Can you send me the videos? – The police are filming while I'm setting off fireworks - Sichinava
- Please come with us - Police officer
- Why?
- Come to the station
- Why are you taking me?
- You are under arrest
- What am I being arrested for?
- For resisting a police officer
- Where did I resist? Tell me!
- You did not comply with a lawful order
- Which lawful order? Explain to me, which lawful order... I'm coming, I swear, I won't resist. Just tell me which lawful order I didn't comply with

Mariam Sichinava challenges the newly imposed restrictions in front of the police station.

This time protesting the ban on using fireworks in public spaces. Just days earlier, "Georgian Dream" had introduced yet another law, prohibiting masks or any form of face covering.

Sichinava was detained under both regulations. At her later court hearing, she appeared wearing a mask printed with Ivanishvili's face.

video still TV Pirveli



23 Jan / 2025

Nanka Kalatozishvili reads the New Theatre Manifesto — a play that was taken on tour across regions throughout the country. Shortly after, the theatre's director, David Doiashvili, was dismissed by the Ministry of Culture.



Lika Guntsadze — mother of political prisoner Andro Chichinadze during the same performance. The premiere of Manifesto was held outside the theatre entrance, attended by several thousand protesters and broadcast live on all opposition TV channels. videos till from Buta Orjonikidze

Manifesto

Let's face reality and speak out loud about what many are afraid to talk about, as if we're the ones guilty for speaking. We find it humiliating to admit that we are hungry, thirsty, that we can't afford medicine or education... that we are struggling to support our families. This is poverty, a problem we encounter at every step. Yet we ourselves help the state pretend we don't exist, let it walk past us, use our pride against us.

But here, in this country, one in four children receives subsistence assistance. In this country, they speak from high tribunes about economic progress... about rising living standards... and they don't even notice the outstretched, emaciated hands begging in the streets.

Here, in this country, they dare, without shame, to worry about the oligarch's wealth, and they make you worry about it too. They numb you with lies and don't even care how a deeply impoverished person survives or feeds their family, because to the state, people like that are a nuisance. They remember the poor only during election campaigns and even then, only temporarily, until they win.

Here, in this country, they fight unemployment with bizarre methods. They couldn't launch real factories, but they've been quite successful in opening "factories" of troll-bots. They pay people to attack one another, to sow hatred because deep down, they are afraid that real anger might flare up with righteous demands.

Here, in this country, they would be happy if we disappeared, if we stopped existing, stopped reminding them of endless problems, rising prices, unemployment. They'd rather distract you with anything as long as no one dares to speak about real problems... as long as no one dares to mention poverty.

Here, in this country, over 600,000 people receive social aid. For a country of this size, this is an unimaginably high number. Too high to ignore, too high not to be heard, too high not to make the government afraid of people finally speaking up.

Here, in this country, they pass laws designed to silence us.

But how can every eighth citizen living below the poverty line — be silenced?

Here, in this country: they raise pensions by 35 GEL and expect gratitude, while they themselves are not satisfied with tens of thousands. A child receives 200 GEL in support, while the Prime Minister raises his salary to 14,600 GEL. A breadwinner-lost family is told to survive on 100 GEL a month, while the Speaker of Parliament raises his to 14,600 GEL. People with severe disabilities are given 195 GEL, while MPs raise their pay to 11,680 GEL. War veterans, those who fought and died for this country are offered 100 GEL, while ministers raise their pay to 12,410 GEL. Displaced persons, for whom toasts are raised about returning lost territories, are “valued” at 45 GEL while the head of the Pension Agency raises their salary to 14,500 GEL. This list goes on... But this list is not for you, not for us. It is only for themselves just like every law they pass.

They get sanctioned for crimes against the country and with new laws, they rob us again. And then they offer help to sanctioned millionaires from our money. And then, to all of us, about all of this, they say: “Rejoice.”

Here, in this country, the authorities treat the budget like their personal wallet. They treat public servants like slaves, expecting obedience in return for a paycheck. But a public servant’s salary is not a bribe... and the state budget is not someone’s private purse. Here, in this country, the rulers have declared war on their own people a war they disguise as peace. And in such a “peace,” poverty is considered acceptable. But poverty is not shameful. What’s shameful is the path to poverty that these people have led us down.

So now rise up and ask the question: Why is anyone who speaks about this instantly labeled an enemy? Ask yourself: Why does the government need and benefit from a poor population?

Don’t take my word for it. Ask questions, look around, trust your own eyes. And you’ll understand: the time has come to speak out. We will no longer be silent about social issues. Now is our time to say: Rejoice — we have awakened.

We will not stop.
We will not be silent.
We will not tire.

Because we are Georgia — and this country belongs to us!

23 Jan / 2025

You are a Killer

Political prisoner - Giorgi Akhobadze accused the prosecutor in responsibility for his mother's death. Like in many similar cases, Akhobadze had been arrested on drug-possession charges with no video evidence and no witnesses. After six months of trial, he was finally acquitted and released, declared fully innocent.

When, in the previous hearing, you requested a measure of restraint against me, your action — from my point of view (and yes, this may be subjective) — can only be described as an act of killing. I consider you, Comrade Gobejishvili, a killer. And why? Not because my mother is no longer alive today and lies in her grave, but because of what you did to her — a palliative patient.

Let me explain: a palliative patient is someone suffering from a severe chronic illness, with no positive prognosis, living out the final days or months of their life. Such patients are extremely vulnerable to any additional health risk. Any viral infection can take their life.

My mother had only two contacts: myself — an anesthesiologist–resuscitator, highly competent, and I dare say not only in this country but on a planetary scale, capable of standing side by side with any colleague in knowledge, experience, and skill — and my friend, who was assisting me in her care.

And yet, by your decision, by requesting this measure against me, you forced us to move her into a place with dozens of contacts: a hospital, where five shifts of nurses rotate, five shifts of doctors, where there are administrators, registrars, accompanying persons visiting patients — forty people or more in constant circulation. You increased her risk of illness and of death.

That is why I call you a killer. Not because of the direct chain of cause and effect, but because you denied me the chance to do for my own mother what I have done for every patient in my medical practice. In my career, not a single patient has left this world without the extraordinary effort that goes beyond all medical protocols. Today, there are living people on this earth who survived only because I did not stop after forty minutes but continued two hours. Some of them were children who are now teenagers.

By your groundless, bloodless, utterly insensitive decision — a decision that could have been made differently — you denied me the chance to take those same steps for the most important patient of my life: my mother.

Your controlling party, whose representatives are sitting here today... I will borrow from George Orwell — what we are hearing here is not a prosecutor of the Georgian state, but a walking phonograph, repeating words fed from above. Citizens, law, and justice are absent.

You denied a Georgian mother the chance to spend her final months beside her son — a doctor, who cared for her.

I want to ask you, Comrade Gobejishvili — you have a mother, don't you? I wish her long life and health. But I ask you: go home and ask her how she would judge a man who has done what I have just described.

You are young, with your whole career ahead of you. I do not want us, as citizens of the same country, to continue living in a way that harms one another. Sometimes we must step outside the frames imposed on us by those above — by the so-called Vaja Zazaeviches who control and manipulate us.

So I wish you this, sincerely, as a friend and well-wisher: that you continue your career in such a way that the man I have spoken of today will never again appear in your mirror. You know better than anyone what filth your superiors are forcing you into.

*“Fire to the Oligarchy” — an iconic image capturing Tako Kheladze at the front of the daily march from the Public Broadcaster, leading protesters who demanded an open studio and accountability.
artwork: Tamuna Budagashvili*



25 Jan / 2025

*Nobel Peace Prize laureate -
Maria Ressa supports
Mzia Amaglobeli in her speech
given in Vatican City*

Starts her 14th day of a hunger strike

Protests are happening all around the world, from Venezuela to Mozambique to Georgia, where large scale protests began mid April last year... but starting December, it was daily, and today is a 60th day when mass protests in Georgia are out in the streets.

Journalist, activists – beaten and jailed. The journalist carried my book in the protest – the title: How to Stand Up to a Dictator. Investigative journalist – Mzia Amaglobeli, today starts her 14th day of a hunger strike from jail. She said: because I cannot stand by in silence.

27 Jan / 2025

Hunger Strike - Day 16

*Batumelebi editor – Eter Turadze,
in solidarity with Mzia Amaglobeli
set the solo protest spending night
in front of the Parliament and
making it live via social networks -
on the banner: Freedom for Mzia
video still from Facebook live*





Mzia Amaglobeli appears at her trial holding How to Stand Up to a Dictator, the book by Filipino human-rights activist and Nobel laureate Maria Ressa.

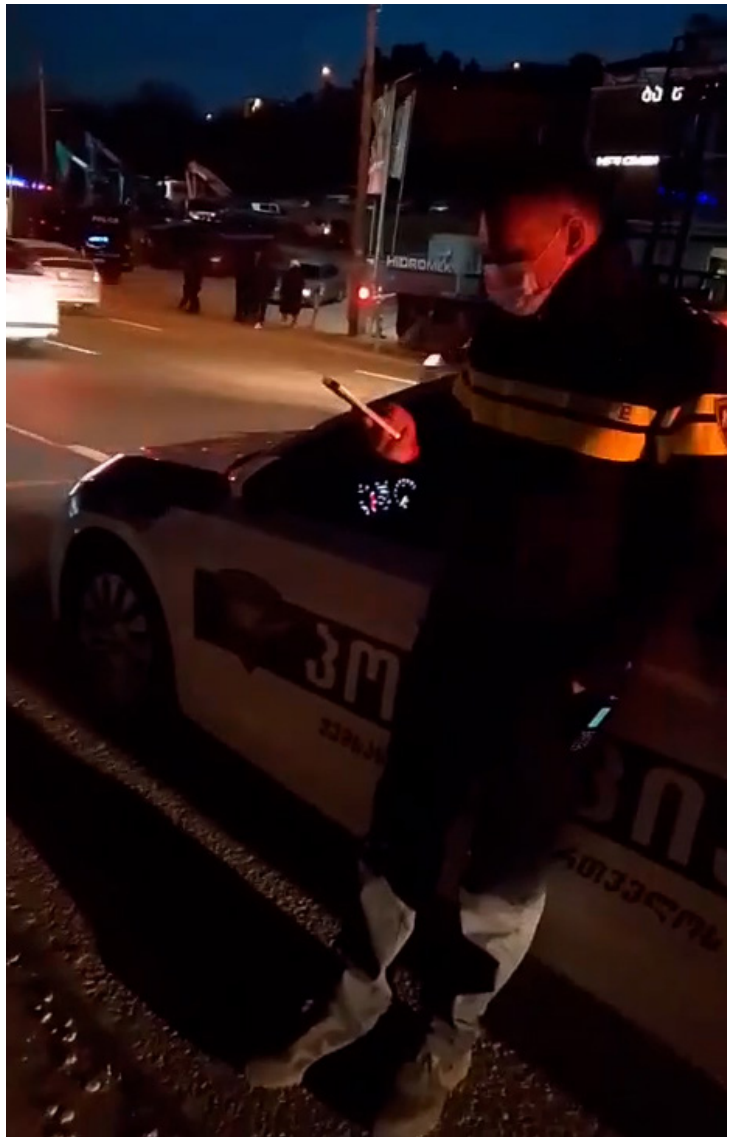
2 Feb / 2025

Hundred Lari Whores

– You’re wearing a uniform and you’re telling a woman she’s worth a hundred Lari... Who are you calling a hundred-lari whore, huh? Go ahead, film me now, film me so you remember who I am! I’m a mother of three, do you hear me?

– Aren’t you ashamed? Calling us hundred-lari slurs?

– I wouldn’t feed people like you in this country. Stop laughing and have some decency!



Police officers derisively referred to the protesting women as 100 Lari whores. This message was echoed across and soon seeped into everyday life. Video still from Daphioni.

A series of uninvestigated attacks

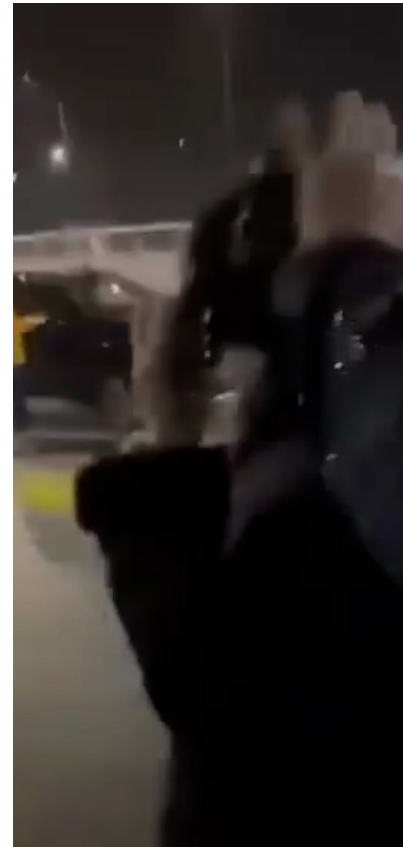
- Is betrayal in your genetics? Remember this face well... How much did they pay you? Didn't? You don't carry cash, or do they transfer it to your account? Who are you talking about getting paid, you traitor... who's paying whom? Don't you get paid? Or do you usually take cash? Traitor! - They are throwing eggs

- Slave! I curse your mother! - the egg-throwing continues - Traitor! You're a slave.

- That's how a slave runs away — this is a slave's fate. You'll never reach the point where someone like you walks freely. Understand? - More eggs are thrown.

Zourabichvili gets into a car with her personal security.

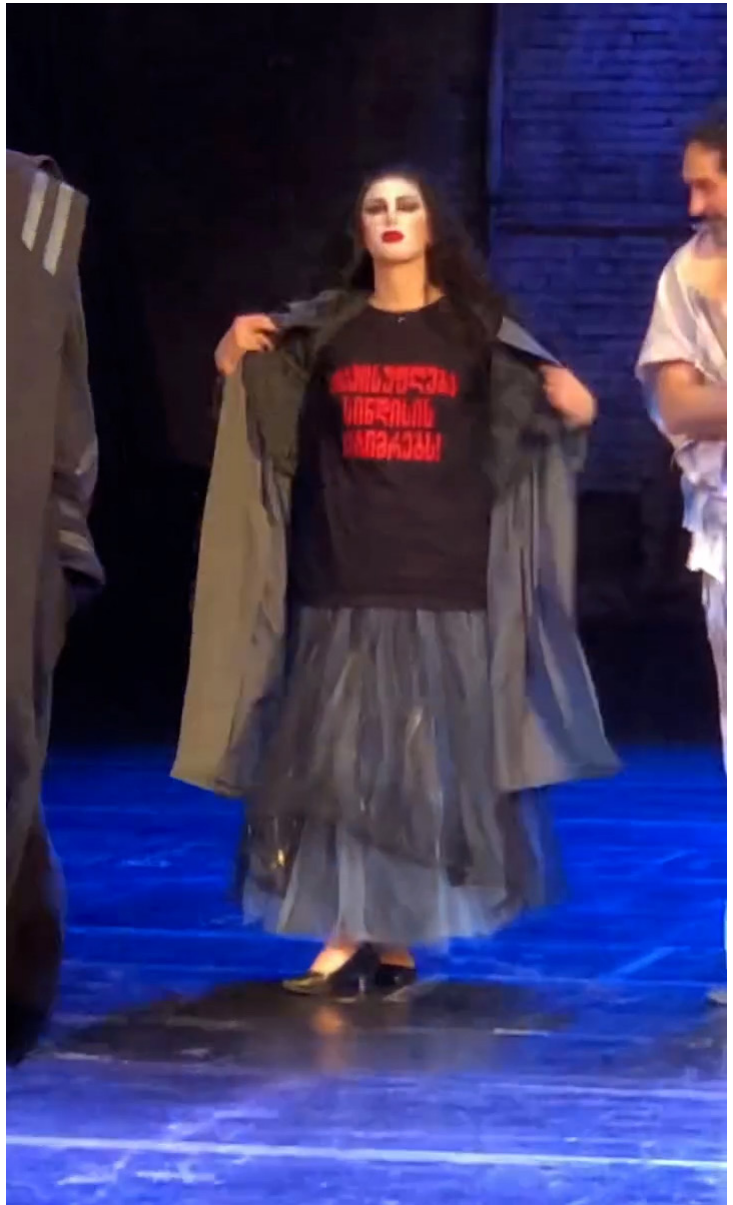
These low-quality video stills come from footage that the attackers themselves circulated. A small group confronted Georgia's 5th President, Salome Zourabichvili, at the airport, pelting her with eggs and shouting insults. Despite the presence of cameras in this and in other, even more violent attacks on politicians, no investigation was launched, and the cases remain unresolved.



3 Feb / 2025

Prometheus Bound

These were the longest minutes of my life. Everything I have been through recently flashed before my eyes. I hadn't been on stage for a long time, and morally, I simply couldn't perform without expressing this protest. My solidarity goes out to all prisoners of conscience. I will always, everywhere, and in any form, express my sincere stance. Without freedom of speech, I simply cannot live



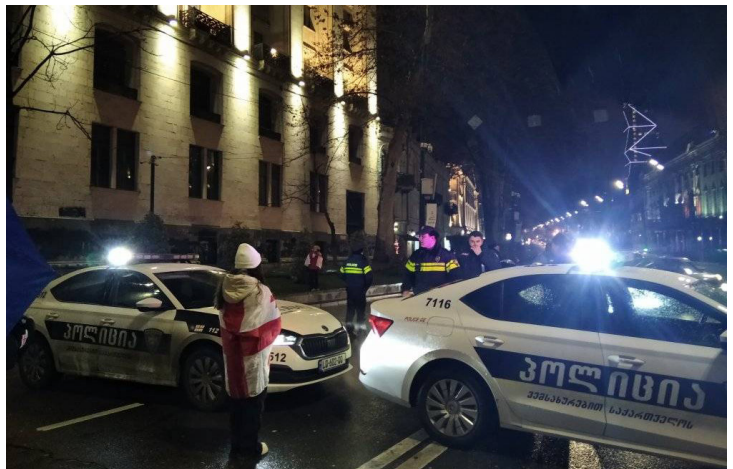
Ana Amilakhvari — at the end of Prometheus Bound voiced her solidarity and protest on the stage of the Rustaveli State Theatre. Shortly afterward, she was removed from the role. Other artists who joined the protests faced the same consequences. text on her shirt reads: Freedom for prisoners of conscience.

6 Feb / 2025

Shorena Gabunias' note about solidarity with Eto Bichikashvili

Who exactly do they think they can bully

This girl and other young women and men, stand every day throughout the protests on the side of the Rustaveli Theatre, holding flags. Tornike is also usually here, our Salamura, playing the national anthem. Today, I noticed an unusual crowd at that spot. I walked over and found out that apparently, these scruffy militia types were trying to force this girl to leave her usual spot. But when people gathered around, the officers just slunk away disgracefully. So, I ask: who exactly do they think they can bully around here?!



9 Feb / 2025

Illegal wiretapping

Journalist - Nina Machabeli talks about illegal wiretappings on the media and political figures aired on TV Channel: Mtavari

The fact that the regime is illegally wiretapping us is not new. This is confirmed by the materials leaked from the State Security Service a few years ago. These included transcripts of our conversations and those of our colleagues, as well as our conversations with our respondents. The Tbilisi Prosecutor's Office recognized us as victims, but no action was taken against the individuals who were identified in those materials as agents. In some cases, we even knew their mobile phone numbers. We were able to track down several of them ourselves, yet the Prosecutor's Office ultimately did nothing to fully investigate the case. All they did was grant us the status of 'victims,' but that is not enough. The fact that the regime continues to wiretap us illegally has also been confirmed by our own experiment. And it's not just journalists they're listening to, they are also listening to politicians, judicial activists, and essentially anyone who is considered unacceptable to Georgian Dream and this regime.

14 Feb / 2025

They were shown to the mirror



For Valentine’s Day, women staged a performance using mirrors, standing face-to-face with police officers while holding up reflective signs that forced the officers to confront their own image. Each mirror carried a pointed message:

“Fine”

“You spat on a woman, and she was arrested.” — a reference to the detention of Mzia Amaglobeli.

photos: Makuna Gochiashvili

19 Feb / 2025

I demand freedom

Despite the cold and snowy weather, 74-year-old Mzia Gabeshia continues her uninterrupted protest in front of the Martvili City Hall.

- I stand there in all kinds of weather, I protest. I demand the release of Mzia and all prisoners. Yes, I demand freedom for innocent detainees. I want justice. They have driven people to the brink of death, and no one has been punished. We must all help our country together.

*Batumelebi published a short profile on Mzisa Gabeshia a pensioner from the small town of Martvili. She would later become one of the symbols of the protest and resistance, her unwavering presence turning her into an inspiration covered by every major TV channel and media outlet.
photo: Salome Kinkladze*



23 Feb / 2025

Note about Tsaro

Dato Simonia who later would start series of short notes on who is protesting on Rustaveli ave. published one of his first portraits on Tsaro Oshakmashvili and political prisoner - Archil Museliants

The prisoners of the regime are represented at the protests by their family members. Archil Museliants had no one. No one who could hold a banner with his image, attend his court hearings, or speak to journalists about an orphaned boy from the regions who was arrested for damaging a surveillance camera.

This role was taken on by Tsaro. She hastily made a sign with photos of the prisoner and tries to make sure the boy knows he is not forgotten. Tsaro told me, "I met Archil at the protests. He would say - No one will ask about me, but I'll give everything I have." And he truly gave everything but now, someone is asking about him.

That's how an orphaned prisoner gained a godmother, who received from prison a hand-drawn Georgian flag and a poem by Galaktioni:

Those who gave their lives, who shed their blood,
The nation lights candles to honor their memory...
Raise the flags high!



25 Feb / 2025

Letter to father

Dear Father

For now, I'm doing well. We're about 112 versts (about 120 km) away from one front line position, and 5 or 7 from another. The enemy is still far; our forces are striking hard. Everyone is very enthusiastic.

Please send some hazelnuts and, if possible, something sweet. Take care of yourself. I send you many kisses. It's not too cold, by the way. Greetings to all our loved ones. Don't worry, we will win with honor.

-

*Sport Society "Shevardeni"
marching in Tbilisi, May 26, 1919.*

*A few years later, the Soviet
authorities branded Shevardeni
an "anti-state" organization and
disbanded it. Maro Makashvili
was among its members.*

A letter Maro Makashvili wrote to her father on February 18 from the frontline. The next day, February 19, 1921 — the 19-year-old student was killed by a grenade explosion during the Red Army invasion.

In 2015, she was posthumously recognized as Georgia's first female National Hero.



8 Mar/ 2025

I will scream louder

It's nighttime and the morning of March 8 is approaching. A voice is heard, and in the background, employees dressed in black are visible.

– Talk to khareba like that — yells another voice

– Fuck your mother! — a man shouts

– Thank you.

– Fuck you all. Twice for you. Twice.

– Go on then, man...

– Don't you have any shame, man? You think you're a man?"

A girl approaches with a bag and says something.

– Get the fuck out of here - says the same man's voice and yanks her by the shoulder.

– Hands off, man! Hands off! — a woman's voice is heard up close.

– Who are you cursing at? You think you're a man? — the girl who was dragged shouts. Around her stand black-clad employees, some wearing masks.

– You're a coward, should be wearing a skirt! — the girl shouts.

– You're everything but a woman - someone responds.

– Talk to your mother like that, you rude pig!

– Calm down, calm down - says someone approaching from further away.

– Tell them to calm down!

– Calm down

– Don't tell us to calm down. We've had enough. Try talking



This long transcript comes from a nighttime scene on March 8th — International Women's Day, a date celebrated in Georgia with particular emphasis on honoring women. Yet the scene itself starkly exposes the reality of how women protesters are treated by the police. Notably, all of this unfolded directly in front of the entrance to the Department of Special Tasks. Video still: Ia Melitauri

to women like that at home!

– Move along.

– They’re cursing at us and we’re supposed to just walk away?

– Don’t scream, can’t you see...

– What do you mean don’t scream? They’re insulting us — how can I not scream?

– I said stop screaming!



– Aren’t you surprised I’m not hitting anyone? And you’re telling me not to scream?

– Please move along.

– Stop dictating where we should go.

– Stop screaming, girl.

– This is my land. This is my land. I am Georgian!

– Go ahead, scream louder - says an officer in a cap labeled - Police in Latin script.

– I will scream louder. I’ll scream till the end!

In honor of the women protesters, Tina Tskhadadze created special postcards for the March 8 demonstration and handed them out to participants.

Text on the postcard:

Women Against the Regime.

17 Mar/ 2025

Covering face is prohibited

Under the new restrictive law, covering face during a demonstration could result in a fine of up to 5,000 Lari, ostensibly to assist facial recognition cameras in identifying protesters blocking the main avenue. However, demonstrators responded with creativity, turning what they called an absurd and illegitimate law into a carnival-like procession.

photos: Dato Simonia

Nanuka Zhorzholiani on freezing her charity foundation account, that was helping protesters to pay the fines

Frozen funds

Other funds have also been frozen.

Prosperitygeorgia.org – Nika Gilauri’s foundation.
Human Rights House Tbilisi – human rights organization.

These are funds that had recently been primarily paying administrative fines.

According to the latest information, the seizure was requested by the Prosecutor’s Office.



18 Mar/ 2025

published by Batumelebi

Will not accept the Charges

Netgazeti/Batumelebi co-founder and director Mzia Amagloberi remains in custody. The decision was made by Batumi City Court judge Viktor Metreveli. The ruling sparked an uproar in the courtroom:

- Putin's court
- Slaves
- Shame, shame – chanted the gathered citizens.

The hearing lasted approximately nine hours.

“I do not and will not accept the charges. I consider myself unlawfully detained. Fortunately, dictatorship has not yet fully taken root in our homeland. That's why I believe that other prisoners of conscience and I will be able to prove our innocence.” – Mzia Amaglobeli's letter from the courtroom
At this moment, Mzia Amaglobeli's trial is underway at Batumi City Court.



19 Mar/ 2025

*posted by RFE / RL
photo: Mose*

Road blocking journalists

The Ministry of Internal Affairs fined Mariam Nikuradze, a multimedia journalist and co-founder of OC Media, twice for “blocking the road,” with a total fine of 10,000 GEL.

As on other days, on both March 11 and 15, Nikuradze was performing her journalistic duties, wearing a press badge and carrying a camera. Yet police still fined her.

“When I’m at protests, I’m always doing journalistic work. I had my press badge and camera this time too...” Nikuradze told Radio Liberty.

Mariam Nikuradze is one of the winners of the 2024 EU Prize for Journalism. She reports daily on the pro-European protests taking place in the capital, whose main demands are the holding of new elections and the release of individuals detained under criminal charges.



Thank you Eto

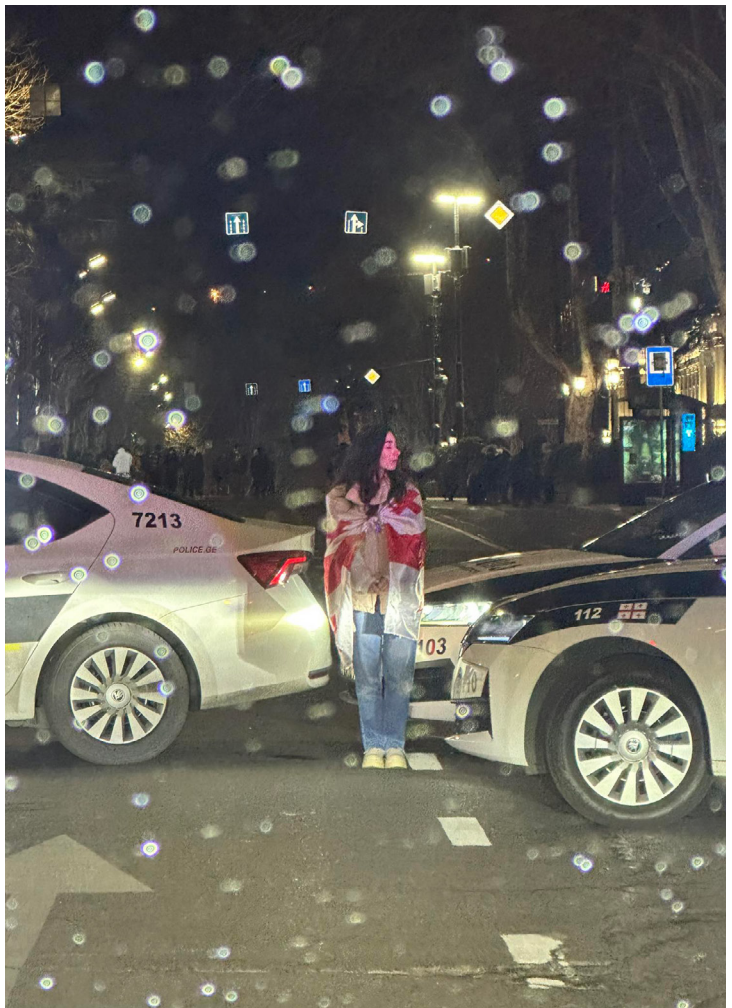
*Natia Bukia note
about Eto Bichikashvili*

Today, after turning from Besiki Street onto Rustaveli Avenue following the protest, I saw Eto, the woman who stands every day between police patrol cars holding the Georgian flag, reminding everyone that Rustaveli is blocked off for protest that day as well.

I was taking a photo of her through the rain-covered window, wanting to capture that even in rain, wind, and storm, Eto never betrays us; she's always there. Suddenly, it hit me, I could show my support to Eto from my car. So, I started honking.

Her face lit up instantly. She smiled and began waving. Her joyful expression sent me home with a renewed sense of strength!

I hope others have done the same before me but if you haven't yet, and you find yourself passing Eto by car, make sure she hears your support. We all need it! Eto, thank you! I truly count on you!



28 Mar/ 2025

Antsukhelidze is immortal

I want every person who has ever said things like “every protester should be arrested” or “look how they treat the police, they should all be locked up” to answer for their words. How do you even bring yourself to say such things? How can you believe that protesters are “destroying the country” and that this government is simply “trying to restore order”? This is nothing short of a dictatorship, eliminating anyone with a dissenting opinion and calling that ‘establishing order’?

In this video, they arrest a lone girl holding a sign, who simply tried to protest the session held today by the self-proclaimed “war judge,” the disgusting Tea Tsulukiani. If you watched that and didn’t feel sick to your stomach, I have nothing more to say to you.

Ano Jishkariani on the arrest of Tamar Kuratashvili next to the Parliament building entrance. Tamar Kuratashvili was arrested for holding banner that reads Antsukhelidze is immortal. Banner was created after the announcement that Georgian soldier Giorgi Antsukhelidze was captured and tortured by the Russian Army because of people ego during 2008 Russian invasion photo: Levan Zazadze



29 Mar/ 2025

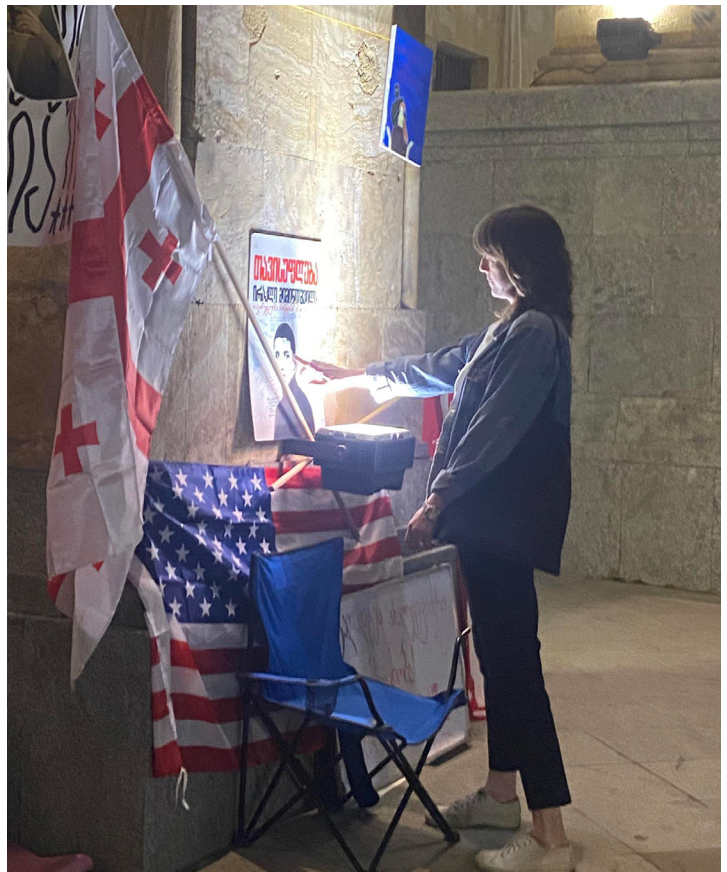
writes Elene Khoshtaria in a letter sent from the isolator. As a reminder, Khoshtaria was detained yesterday, March 28, during a protest. Source: Mtavari Arkhi

Khoshtaria is also detained

I usually avoid imposing my personal emotions or experiences on the public, especially when so many young people are victims of the regime and of torture. However, this time, I decided to share what happened during my detention because I know that if this happened to me, many others may be treated even worse. This is neither new nor surprising, but in such cases, speaking out publicly, showing solidarity, and protecting one another is a tool of resistance.

Briefly: after my detention, at the police station on Ramishvili Street (the so-called “glass box”), officers Nino Chkhar-tishvili and Davit Bolotashvili tightly handcuffed my hands behind my back after I refused to cooperate. They then injured my jaw and teeth. Don’t worry, friends, singing ‘Ole, Ola,’ I gave them a hard time, and they couldn’t break me. A more humiliating episode occurred in Digomi, at the temporary detention isolator. Again, against my will and with the help of a special team called in from the police, my hands were handcuffed behind my back. Two officers (Nino Chkhar-tishvili, Salome Lashkhia, and another) held me down and fully stripped me. This forced undressing is a disgraceful Russian-style practice of violence and humiliation. I resisted again, but I kept imagining all the vulnerable and inexperienced people who fall into their hands. Some are too afraid to speak about it; others are ashamed. It’s certainly a sensitive topic, but we must talk about it, pursue justice, and eliminate such treatment of people.

Once again, I apologize for focusing on myself when so many problems surround us. But I believed it necessary for the cause and chose to put aside my personal discomfort. I’m okay—don’t worry about me. The real concern is for all the innocent people who’ve been locked up for months. Thank you for your support!



Mother of political prisoner Irakli Miminoshvili spending night in front of the Parliament entrance. photo from Serving Georgia

1 Apr/ 2025

Don't look back

Don't look back, don't be afraid. No one will shoot at you from here, - Ani Karkashadze says to a police officer - One way or another, you'll end up having to defend us later, and don't think for a second that anyone will stand up for you. Your own words will be used against you. You are false witnesses... You're the ones who threw our children into prison, who betrayed your homeland and serve Russia... This law will turn against you. Russia is an occupant, Russia started the war...

Ani Karkashadze is driving the police as usual video still: Keso Kinkladze



6 Apr/ 2025

We will carry on the fight in your name

I didn't know you personally, but at the same time, you felt so close. I've been thinking about you all day, asking the fate — why? They say hell and heaven exist.

Well, you went to heaven, because this here is hell. This wretched life is unfair and shameless. Goodbye, beautiful girl. We, women will carry on the fight in your name.

-
Ani Karkashadze mourns the death of activist Maiko Macharashvili. Her forensic report was released to her family in June; however, months later the case remains unresolved, and her personal belongings, including her phone are still being held at the police station.

*right:
Maiko Macharashvili holding flag at the protest. Later, her friend Anano Samushia would publicly express concern whether or not there could be possible connection of her death to the chemical poisoning at the protests photo: Anano Samushia*





9 Apr / 2025

I'm pregnant, don't hit me

On April 9, one of the heroes who was killed - Eliso Chishvili, was just 25 years old. She worked as a healthcare assistant at the Republican Hospital. She was six months pregnant when she joined the protest. That night, a Russian soldier had hit a child, and Eliso shielded the child. Then the Russian turned to her.

*posted by Ashkarad
photo Elefter Lapachi / Georgian
National Library
all together in 9 April, 1989 Soviet
Regime killed 19 protesters. 17
victims were women. Thousands
suffered from unknown gas
poisoning, and physical casualties.*

- I'm pregnant, don't hit me - she pleaded.

But he struck her even more viciously, saying: - *Ishchyo luchshe!* (Eng: Even better!)

36 years later, we are still dealing with the same kind of brutality, only now it comes with Georgian names.

Living symbol of 9 April

- The so-called government calls those of us gathered here 'unpatriotic,' but let them compete with us in love for our homeland - Nana Makharadze

*Nana Makharadze -
woman with the flag,
one of the symbols of
April 9, 1989
photo: Mose*





photo: Sopho Aptsiauri

The parents of political prisoners are standing vigil at the April 9 Memorial. They spent the night there to prevent members of the ruling Georgian Dream party from approaching the site. One that every politician, along with international diplomats, traditionally visits each year.

10 Apr/ 2025

Journalist Eliso Jariashvili is Accused for Blocking the Road posted by Publika

Abolish Journalism

Formula TV journalist and presenter Eliso Jariashvili says the Ministry of Internal Affairs is accusing her of blocking the road. According to her, the case concerns March 12, when she was filming interviews with citizens on an already closed section of Rustaveli Avenue for her program. Speaking to Publika, Jariashvili says an MIA representative informed her that a report had been filed against her but did not allow her to explain that she was performing her professional duties.

Sure, nothing surprises us anymore, but this was still unexpected. I was doing my job as a journalist, filming interviews on Rustaveli, which was already blocked. I remember the day very clearly — it was March 12. [...] If you're asking for my opinion or assessment, maybe the regime should just formally abolish journalism altogether, would probably be easier than all this hassle. Because clearly, nothing else is stopping us, and they can see that - said Eliso Jariashvili.

16 Documented incidents

*posted by Netgazeti
Later Tozu Gulmamedli will receive The Dutch Embassy's award
— the Human Rights Tulip.*

On February 16, Public Broadcaster reporter Tozu Gulmamedova was performing her professional duties on Rustaveli Avenue. On April 8, a representative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs informed her of a fine. The journalist is being accused of blocking the road,” reports the Public Broadcaster.

Tozu Gulmamedova’s case is not the first. There have already been 16 documented incidents in which police have accused journalists, who were carrying out their professional work at the time, of artificially blocking the road.

13 Apr / 2025

note and artwork: Dato Simonia

Marriage in Prison

On April 11, one of the regime’s prisoners, Irakli Kerashvili, and Ketli got married in prison. Their witnesses were prison guards. After a ten-minute celebration, Irakli returned to his cell, and Ketli to the fight for his release.

That’s how it is. Some loves can’t be caged, like Irakli and Ketli’s. Some captivities don’t need bars, like those of Irakli’s captors.



15 Apr / 2025

Sanctioned judge

*It is unacceptable for a sanctioned judge to preside over a trial —
Mate Devidze's sister
Elene Devidze
aired on TV Pirveli*

- First of all, I will say this: in 2008 it was Russia that started the war... - Elene Devidze

- One moment, one moment. I told you from the very beginning, you may only speak in relation to the case - Judge, Koba Chagunava

- I am speaking in relation to the case. On April 9th, 1989, it was not so-called 'foreign forces,' as our self-proclaimed and illegitimate government dares to claim, it was Russia that carried out a massacre in Georgia, on Rustaveli Avenue. And you are fining me for protesting the absurdities of this illegitimate group? You are fining me because my 21-year-old brother was unlawfully thrown into prison and accused of nonsense? You are fining me because I demand freedom for prisoners of conscience, while I have every legal right to do so? On top of this, I find it completely unacceptable that a sanctioned judge is the one presiding over my case.

- Stick to the facts... the facts... If you continue, then it means you do not wish to use your right to speak in relation to the facts.

- What I wanted to say is this: I am not afraid of your fines, nor of anything else. You cannot intimidate me. It is not the people who should fear an unjust court. It is the unjust court that should fear the power of the people.



23 Apr / 2025

Happy Easter



photo: Sophia Tabatadze

Happy Easter if one can call it “happy” in today’s Georgia. Sophia Tabatadze marks the holiday by posting photos of traditionally dyed Easter eggs but covered in white protest slogans, echoing the way political messages were erased from Tbilisi’s walls. Later, she transformed this visual language into a series of postcards, naming it the “New Georgian Alphabet.” The postcards were sold to raise funds for protesters fined under the expanding list of repressive penalties.

Illegal Parking

posted by Mtavari

On March 8, I was fined 5,000 GEL for illegal parking — but I don’t even own a car – Ketevan Kherashvili, sister of political prisoner Irakli Kherashvili

That’s Not an Insult — That’s a Fact

Albi Kordzaia is one of the protesters who went Tsulukiani’s house after her statement that Georgian national hero Giorgi Antsukhelidze had been “senselessly sacrificed for someone’s PR.”

posted by Batumelebi

Activist Albi Kordzaia says that the Ministry of Internal Affairs has launched administrative proceedings against her for allegedly insulting Tea Tsulukiani. Kordzaia shared a phone call with an investigator on her Facebook page, where she says to the official: “My position is very clear to you, Tea Tsulukiani is pro-Russian, a traitor to the country, and that is not an insult. That is a fact.” The investigator summoned her to the station, which she refused.

25 Apr/ 2025

Gas poison

Many of you have been writing to me, so instead of replying individually, I want to respond to all of you here.

Many people have written about gas intoxication during the protests, and I'd like to share my experience as well. In my case, the acute effects appeared a bit later and reached their peak recently, although the symptoms were evident immediately, back in December.

I had to be hospitalised due to a sharp drop in my platelet count, as shown in my blood tests. The symptoms included severe weakness, bruising, red spots on the skin, and excessive bleeding from small wounds. Unfortunately, I couldn't see a doctor in time, which worsened my condition but thankfully, it was treatable, and I'm feeling better now. I'm not sharing this to scare you, but because I feel a responsibility to warn anyone who was present during the gas exposure at the protests to pay close attention to any changes in their health.

Nino Kharchilava speaks about her deteriorating health after being poisoned by the gas. Months later, the BBC released the documentary "Water That Burns," bringing global attention to the incident and turning it into an international scandal. The Georgian authorities closed the case with short answers, while protesters continue to demand a full, transparent investigation.

A sharp decrease in platelets in the blood can cause internal bleeding, not just under the skin, but also in vital organs, including the brain and can even be fatal.

They basically poisoned us to the point of potential death and robbed us so thoroughly that many of us can't even afford treatment.

So, please if you have the means, get checked. And for those who don't, let's gather resources and help each other.



AI artwork: Demna

1 May / 2025

Miranda Bagaturia was accused of assaulting a court bailiff — despite the fact that she was not present at the scene at all. aired on TV Pirvei

Second floor

I was on the second floor, at Nika Gvaramia's trial, and since I am his press secretary, it is my direct responsibility to attend that hearing. At the same time, my friend Saba Skhvitardze's trial was also taking place.

When the commotion started downstairs, I was still on the upper floor — Nika was giving interviews to journalists, and of course I stayed there until the end. By the time I came out, Mirian Kavtaradze had already left the building.

The main thing is: there are witnesses who claim they saw me in the foyer. One says he saw me several times in the foyer... But there is a direct live stream from the Public Broadcaster showing clearly that I entered Nika Gvaramia's trial and left only after it was over.

In my view, the Ministry of Internal Affairs is requesting this because it is a direct political order. We saw that Mirian K'avtaradze was already outside in the yard... And I myself am one of the key witnesses in Saba Skhvitardze's case.

As a former journalist and as a main witness, I know very well: when you are a key witness in a case, you are not only banned from participating in the trial, you shouldn't even be nearby, in order to avoid a conflict of interest.

Is it an attempt of intimidation?

More than intimidation, I think it is an act of revenge. We are not intimidated... frankly, I couldn't care less, excuse me. I really believe this is simply about revenge.

Four witnesses testified about me, yet not a single one could state exactly what I had said. All of them said they saw me only after Mirian Kavtaradze had already left the building.

Now two women from the Ministry of Internal Affairs are demanding pre-trial detention for me... Well, we'll see. If they send me away for five days, I'll get a bit of rest.

1 May / 2025

In Georgia, truly independent labor unions remain rare, and in many cases union activity is undermined by government interference and manipulation
photo:
Aleksandre Keshelashvili / Publika

Workers Day

On International Workers' Day, a demonstration was organized by ten trade unions and the "Movement for Social Democracy." Citizens gathered in the evening at Orbeliani Square, where representatives of various labor groups gave speeches. The protesters then marched from Orbeliani Square to the Government Administration, and finally joined the ongoing protest on Rustaveli Avenue which has now continued for 155 consecutive days.



3 May / 2025

Mzia Amaghlobeli's
Message to Journalists
published by Batumelebi

Message to Journalists

I address you, my colleagues...

Colleagues who represent Georgia's critical media and the public interest. Your solidarity is inspiring, and it is deeply painful that I cannot stand beside you right now. Especially now, when you must work in a completely unprotected environment, and when it is your daily sacrifice that ensures the voice of injustice and resistance can still be heard.

A voice that the oligarchic regime seeks to silence with violence, blackmail, threats, and countless fabricated punishments. During my imprisonment, my faith in my profession has only grown stronger. Journalism is far more than seek

ing, processing, and distributing information. In a world of bots, trolls, propaganda, and oligarchs, we must be able to survive and work for our ideals and for a better, European future.

I believe that as long as there are still people who will tell you that you are not alone, we will manage to preserve and develop both our profession and our country.

That is why I call on my fellow citizens: cooperate with the media and with journalists, help expose all those individuals, circles, and groups who have normalized corruption, injustice and violence. Those who rob us, impoverish us, and betray us.

I call on Georgian business to take responsibility for the survival of a free, critical press. And I appeal to the modern civilized world: do not leave us alone, face to face with Russia and its proxy authoritarian regime. Do not allow the voice of freedom from Georgia to be lost!



*Resident greets participants of chaotic marches set in random locations in Tbilisi
photo: Lizu Akhaladze*

5 May / 2025

Tbilisi city court in Black smoke

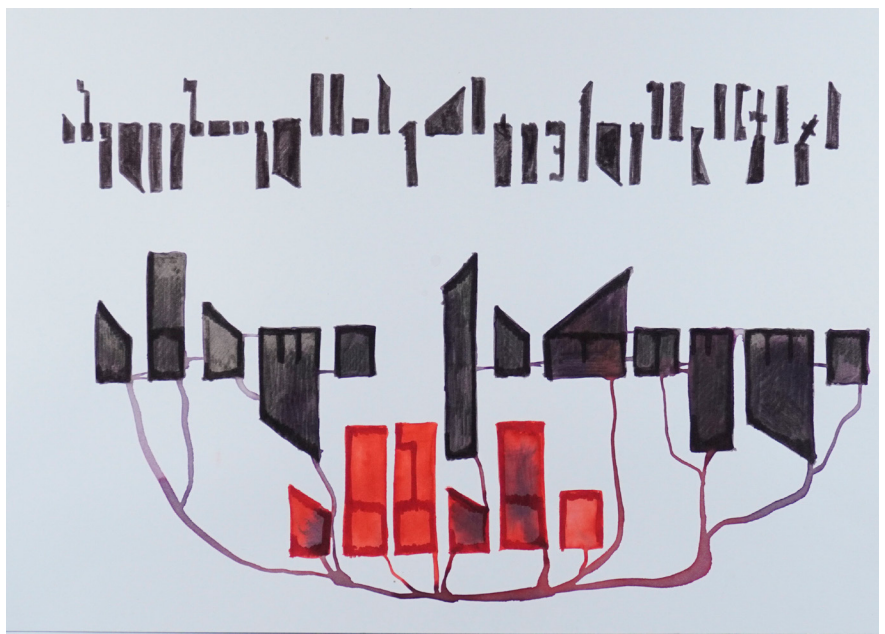


*A protest performance during one of the trials in the yard of the Tbilisi City Court.
photo: Tabula*

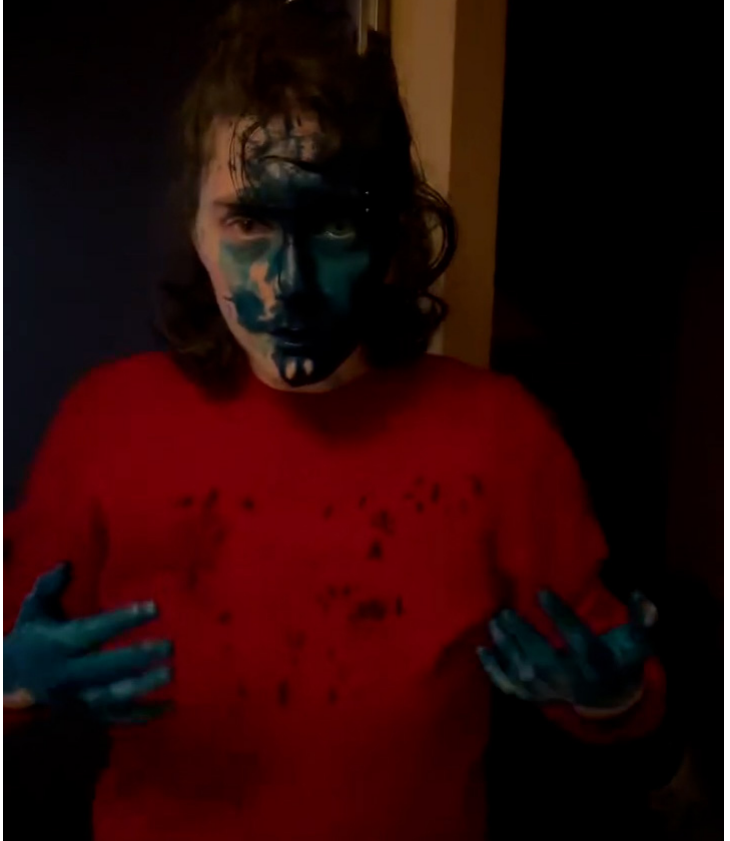
New Georgian Alphabet

*New Georgian Alphabet
postcard by Sophia Tabatadze*

The new Georgian alphabet is being sold for 120 GEL, and all proceeds go toward paying fines imposed on protest participants.



Russian Style



posted by Nutsa Makharadze

For a month now, Keti and I have been followed. Fifteen minutes ago, a man was waiting for us by the elevator. He sprayed us with pepper spray and paint, and shouted, 'You Nazi mother fuckers'. I'll tell you the rest later.

-

First of all, thank you so much for your solidarity, my fellow fighters! We are doing well, resilient, strong, and not intimidated by these cowards. Come on, don't you know us by now? Try to analyze things a bit!

That said, along with our strength, I want to mention that Ketevan and Salome have first-degree burns. Salome's cornea is injured. Her eye is severely swollen and burning. She's sitting in the dark because she reacts to light.

What happened yesterday was an attack straight out of the Russian playbook, a Russian-style approach to its own citizens: hatred, resentment, and cowardice at its most extreme. In reality, this dark, Russian-style system is run by fear, by weak people who can't control us—never have, never will!

You can't scare people who fight with dignity. Keep your fear to yourselves, you spineless cowards! Everyone will be held accountable without a doubt!

6 May / 2025

Words said by Police

Natia Bukia shared excerpts from a human rights report documenting the language used by police officers toward detainees, quoting the words spoken to them during arrest and detention.

- How much can you fit in your mouth at once?
- We will put you on your knees and give it to suck, you bitch, we can shit in your mouth
- Your pussy will bleed like that, when will fuck you
- Will you suck my dick?

These are the words that Georgian police officers told to Georgian women during protests. Not in a play, but in real life! How hypocritical are those who get outraged over vulgarity in art or supposed offenses to religion, yet stay silent in the face of real injustices: women beaten and bruised during protests, girls doused in green antiseptic, entire cities left without livelihoods, the damaged frescoes of Gelati, or a man tortured to death in prison. Look in the mirror.

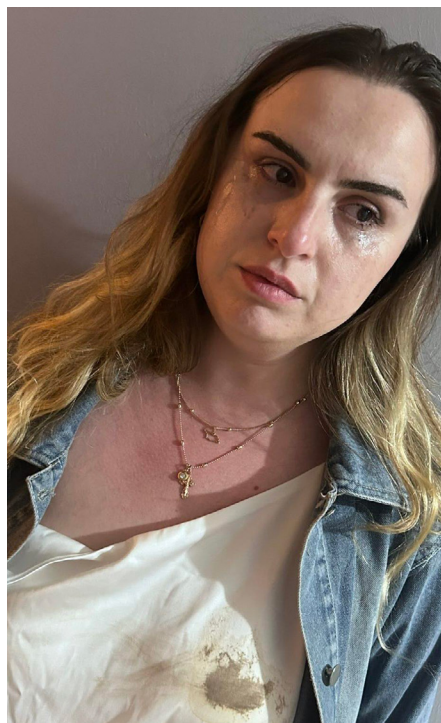


*The Justice Moves at an Ox-Cart's Pace - Performance at Tbilisi City Court.
photo: Salome Kvaratskhelia*

11 May / 2025

If you show up again

I was supposed to meet my sister, and then we planned to go home together. On the way, I was approached by two unknown men. One of them sprayed pepper spray in my face, and then both of them threw me to the ground. Before fleeing, they said: "If you show up at the protest again, be ready for worse."



A selfie taken by Taia Tsekvava after she was attacked by unknown assailants. The case remains uninvestigated.

12 May / 2025

Diagnose with concussion

*journalist Mariam Makasarashvili gives comments on her assault by the father of former vice-governor Giorgi Shinjikashvili. The next day, she was diagnosed with a concussion and forced to remain in the hospital.
aired on TV Pirveli*

"When we arrived at Giorgi [Shinjikashvili]'s house, his father was present. We approached and asked if we could speak with him. There's a recording in which he says, 'Come on in.' He spoke to us normally, even said that his son had no conflict whatsoever with Khareba... We finished the interview, which was entirely voluntary.

Once we stepped outside, my cameraman was filming a shot, and suddenly [his father] rushed out, grabbed the camera from him, broke off part of the lighting and damaged several other parts... When he saw I had a mobile

phone, he thought I was recording, and took that too... Then he swung his fist and hit me full force in the face and head. I'm dizzy, I have a severe headache and intense eye pain. We're heading to the clinic.

Later, several vehicles arrived with dark tinted windows. They told us: 'We'll return the equipment, but why did you come here, and why were you asking questions about Khareba?'"

12 May / 2025

Happy Birthday Mzia

Journalists and activists gathered outside Rustavi Women's Prison to wish Mzia Amaglobeli a happy birthday.

As an act of solidarity, her colleagues sent her messages written on kites, flying them toward the women's prison.



*Ninia Kakabadze sends wishes to Mzia Amaglobeli over the walls
photo: Eliso Jariashvili*

14 May / 2025

published by Batumelebi

I will get you with blood

Irakli Dgebuadze was forced to admit that the police officer insulting Mzia Amaghlobeli was, in fact, himself. “I’ll get you with blood... I’ll fuck your mother,” he is heard shouting in a video recorded on January 12, at the moment of Mzia Amaghlobeli’s arrest. In the footage, as the detained woman is being escorted by two police officers, Dgebuadze is following behind, hurling insults at her.

23 May / 2025

published by Publika

Work for Fine

Judge Zviad Tsekvava fined “Publika” journalist Mariam Kavshbaia 5,000 GEL. The Ministry of Internal Affairs accused her of blocking the road on February 3. At the time (before and after as well), the journalist was carrying out her professional duties, covering the ongoing protest on Rustaveli Avenue.

Mariam Kavshbaia presented evidence to the court photographs she had taken on that day, published on “Publika’s” Facebook page under her name. Even in the video footage submitted by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, she is clearly seen working as a journalist during the protest.

Nevertheless, the court fined Mariam, who is also a student, 5,000 GEL.

*Protest day - 167
on Rustaveli ave. Tbilisi
photo:
Mariam Kavshbaia / Publika*



30 May / 2025

Short but Loud

- While visiting my son in prison, they brought me a notice of a 5,000 GEL fine - writes Marizi Kobakhidze, the mother of political prisoner Thornike Goshadze on social media.

Fair Karma

Lika Lortkipanidze Sentenced to 12 Days of Administrative Detention Lika Lortkipanidze has been sentenced to 12 days of administrative detention by the court. The Ministry of Internal Affairs accused her of insulting politician Mariam Lashkhi. The case was heard by Judge Davit Tetrauli. According to her lawyer, Mikheil Tataradze, who spoke to Publika, Lortkipanidze did not commit any offense.

Fear karma, it will come for you too — Tatia Apriamashvili to the judge. The activist made this remark just before the verdict was announced. Judge Tsatsua sentenced activist Tatia Afriamashvili to 12 days in detention.

Magda Mamukashvili has been fined 4,000 GEL based on a complaint filed by Mariam Lashkhi, a member of what is being referred to as an illegitimate parliament. Judge Tsatsua imposed a fine, as the law prohibits the detention of a mother of children under 12

Georgian Dream MP Mariam Lashkhi filed a complaint against three female activists following an incident on May 17. The Ministry of Internal Affairs is seeking administrative detention for two of them and a fine for the third. The incident took place in a café where Lashkhi was present with companions, including children. Activists entered the venue chanting: “Freedom to the regime’s prisoners, no to the Russian regime, no to Russia’s servants... down with the servants of Russia.” According to a February amendment to the Administrative Offenses Code, insulting a public or political official is now punishable by a fine of 1,500 to 4,000 GEL or up to 45 days of administrative detention.

Georgian Dream adopted another law allowing public or political figures to personally interpret statements as offenses and file lawsuits on that basis. This marked the beginning of a new wave of repressions. notes published by Publika.

4 June / 2025

Judge Manuchar Tsatsua sentenced Albi Kordzaia to 10 days in detention. Legal prosecution against the activist began on the grounds of insulting Tea Tsulukiani. aired on Formula

We are ready

We are ready for me to go to prison, because I believe this is the minimum I can do, given the reality that two young twenty-year-old girls, students, have already been held in isolation for two weeks.

It is absolutely, I don't even know, an absurd situation. And I believe that this is the least I can do under such circumstances.

As for the judge... of course, speaking about the judge here is pointless. How could we expect any fair or just decision from a person who has already been sanctioned by Lithuania and Poland? A decision in our favor, a right and just decision, is simply impossible.

Police edition Tatioo

To show solidarity with 21-year-old student Tatia Apriamashvili, her mother and friends displayed a protest banner on Rustaveli Avenue. Police prevented the action, forcibly pushing them onto the sidewalk. After brutally moving from Rustaveli ave.

- Magda Mamukashvili shared photos of her bruises with text - Tattoo with Georgian police violence edition



4 June / 2025

*Kakha Uriadmkopeli on
Marina Terashvili family
photo:
Mariam Nukuradze / OC Media*



Decades of Protest and Loss

I came across a video. A woman dressed in black is standing near the metro, holding letters from prisoners and offering them to passersby, who don't even pay her any attention...

If only people knew who she is and the immense story she carries, they would probably approach her and embrace her. This is Marina Terishvili, the mother of Mamuka and Giorgi Terishvili.

Mamuka Terishvili was just 17 years old when, on February 2, 1992, he was killed by the Mkhedrioni regime on the Queen Tamar Bridge. That day, Mamuka was leading a demonstration with a flag in his hand. A protest that was bloodily suppressed on Jaba Ioseliani's orders. Out of the 23 people killed, Mamuka was the youngest...

Giorgi, Marina's second son was arrested last year, also for participating in a protest, and now faces many years in prison.

Now, instead of her sons, their mother stands in the streets, despite her age, asking for something everyone longs for: freedom and justice.

Is the story of the nine Kherkheulidze brothers and their mother any different? What's happening right beside us right now is exactly the same and we don't even notice. Worse, poisoned by Russian propaganda, some Georgians mock and insult Mrs. Marina, calling her unpatriotic. How is it that, in a century we call the peak of education and progress, we are still managing to degenerate at this pace?..

12 June / 2025

*Under yet another new law, social media posts began to be closely monitored, and both ordinary citizens and journalists were fined for their expressions.
published by Dea Mamiseishvili*

Social Monitoring

I've been summoned to court tomorrow because I offended Mamuka.

Mamuka Mdinardze felt insulted, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs along with the court decided to take it seriously. Oh well, Geka.

Mamuka is suing me over a February 25th post where I called him a bastard, a scoundrel, and inhuman.

And yes, this is my freedom of expression.
That's what I think (and worse), and no one can limit me.

-

Eka Mishveladze was fined 4,000 GEL over a Facebook post. The fine was issued based on a complaint filed by Mariam Lashkhi.

Activist President

Salome Zourabichvili published copy of the recieved fine bill

I was baptized as an activist today!

And I stood exactly where every mother should have stood beside the mothers of conscience prisoners!

For participating in the Mother's March on March 3, 2025, Georgia's fifth president, Salome Zourabichvili, was fined 5,000 GEL.

ელექტრონული საჯარიმო ქვითარი №ფე288504			
ადმინისტრაციული სამართალდარღვევის ოქმი			
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4. სამართალდარღვევა: ჩადენის ადგილი, დრო და არსი: რუსთაველის გამზირი, პარლამენტის მიმდებარედ - 03/03/2025 21:31:33 - „შეკრებებისა და მანიფესტაციების შესახებ“ საქართველოს კანონის მე-9 მუხლით, მე-11 მუხლით (გარდა მე-11 მუხლის მე-2 პუნქტის „ა1“, „ა2“ და „ზ“ ქვეპუნქტებისა) და 11 პრიმა მუხლით გათვალისწინებული ნორმების დარღვევა – გამოიწვევს სამართალდარღვევის დაჯარიმებას 5 000 ლარის ოდენობით ან ადმინისტრაციულ პატიმრობას 15 დღემდე ვადით, სამართალდარღვევის საგნის კონფისკაციით;			
5.	ასკ-ის მუხლი; ნაწილი; პუნქტი:	174-1-5	ჯარიმის ოდენობა: 5000 ლარი
6.	სატრანსპორტო საშუალება:		
საბელწიფო №, ტექ. პასპორტის №			

12 June / 2025

Brutal Ejection and Injuries

Natia Chikovani was forcibly dragged out of the City Court and subjected to the violence, while attending the trial of Mate Devidze — a young protester who had been detained months earlier for waving a stick and was ultimately sentenced to four and a half years.

photos by Natia Chikovani

I was already outside, having been thrown out, and I was telling one of the zombie-like police officers standing there: They didn't even let me put my shoe back on — they threw me out like that! (Earlier, I had fallen several times because of this open shoe — it's a so-called platform style, and my foot kept twisting while being dragged, shoved, and crushed.)

At that moment, one of the court bailiffs came at me, shoved me with full force, deliberately, and slammed me onto the stone floor.

About 50 police officers saw it happen and not a single one moved.

Tears were falling from my eyes as I lay on the ground looking at them, asking:

How can you just stand there and do nothing? - Not one of them reacted...

Yes, the bruises are just multiplying at home.

My foot hit the stone, and that's the only reason I didn't smash my head.

One of the bailiff neither before nor after (I caught him outside later) could tell me under which article of the law we were thrown out of court and beaten on top of that. I couldn't get an answer. No explanation at all for why we were kicked out.



18 June / 2025

The women's rights organization Sapari voiced concerns over the authorities' demand for access to their personal data.

Sapari

The Georgian organization Sapari has been providing legal, psychological, and social assistance to women in Georgia for 24 years.

Each year, our lawyers provide free legal consultations to over a thousand women, supporting them in interactions with investigative authorities and in court.

On June 17, the Ivanishvili–Kuprashvili bureau began enforcing unconstitutional, Russian-style laws through Murusidze's court. They are demanding, without any legal grounds, that we, as human rights defenders, hand over the personal information of women and child victims of violence who are under our protection. Specifically, they are asking for personal identification numbers, full names, photographs, financial and banking data, and health-related information of those who have trusted us and sought our support. Sapari has no intention of betraying the trust of those we protect, even if it leads to our persecution or arrest. Together with other civil society organizations, we will pursue all legal avenues against these unlawful orders. To us, their goal is clear: Ivanishvili is attempting to dismantle free civil society in Georgia, just as the Bolsheviks did in the 1920s, and as the Putin and Lukashenko regimes have done in the past decade.

Once again, we declare:
We will not live under Russian-style laws.
We will not accept the sabotage of Georgia's European future. And we will continue to fight to defend the rights of the Georgian people.

19 June / 2025

published by Elene Kaikhosrovshvili

More is coming

All seven of the organizations that the regime targeted first, are led by women! Exemplary, principled, intelligent, qualified, outspoken, stubborn, fierce, and most importantly, women who care about people and their rights. These are the women who inspired me ten years ago when I was choosing my professional path and now, it turns out they have superpowers.

19 June / 2025

*Cleopatra Karumashvili's post
from outside the courthouse*

From the Court

I'm in the court yard. My mother has just been taken from the courtroom sentenced to 2 years and 6 months. A 57-year-old woman has been imprisoned. All of this is connected to the criminal case opened against me. A case that was launched because the former mayor of Akhmeta didn't like one of my Facebook posts. After that, the Revenue Service raided my parents' company, which was also registered in my name, and based on incorrectly issued invoices, which were simply a clean accounting error, a criminal case was opened. This case dragged on for many years. They had no evidence, which is why they couldn't touch me or any of my family members. A few months ago, my mother was pressured into a confession under the threat of my arrest. They forced her to confess to evidence that essentially doesn't exist and now, they've taken her straight from the courtroom for 2 years and 6 months

22 June / 2025

*note by Dodie Kharkheli
photo: Elene Kaikhosroshvili*

Do you know what's happening here

Do you know what's happening here? Judge Manuchar Tsatsua's sister is meeting Saba, just released from the detention center, where her own brother sentenced him to 30 days.



27 June / 2025

How Fear Is Being Enforced

*posted by Ketil Molashvili
note: The 2026 pension
has been announced: it
will increase by 30 GEL,
bringing the total to 450
GEL apr. 140 EUR*

Tbilisi City Court fined a pensioner woman 2400 GEL for writing a comment about a representative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs: When I had my court hearing, some of my friends were late and couldn't get into the courtroom. And now I'll tell you what one of them told me: Since I couldn't get in with you, I went toward the courtroom where the prisoner of conscience was, and on the way I met an elderly woman, a grandmother. She asked me: 'My child, yesterday they called me, they summoned me to court, and I don't know where to go or what to do, it's my first time in this building.' I helped her figure it out, and it turned out she had a hearing. She was so nervous. I told her: 'Don't worry, I'll go in with you.' So I went in. They were accusing her over something she had written in a comment to a comment under a Facebook post about a representative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The woman was distraught: 'I didn't know, my child, that it wasn't allowed. Bring that person here and I'll apologize, or I will go to him myself and apologize. I live only on my pension, and if you fine me, I will be left hungry. Whatever you tell me, I will do, only please, don't destroy me.' The MIA representative relented, even the judge didn't know what to do. He went out, deliberated, deliberated again, and then fined her 2400 GEL for words written in a comment to a comment under a Facebook post.

And we know why they fined this grandmother: so that if I write something, if someone else writes something, fear is sown. And that is exactly why I'm writing this... Every 'dreamer' [pro-government supporter] should tremble, unable to write even a single comment, terrified that they might say something 'wrong,' that they might outmaneuver me with logic and throw me onto the garbage heap. It's not just posts anymore. Now even comments to comments are controlled. Soon you won't be able to send a message, or even speak at home. This is what your silence has brought us. Here I am, writing publicly, fulfilling the wish of the 'dreamers,' and telling you: be afraid! First of all, you should be afraid of what you post or write online, be afraid of your messages, of your calls. Be afraid of everything. Be silent, be voiceless servants, without rights. You deserve it... Congratulations. You have truly brought us the kind of democracy that amazed Europe and America, and in return, you have fallen permanently silent.

And what is a person, who is alive but voiceless? Someone who cannot speak, who is mute, a mouth silenced? Animal?

3 July / 2025

Birthday Present

*Anako Turashvili about Nani Tsulaia mother of political prisoner - Giorgi Mindadze after he was sentenced for five years on her birthday.
photo: Anako Turashvili*

In the middle, holding sunflowers, is Mrs. Nani Tsulaia, the mother of 21-year-old Giorgi Mindadze. Today is her birthday. Giorgi, a 21-year-old medical student, was sentenced to 5 years in prison for setting off fireworks at a protest—fireworks that injured no one.

Crushed by a sense of injustice, we clashed in the corridors and the yard of the court. We cried, we shouted. Even taking photos or videos is forbidden, even in the yard. At that moment, we all hugged Nani, who kept shouting: “Don’t be afraid, everything is fine, don’t cry! Look how many guests you came with to my birthday!”

For almost an hour, there was hand-to-hand scuffling with the guardians of absurdity in the courtyard. Everyone was pulling each other back, because even if someone accidentally hit another person, it meant 7 years in prison. And I will never forget how Mrs. Nani burst in, whose son had just been sentenced to 5 years and shouted: “Let’s go, my dears, you are my guests, let’s go to our home on Rustaveli, leave this place.” I stood there thinking: what a great human being you are, when in such a moment you worry more that someone else might get arrested, and you tell others: “Don’t worry, don’t be afraid, we must stay strong.” There is something extraordinary about our prisoners of conscience and their families.

*right
artwork by Ninuka Tsintsadze*



VOICES TURNED INTO ONE SWORD
BECOME THE PATH TO FREEDOM

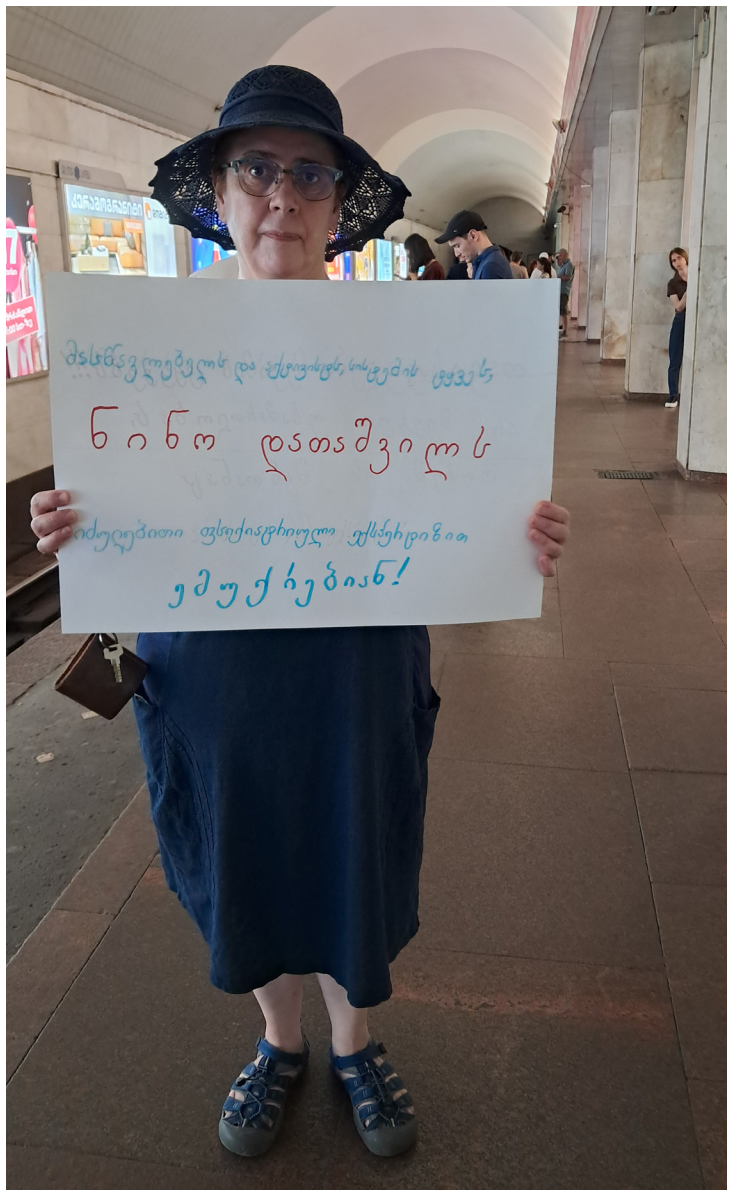


3 Aug / 2025

Forced Mental Treatment

I move from station to station; the support is immense, people come up and talk to me on the platforms. In one carriage, someone handed me 2 GEL. Apparently, I look like a good beggar!

Banner inscription: "Teacher and activist, prisoner of the system – Nino Datashvili is threatened with forced psychiatric evaluation."



Solidarity to the teacher in Public Transport - Teona Bekishvili after court gave the right to involuntary treatment of Nino datashvili

5 Aug / 2025

*On August 5, 2025
Mzia Amaglobeli was sentenced
to two years in prison.
Day before, she sent a comment
regarding her possible confession.
published by Batumelebi*

Will not sign the plea

Where I have been unlawfully confined for seven months, a plea deal is, for many, a so-called humane step taken by the state. I cannot forget the crying of a little girl, whose voice reached my cell... 'I miss my mother.' When I learned that a plea deal was being arranged with her parent, I was genuinely relieved.

In my case, it is not like that. It is the opposite. Even the proposal is equivalent to being buried alive. The suggestion itself is deeply insulting. My lawyers have already voiced my position: no, I will not sign this plea deal. For the simple reason that what happened was not an assault. What kind of justice is this, I do not know.

From the very first day of my detention, I have repeatedly stated in this courtroom that I do not evade responsibility, unlike the so-called victim, Dgebuadze. The law contains provisions that are adequate for my actions—of giving a slap.

”

**იბრძოდეთ,
სანამ გვიანია
არ არის**

გზია ამაღლობელი

*Fight before it is too late -
Mzia Amaglobeli
card published by Protest24*

19 Aug / 2025

*Dato Simonia on a war refuge
from Abkhazia - Aza Chilachava*

Woman who beat fear

When Gagra fell, the city was full of lifeless Georgian soldiers. Whoever dared to bury them risked their life.

Aza Chilachava dared. She spent three months in the occupied city. When she escaped, she lived in Tskaltubo, carrying bags of sugar on her back for sale. Later she went into exile and bought a small apartment in a suburb of Tbilisi with the little money she had saved.

From there, she comes to the city center every day. Walking is difficult, but she follows the Broadcaster march toward Rustaveli. She carries a worn notebook in her hand. One message on each page. Sometimes she gives cakes to fellow protesters, sometimes seedlings.

At one of the dispersals, she shielded a young protester from being kidnapped by masked men for torture. She was beaten so badly that she lay down for three days. Still, she got up and strengthens the protest. What could stop a woman who beat fear in fallen Gagra?

This is who stands on Rustaveli.



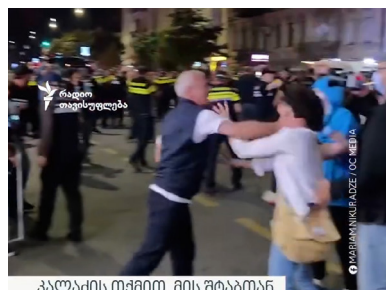
9 Sept / 2025

Kakha Kaladze was asked this question yesterday, September 8, near his campaign headquarters, regarding physical violence against women - RFE / RL

They are not women

- There is no confrontation here... - Kakha Kaladze
- Women were beaten by your people... - Journalist
- Where do you see women here? Where do you see women? - Kakha Kaladze
- Yes, there are women... - Journalist
- None of them are women... Not a single woman here... - Kakha Kaladze
- Then who are they? - Journalist
- I don't know, some other species. There's no woman here... Tell me, where is a woman? Show me one person here who is a woman. You are no different from those attackers who came to the campaign headquarters yesterday - Kakha Kaladze

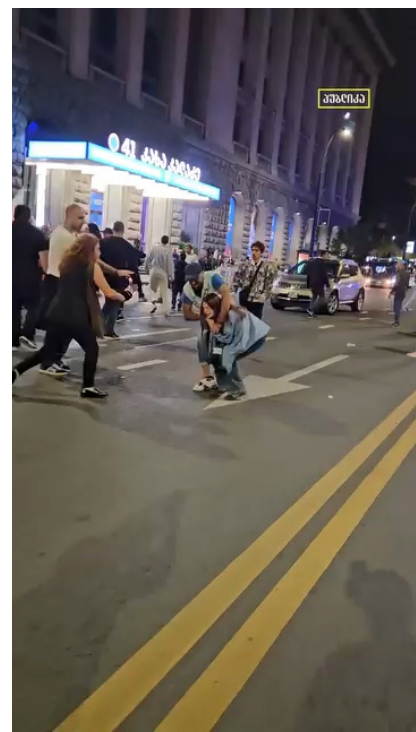
Note: Kakha Kaladze is running for Mayor of Tbilisi in 2025, seeking his third term.



პალაქის თვით, მის შტაბთან
ქალები არ უშეშებიათ 08/09/2025
09/09/2025



*Mayor Kakha Kaladze gives comments to the shown video
video still: RFE / RL
One of the scenes of assault in front of the campaign office
video still: Publika*



12 Sept / 2025

Collected

published by Publika

Citizens have already collected 2,000 GEL for Megi Diasamidze's bail.

The 23-year-old activist Megi Diasamidze, who was detained on charges of damaging Kakha Kaladze's electoral banner, was released from the courtroom after Judge Davit Kurtanidze set bail at 2,000 GEL.

-

Elene Khoshtaria is being transferred from Tbilisi Temporary Detention Isolator to the Rustavi Women's Colony.

for Context: In solidarity to Megi Diasamidze, politician Elene Khoshtaria damaged the same banner next day after the office employees cleaned it in the evening.

note: process of cleaning took approximately 15 minutes



25 Sept / 2025

Shortly after this statement, Nana Sanders, along with other citizens, was arrested on charges of attempting a coup d'état.

No Surprises

Didgori 2 will not take risks. There will be no surprises in Didgori 2. We did not come from different continents for surprises!

We came to fight!

Leave the children at home

We are those Georgians who protected children, protect them now and will protect them; we fight so that they can live in a better country, and there is no precious interest or goal in the world that could justify sacrificing a child! And we are not marching for peace. On October 4 we march to restore peace, which does not exist without freedom!

Yes, first we regain freedom and reclaim our homeland, and then peace will follow.

Bring defensive gear on October 4.

Air-propellant weapon, helmet, gloves, (gas) capsules to manually extinguish gas, biker gloves — ideal for falls or for punching in the jaw, and also make sure you have disposable gloves because in November–December they released substances that I couldn't wash out of my fingers for five days and taking lenses out and putting them back in was hell. Instead of glasses, have contact lenses, and also bring extra supplies of lenses.

Black short raincoat and rain trousers (thin, light)

Footwear suited for speed (emigrants coming, bring at least two extra pairs of shoes)

Military trousers — with knee pads.

Leave the good phones at home and bring ones that are “cleaned” and you won't be upset if they are stolen or damaged.

If you need help with defensive gear, message us — those groups and individuals are not asking for sacrifice; we are investing time, nerves and energy so your health is not sacrificed, we have different funds and are collecting money, party diaspora groups.

Those coming from the regions, come prepared and ready to stay in Tbilisi for several days.

For those with nowhere to survive, other responsible organizers, first from the diaspora, are taking care of that. If you can offer a room, flat or house to people coming to fight from the regions or diaspora, write to us. Responsible diaspora and responsible individuals from Georgia are making call-centers that will help you with everything.

Responsible people should join this struggle and remain hopeful, and be protected from irresponsible individuals or groups. But help us physically too. We need people who do the work, and winning Didgori 2 requires thinking people, not blind followers; not sheep, but thinking people! Thinking minds who ask questions, who leave children at home, and who prepare for battle, not for surprises.

26 Sept / 2025

I'll make you eat that Megaphone

Nino Kalandia on her assault

Just now, returning home from the rally, some guy followed me in the Arc. First he grabbed my arm, and when I turned around there was a tall guy in a cap holding onto me. "What do you want?" I asked. He spat at me. I had a pin on. It said "Freedom to the regime's prisoners" — and then he grabbed it, like, "what is this, why are you wearing that?" He was cursing too. "None of your business," I said. Then he grabbed my arm and started wrestling me; he tried to throw me down, I don't know what he intended. I tried to wrench his hand off me, and when I finally freed myself I hit the wall from the momentum. In the struggle my backpack fell off and I slammed it into him. He stepped back. He kept saying, "you run around with megaphones — I'll make you eat that megaphone." A few guys then cut off in the Arc, and when he saw them he ran away.

"Kots" supporters, don't think you won't run into types like this somewhere in a dark corner. Criminals roam the streets, and don't be surprised if someday some thug robs you the same way.

27 Sept / 2025

*During the protests, Anastasia Zinovkina, detained on drug related charges — sends a letter from the Rustavi Women's Penitentiary:
published by Publika*

Dont let them kill us

This letter is a cry for help.

My name is Anastasia Zinovkina and I am being held captive in Rustavi, Women's Colony No. 5. On September 12 at 12:00 we were sentenced — Artem Gribul and I. Eight years and six months. The same as Anton Chechin.

Although there are differences in our cases, we share a lot in common. For example, the police, the same people planted drugs on him and on us.

For example, the 'interpreters.'

For example, the same behavior of the penitentiary system: we are denied the medical care we need. Because we provided medical care to people harmed in Rustavi.

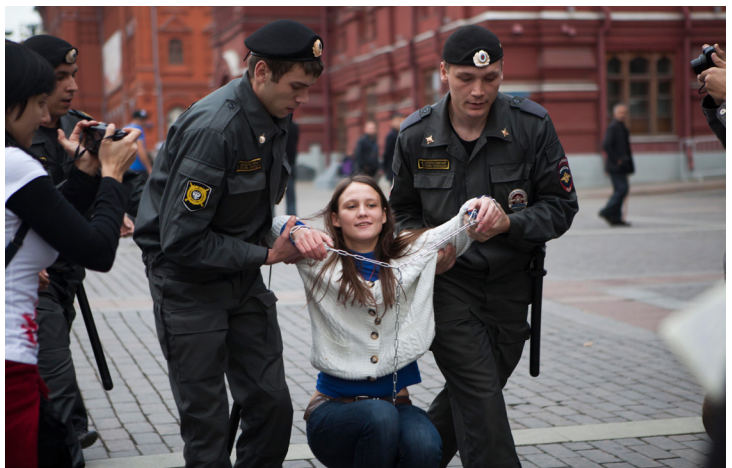
They are killing us in prison. Doctors do not come to us. Please call the prisons where we are being held, call the Public Defender, every authority, the Ministry of Health. Call, tell them our names, demand an explanation for why they brazenly dare to kill political prisoners this way. Zinovkina Anastasia, Artem Gribul, Anton Chechin.

The brazenness of the regime's dogs is astonishing.

Please — do not give them the right to kill us.

Please — show solidarity.

Please — do not forget the political prisoners; help each of them fight for their rights in prison,"



*Zinovkina being detained at the protest, Moscow, 2012
photo: Elena Rostunova*

1 Oct / 2025

Angry women

The women taking part in the protests are activists, especially active and special methods are being used against them. We have seen home raids, for example the case of the pregnant woman Mariam Bajelidze. They broke into the home of a woman seven months pregnant, who was there with a small child. Also, when one of the conscience prisoners was detained, his wife was physically humiliated, which caused her to suffer abdominal injuries. Women are being stripped in detention cells... we have women who are conscience prisoners... and we hear the rhetoric of so-called officials who say that activist women are not women... Show us who you are women, then we hear this rhetoric very often. Many legislative measures have also been taken against women. Gender has been removed from virtually all laws, and today we want to gather all the accumulated anger and hold a march of angry women...



Elene Kaikhosroshvili from the Angry Womens' March aired on EuroNews Georgia photo: Basti Mgaloblishvili / Publika

Women are not alone — we are still here. Despite the fact that ‘Georgian Dream’ is fighting us, hiring titushki [thugs], and putting us through many hardships... we are here, we are not going anywhere... we are here and we express solidarity with women, with mothers, with our sisters, with women in the regions who have been left alone and no longer have supporters. Even those NGOs that used to help in the fight against abusers, we tell them: we are not leaving. We will protect each other, we will protect our sisters and our mothers, and we tell ‘Georgian Dream’ that we are very angry. We, the women, are not afraid of them...



Natia Gvritshvili from the Angry Womens' March aired on EuroNews Georgia photo: Basti Mgaloblishvili / Publika

For the first time in Georgia's history we have women political prisoners, women who are fighting for a better future for this country, for a European future. And not only were more than 60 political prisoners not enough for them, they have put women — Mzia Amaglobeli, Nino Datashvili, Elene Khoshtaria in jail on absurd charges. We do not have the right to give up. We must not afford ourselves the luxury of staying at home rain, snow, or frost. We are obliged to fight for the regime's prisoners, to stand outside and achieve justice. This country will surely win and we will reach a peaceful, European Georgia.

Nana Tohvadze: from the Angry Womens' March aired on EuroNews Georgia

4 Oct / 2025

Provocation

Protester addresses special forces next to the presidential palace

How long? How long? Why did they even hold elections? I still don't understand. They sat them down themselves, didn't they? They were there, right? This morning I went round three precincts on purpose... at each of the three precincts fewer than twenty men showed up. I sat for two hours, sometimes in one square, sometimes in another... I filmed it too... Shame on you, Georgians. It makes me cry — who did we raise our hand against, who? Police, who made you into 'normal' policemen? What are you doing to us, Georgians today? To mothers, to children, what are you telling them? Shame, how long, how long? I came peacefully — why do you need these sirens? Are you going to beat us? Are you going to shoot us? Remember April 9. I stood there then too and I survived. Shame on you, come over to the people's side. Bidzina will not be here for long. Bidzina wants his money... yes I'll tell you — I want my money back. Inside there are such violations, people are devouring one another. Understand, understand this

Today Rustaveli is ours, but clearly they are determined to disperse us.

Tamar Jakeli shared a video of a young woman stepping in front of a bus to stop it, blocking Rustaveli Avenue

videostill by Rusudan Jakeli



14 Oct / 2025

Maria Ressa to EU Parliament

Time to Act

The time to act is now. Mzia and Georgia need your solidarity!" — with these words, Nobel laureate journalist Maria Ressa addressed Members of the European Parliament during a conference in Brussels dedicated to Mzia Amaglobeli and the Georgian pro-democracy movement.

All the member of European Parliament, I regret I cannot be with you in Brussels today. Mzia Amaglobeli and I share the same lawyer – who represent us both, in our struggle for justice. The European Parliament must pay attention to what is happening in Georgia. Students are risking everything for democratic values, journalist continue shining light of the truth. Mzia Amaglobeli has become the symbol of this brave opposition of end of independent journalism in Georgia. International solidarity sustained me through the darkest times. It reminded me – we are not alone. Mzia needs the same solidarity now. She's been in prison since January, that's nine months. Her colleges keep her media organization alive under tremendous pressure, but they can't do this alone. This is a critical moment for Mzia and for Georgia. More than 310 days of daily protests the values Europe claims uphold being tested in Tbilisi. Silence – sense of dangerous message. Mzia deserves your solidarity. Georgia deserves your solidarity. Time to act is now.

15 Oct / 2025

Tina Bokuchava writes on social media about the problems of leaving the country

Right to leave

I'm flying to Vilnius for the European People's Party (EPP) political assembly. I was stopped at the border in Tbilisi Airport and not allowed to leave. After a long wait, I was referred to another officer at a different location, who, after keeping me waiting again, told me: 'You have a fine, you know that, right?' One fine I knew about, and the other was from April, which the regime suddenly remembered at the border in October, even though I will have left the country at least 6–7 times in the past two months for purposes of non-recognition, delegitimization, and sanctioning of the Ivanishvili regime.

In short, they deliberately delay me so that boarding ends, the final announcement is made, and the police arrive. I explained that they were unlawfully restricting my freedom.

I started filming; they hesitated, said, ‘Okay, okay,’ and eventually let me go.

Alongside banning parties and individuals, the regime is also considering restricting the right to leave the country and is already testing measures in this direction. As Moldova and Ukraine move rapidly toward EU membership, and possibly Armenia may also seek candidate status, Georgia’s borders could soon be closed off like an iron curtain, and we could find ourselves in a full dictatorship.

Should we continue public shaming, nitpicking, and criticism or should we coordinate with those of us who are actively resisting the regime? For me, this is currently the only relevant question. Will we unite? — We will succeed. And very soon. Right? Otherwise, a dictatorship will take hold, and soon we may no longer be able to leave the country or if we do, it may be forever.

Chairman of OSCE fined for blocking road

published by Netgazeti

Elina Valtonen, current Chair of the OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) and Finland’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, visited Rustaveli Avenue with the members of her delegation and met with participants of the ongoing pro-European protests.

Valtonen arrived in Georgia as part of an official visit to the South Caucasus, and she is also scheduled to hold meetings in Azerbaijan and Armenia. In addition to representatives of civil society, Valtonen met with leaders of Georgian Dream, including Foreign Minister Maka Bochorishvili.

-

The Ministry of Internal Affairs fined Elina Valtonen, Chair of the OSCE and Finland’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, 5,000 GEL for “blocking the road.” The Ministry confirmed the information to Formula News.

Valtonen was in Georgia on an official visit. On October 14, she went to Rustaveli Avenue, where she met with protesters. On October 15, the Georgian Dream government announced that a meeting between Kobakhidze and Valtonen in Georgia had been cancelled “due to her participation in an unlawful protest.”

It later emerged that the meeting had in fact been cancelled by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs itself.

17 Oct / 2025

Among those

Among those arrested last night is Mariam Mekantsishvili, a single mother. According to her family, special forces entered Mekantsishvili's home while she was there with her 7-year-old child and her parents.

Mekantsishvili is an active participant in the ongoing protests on Rustaveli Avenue and has attended multiple demonstrations since October 4. This includes October 14, when Elina Valtonen, Chair of the OSCE and Finland's Minister of Foreign Affairs, visited Parliament.

At that time, Mekantsishvili noted that an interpreter — “likely provided by our illegitimate Ministry of Foreign Affairs” — introduced the OSCE Chair and her delegation as a group of tourists. Nevertheless, Mekantsishvili recognized the international delegation members, spoke with them, and informed about the continuous protests.

*Mariam Mekantsishvili detention
published by Batumelebi
photo: Levan Zazadze*



17 Oct / 2025

Protest as a Crime

*Teo Khatiashvili speaks about a new amendment to the law concerning road blockades, according to which, in the case of repeated detention, a demonstrator will be prosecuted under the Criminal Code.
published by Netgazeti*

One could say that the latest change adopted regarding protest demonstrations is not merely a tightening of rules, but the outright deprivation of that right. Especially over the past year, judging by the same people being arrested and how their trials unfold, we can see that this pseudo-authority does not need any real evidence... no lawful argumentation. If it decides to punish an opponent, it will punish them. Whether the law provides for a few days in jail or a harsher penalty later on is likely conditional. Everything depends on political will. That means our presence here hangs by a thread. Each of us puts our freedom at enormous risk. But that risk is nothing compared with what awaits us in the future. I don't even know what worse could come. The situation grows heavier by the day. If authoritarianism is finally consolidated, it will swallow everyone and the whole country.

That is why we must remain resolute. It cannot be otherwise, we must fight. At the same time, I think some forms and tactics of struggle, even the strategy of protest actions, need to be reconsidered and adapted, so that, given the already large number of conscience prisoners, even more activists do not fall into their hands.

20 Oct / 2025

New Mechanisms of pressure

*An increasing number of fined protesters have begun reporting the same problem: restrictions and difficulties when attempting to leave the country.
posted by Tamta Dolenjashvili*

The Ministry of Internal Affairs has come up with a new mechanism of psychological pressure. They kept me at passport control in Tbilisi for over half an hour. I asked what was happening, and then they told me: 'Go to those two women over there.' I went, and they said: 'You have a fine for blocking the road.' I said, 'The authorities haven't even handed it to me yet. What does this have to do with my flights?' They replied, 'Well... we don't know, it doesn't show in the system.' I said, 'I have a book presentation in Frankfurt today at 3 PM. Either you let me go, or I call my German publisher and put the Tbilisi Airport — as an MIA branch — and the executor of its shameful orders into an international scandal.'

'No, we'll let you go,' — they got scared. 'Just sign here,' they said, and they withdrew the MIA fine notice.

Mikheil Samkharadze wrote yesterday the same thing: 'Shota Rustaveli Tbilisi International Airport, are you seriously losing it?'"

20 Oct / 2025

They came to me too

Formula News journalist Keta Tsitskishvili was reportedly detained for blocking the road.

She posted on social media:

“They came to me too! The police came to my place. Do you think I’m afraid, or that any member of my family or any of my friends will be? In the end, we will still win. Georgian Dream — you are the Russians!!!

P.S. Grandma/Grandpa, don’t worry.”

*Formula TV notes about its
detained journalists
photo:
Mariam Nikuradze / OC Media*

On October 19, another Formula News journalist and TV host, Vakho Sanaia, was detained by the Georgian Dream police for blocking the road. He was sentenced to six days in detention.



22 Oct / 2025

Mzia Amaghlobeli has been awarded the Sakharov Prize published by RFE / RL

This is for Mzia

Mzia Amaghlobeli, founder of Batumelebi and Netgazeti, journalist, media manager, and currently imprisoned, has been awarded the Sakharov Prize, the European Union's highest human rights award. She shares the prize with Belarusian journalist Andrei Pachebut.

The Sakharov Prize is the EU's highest recognition for contributions to the protection of human rights. It acknowledges and supports individuals, groups, and organizations that have made significant efforts to defend freedom of expression. Established in 1988 and named after Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov, the prize honors work in areas such as freedom of expression, minority rights, and the rule of law.

Among its most influential laureates are Nelson Mandela, Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai, and Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny. In 2022, the prize was awarded to the Ukrainian people for their resistance against Russian aggression and defense of national sovereignty.



This is for Mzia - Tamar Lortkipanidze shouts to the face and runs over the police car photo: Mose

23 Oct / 2025

Dodie Kharkheli published the guide on social safety.

No longer

I will try to take everyone's advice into account and not get anyone in trouble. So I will try to:

Not block the road

Not stand on the sidewalk

Not post on Facebook

Not use any emojis

Not appear in videos

Not go home where a passerby could get hurt

Not be at home with children

Not wear a mask

Not hand anyone a mask or an air gun

Not retaliate if a police officer spits on me or slaps me

Not climb on a car if a police officer insults me

Not defend myself if a municipal officer hits me in the face

Not touch a trash can

Not hold a sign saying "Antsukhelidze is a hero"

Not hold the Georgian flag

Reminder

I created this drawing in 1988, the same year I moved from Soviet Georgia to the United States. (At the time, Georgia was under Soviet rule.) Today's events in both Georgia and the U.S. reminded me of this drawing, and I wanted to share it with you.

*right:
artwork by Eter Chkadua*



25 Oct / 2025

Elene Tsatsua, the sister of Judge Manuchar Tsatsua, publicly criticized her brother's decisions and expressed solidarity with the convicted protesters

Entrusted my brother to the Lord

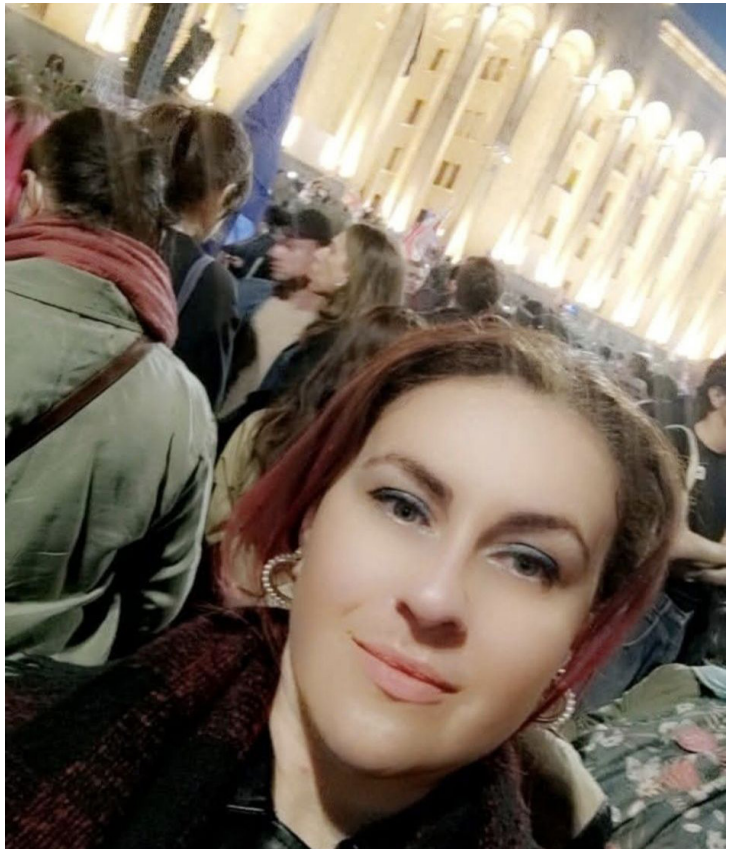
You have to leave the rest to God! I have entrusted my brother to the Lord!

I only wish he would stop causing pain to people. Every time he does, it kills me too. Sometimes I feel like I'll fall asleep and never wake up from all this sorrow.

To everyone he has hurt, I remember you, and I will spend the rest of my life serving you. I am not responsible for his actions, but a sister must stand by her brother when he is in trouble. That's how our parents raised us.

You must never wound the heart of an innocent person, a creation in God's image — much less interfere with someone's destiny.

I love you all deeply, and I am suffering greatly from all this.



29 Oct / 2025

Please, don't hug me

Teacher and civic activist Nino Datashvili has been released from the Rustavi Women's Penitentiary. She walked slowly through the prison yard.

"I just want to sit... Please, don't hug me, everyone, everything hurts..." she said to friends and supporters gathered outside the penitentiary in Rustavi.

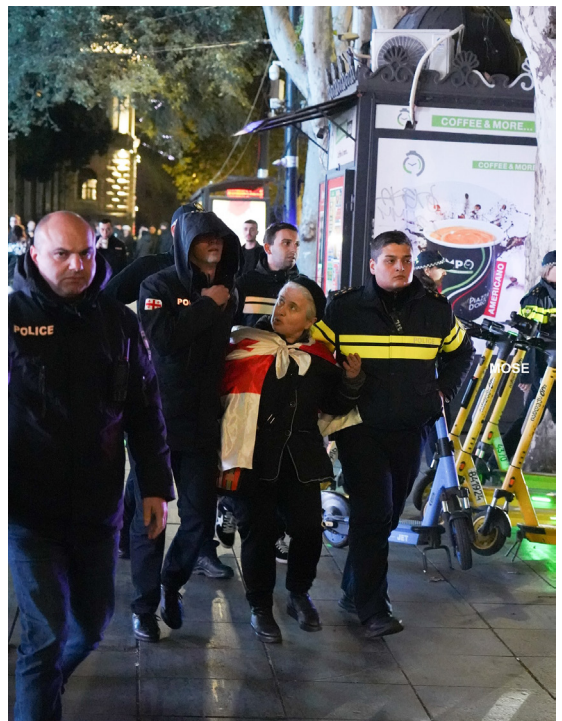
Datashvili was allowed to leave prison after the prosecutor requested that her detention be replaced with bail. Judge Tamar Mchedlishvili set the bail at 5,000 GEL, which her supporters raised within minutes.

*Note published by RFE / RL
photo:
Mariam Nikuradze / OC Media*



2 Nov / 2025

Detained Pensioners



For protest on the road police have arrested two pensioners - Aza Chilachava and Maia Sulaberidze near Liberty Square metro station. Among the items sealed by law enforcement officers was 2.5 Lari in cash belonging to one of the detainees photos: Mose

3 Nov / 2025

Arrested a second time

I remember well when she wrote: I feel like a coward. I left the country out of fear of being arrested, and now I'm watching from abroad what's happening back home and what state people are in.

A little while later, she returned to Georgia.

Today, she joined the protest straight from Aza's court hearing, took part in blocking the road, fully aware that she would be arrested. Yet she didn't hesitate for even a moment.



Aza Grandma, I'm here in your place - text on the paper. Shortly after, Anouka Gamsakhurdia was arrested a second time, what by the new law is falling under the criminal code.

text and photo: Levan Zazadze

3 Nov / 2025

71 years old Aza Chilachava gives interview after being released from the court aired live on TV Pirveli

I'll be the first

— What I want to tell the authorities is this: I do not obey their law. I do not want Russia. They occupied us, committed genocide against us. I do not agree to Russia being here with us, rampaging in our country. No, my dear, I am fighting. I will come out again tomorrow. I will stand there tomorrow, even though they begged me not to - Aza Chilachava

— You are probably aware that in the case of a repeated offense, a criminal case will be initiated against you

— I know, they told me. I will not be afraid. I will still do what I believe is right - Aza Chilachava

— Mrs. Aza, you are being tried by a displaced judge from Gali. You probably know this. What would you like to say to him? - Journalist

— I don't know what to tell him... They shouldn't be fighting grandmothers. They should be fighting for the truth. They've adopted an illegal law and keep calling it a law... They twist that law to suit themselves. - Aza Chilachava

— Could you once again explain the purpose of your protest to the public, and to the authorities who decided to detain you, a 71-year-old woman? - Journalist

— I do not obey. I will not obey. I know that if I go out tomorrow, I will be tried under criminal law. I will. I'll go and serve time. If I go to prison, someone else will appear. Today a young girl was sitting there — she fought hard, Anastasia Japaridze, I think. We were sitting together and we pushed back against them a lot, resisted them a lot. They brought many more people in. We shouted "Fight to the end" from inside. We fight to the end, my dear, I don't know any other way. - Aza Chilachava

— Will you go out again tomorrow, even though you know you are facing up to one year in prison? - Journalist

— I will. I'll block the road again, my dear — I'll be the first to step out. - Aza Chilachava

A Sister saw her sister and stepped

David Chkheidze note on the group detention of the family

A sister saw her sister — and she stepped forward.

A son saw his mother and aunt — and he stepped forward.

A brother saw his brother — and he followed.

Have you ever read such stories in fairy tales?

These are the kind of citizens, the kind of people we live among. This country is undefeatable.

It will never be defeated.

The court sentenced Manana Javashvili to one day of detention. Her two sons, Lado and Giga Tsibakhashvili, were each sentenced to eight days. Eka Javashvili was fined 5,000 GEL.

Today, November 3, chemistry teacher and co-founder of Tbilisi Free Waldorf School Manana Javashvili was arrested on the pretext of blocking a road. In the same case, her sister, also a teacher, Eka Javashvili, has been summoned to court. Manana Javashvili's son, Giga Tsibakhashvili, has also been detained, and her other son, Lado Tsibakhashvili, has been summoned to court.



4 Nov / 2025

Must Not Retreat Now

You know what? Georgian nation is fundamentally a fighting people. Historically, there were times we were defeated, but we never surrendered. How could we possibly surrender now, before Ivanishvili's unlawful government? When a shadow ruler stands at the head of power, it insults our dignity.

Protest is building inside us, and the numbers we see here are only a fraction. The real reservoir of dissent is many times larger, a hundredfold. They are trying to pull us away from our European course and effectively return us to the Soviet orbit. No Georgian, whether middle class, elite, or intellectual will accept that.

An uprising is already fermenting among the people, and they are well aware that this is not the mass they can rely on. That is why there must be no retreat. I have never been afraid of any regime, not even of Shevardnadze's, which strangled us, yet we moved forward; progress came afterwards. Progress will come now too, and very soon. There is no ground for despair among Georgians. So people must come, fight, and not expect to be spared risk or to stand chained and alive. Come and stand, even for one hour physically. It is not a great sacrifice for them, but it is a duty each individual must have.

Leila Tsomaia, who was released after signing a pledge not to repeat the act, has once again blocked the road aired on Formula TV photo: Mariam Nikuradze / OC Media

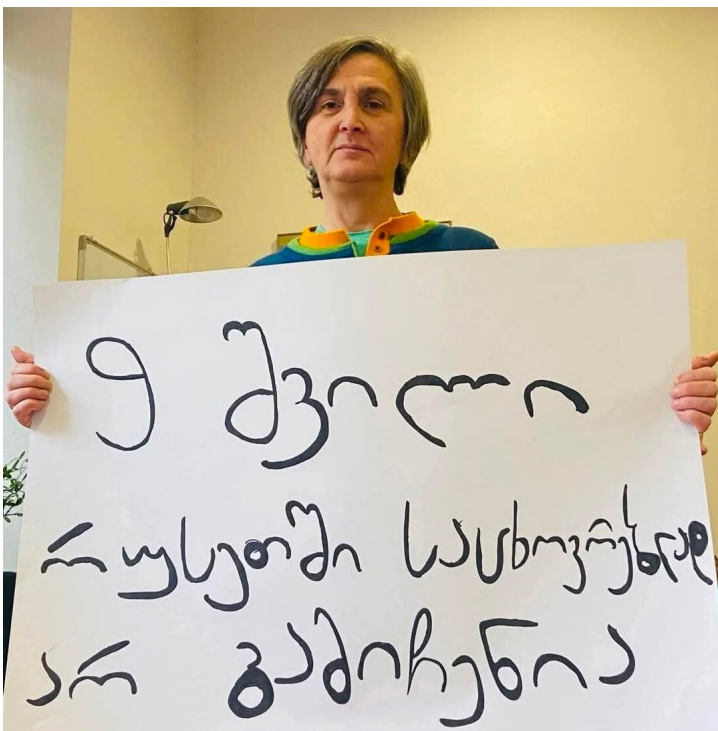


5 Nov / 2025

Stand Firm

Rusiko Kobakhidze speaks about her actions, just moments before her detention. aired on TV Pirveli

I wasn't arrested yesterday, so I don't expect to face any criminal charges today... but even that isn't the main concern compared to the danger our country is in. If we don't stand firm and stop this repressive law, we will all end up living under a terrible dictatorship



I did not raise nine children to make them to live in Russia photo: Rusiko Kobakhidze

Around nine in the evening, despite fear of injustice, oppression, and imprisonment, about twenty people block Rustaveli Avenue for half an hour. The rest of us stand on the sidewalk, watching and cheering for these fearless people. The police always rush in as if we were internationally wanted criminals walking down Rustaveli. With stern, furious faces, they either stand in formation or speed by in minivans, shouting, "Clear the area!"

6 Nov /2025

Treated as criminal

During that short time — as you'll see in my video — provocateurs always appear. That driver truly belongs to the past... if he could, he'd have gladly run people over. But what did the person standing in his way do wrong? That person was born free and deserves to live in a country that values that freedom.

published by Elene Toidze



text and artwork: Maka Zedelashvili

I was reading Greek myths. Stories of women, of tortured queens and I was painting them... Then I came across Aza's picture, read her story, and realized that these heroic women are right beside us. Later I saw a photo of Eto and Aza together. Their endurance, dedication, patience. How they stood by each other with such care. Before I dedicated this small sketch, I heard the desperate voice of Mate Devadze's sister in my head. I don't know if I would have had the courage to do the same.

And there are so many more women one could name women who live among us, coexist with us, and light our path, or tear the thorns from it. We don't sing their praises or write ballads about them, but they truly make us reflect on our own being. On our values and inner truth. They make us hear the voice of our own conscience.

13 Nov /2025

published by Batumelebi

Suspended Parliamentary accreditation

The parliamentary accreditation of Tiko Eradze, a journalist of Droeba, has been suspended for one month. The reason given was footage she filmed during a public plenary session, showing the mobile phone screen of Georgian Dream MP Eka Chichinadze, who was listening to the broadcast of Vika Bukia.

In the letter Eradze received from the Head of the Parliamentary Administration, it is stated that on November 12, 2025, while in the parliamentary chamber and standing in the area designated for the media, she filmed Eka Chichinadze's mobile phone screen "without permission" and uploaded the footage to social media.

17 Nov / 2025

My Dear Country



At Ilia Chavchavadze's House-Museum, citizens performed "Chemo Kargo Kvekhana" (My Dear Country). Violin – Gvantsa Chkheidze posted by Netgazeti

19 Nov / 2025

Tatia Mekvabishvili comments on the detention of Professor Ketevan Khuskivadze during the protest. aired on TV Pirveli

Keti is an example for these students

It's unimaginable... because Keti is an example for these students of what a lecturer should be, how one should stand on the right side. Keti always stands by these students. That's why it's unimaginable for me. That's why I was asking for an explanation, why was the most respected person for these students, Keti Khuskivadze, detained?

Because in this very place where Mate was detained, where countless students have been sentenced, they have now come after the lecturers, precisely because they can see where this healthy and educated youth is coming from.

Detainees during the moving march

Ketevan Khuskivadze /
Davit Giunashvili /
Luka Khizadze /
Khalibeg Magamedov /
Rezi Dumbadze / Giorgi
Zhamerashvili / Elene
Berikashvili /
Vaso Beridze / Gia
Jvarsheishvili / Nino
Bardzimashvili / N.D.
Mariam Svanishvili /
Nino Gudashvili

After the introduction of a new regulation prohibiting road blockades, the protest became more dynamic, moving from one street to another. Despite this, police began appearing without warning and detaining protesters even on sidewalks. Below is a list of detainees from a single day.

22 Nov / 2025

No voice for the emigrants

Don't turn me out! I'm Georgian too!

In Rome, on the occasion of the jubilee year, the women's team from Gori, led by Teona Tsiramua, held a concert inside the Pantheon, where Georgian emigrants were also invited.

Eka Kacharava, an activist living in Rome, condemned the denial of voting rights to emigrants through the protest of a single individual.



Emigrant Eka Kacharava protests changes to the voting system that limit voting abroad, effectively forcing emigrants to return to Georgia to take part in the next elections.

Posted by Winds Movement

24 Nov / 2025

After four days of isolator, Elene Berikashvili returned to Rustaveli ave. and continued to read Police Oath to the officers. She was repeating this action everyday

note by Mose

photo: Levan Zazadze

Oath for Policemen

Elene Berikashvili reads the police oath to the patrol officers. A reminder: she was arrested a few days ago for the same action and spent four days in the detention isolator.

Neutrality... the principles of legality and proportionality... to prevent any form of discrimination... for example, when you detained me for reading out the oath... to be courageous, uncompromising toward crime, and a disciplined officer. To conscientiously carry out the duties entrusted to me...



27 Nov / 2025

Ana Riaboshenko on how the occupiers were changing and continue to change Georgian identity aired on TV Pirveli

Changing Identity

Sometimes we need to look at the situation from the outside. We are so deeply inside this process that it is very hard for us to grasp, with a cool head, where we are and what is actually happening. In reality, today we are going through a new phase of the formation of Georgian identity and of the Georgian nation.

What the occupier did for centuries, the regime is now doing with the hands of the occupier — citizen against

citizens. In essence, this is the shaping of an obedient society, the kind they need. We remember how we went through the 1990s, yet we did not call everything by its proper name. Even today, without going far, we have many false examples and false labels.

There is a pseudo-narrative. One that “Georgian Dream” is particularly fond of, claiming that the West is taking away our identity. This propaganda appeals to exactly the same imposed Soviet and Russian imperial narrative: that Georgians are lazy, adaptable people who will easily adjust to the system and live comfortably within it. They survive through conformity because what can we do, the system is heavy, the regime doesn’t allow much. But in return, we get certain “privileges.” We supposedly live better than Belarusians, for example.

Through this logic, an entire nation has been turned into a kind of service staff. When the “great master” arrives, we serve and entertain him. This is what our culture and identity have been reduced to.

When the 1990s came and a real rupture happened, a moment when Georgian identity should have fully formed, propaganda and imperial influence were still so strong in our society that fragmentation occurred again. We did not clearly understand who we were and what we were doing. We chronically wait for someone else to do things for us. This narrative that decisions are not made by you but by a master on your behalf, stripped us of a sense of responsibility.

That is how we arrived at the point where someone waits for the state to clean their apartment building hallway, even though it belongs to them and they could easily do it themselves. No one is asking for anything extraordinary, only what is already within your ability. As a citizen, you can take one step.

When we often say, anxiously, that “there are not enough people” and that “it’s pointless” — who are these people? It’s me. It’s you. It’s all of us. This does not come from some heavenly leader who will appear and whom everyone will follow. At the same time, we demand a fair, democratic, multiparty state. Yet we also demand a single leader. There is a contradiction here.

If we want a state where I choose one party and someone else chooses another with different worldviews and programs, but where they still agree and can bring the country to consensus; where conflict exists as a healthy political process rather than endless hostility, then society itself must be involved.

And if we want that, we must abandon this infantilism and realize that in this process, today, we are all equal participants in shaping our identity.

28 Nov / 2025

One year of continues protest



*Day 365 of continues protest
Tbilisi, Rustaveli ave.
photo: Nino Tarkhnishvili*

#365

1 Dec / 2025

posted by Natia Bukia

World War I era chemical agent

And yet someone else dares to raise their voice!

An investigation by the BBC revealed that the Georgian authorities may have used a World War I-era chemical agent — “Camite” (Bromobenzyl cyanide) — against protesters.

- It causes intense burning that cannot be washed away with water.
- It leads to difficulty breathing, coughing, and nausea.
- Its effects are long-lasting, persisting for days and even weeks.

This is the same substance France used against Germany in 1915–1916. It was later withdrawn from circulation due to its severe, prolonged, and potentially dangerous effects.

Camite is a chemical agent with strong neurological activity. It is extremely hazardous to humans and can cause:

- Anxiety, headaches, eye burning, tearing, nose and throat irritation
- Nausea, mental clouding, emotional instability
- In severe cases: breathing difficulties, unconsciousness, muscle spasms
- High doses or prolonged exposure can even be fatal

Camite affects the nervous system and disrupts the body's natural reactions.



We still don't know what was damaged

posted by Lika Chelidze

During the December 2024 dispersals, in addition to being caught up in the mass crackdowns, Keto was deliberately targeted one night by riot police. They sprayed something directly at her and her friend because they were filming people being beaten.

The girls were kept in a separate room all night so that whatever gas-like substance it was wouldn't suffocate others as well. I only learned what had happened the next morning. They barely managed to bring her home. She had also been caught in dispersals earlier, in the spring, but December was completely different. To this day she keeps the flag from that time. I recently took it out of a box, and I felt unwell the entire day.

I'm trying very hard to write this without excess emotion, and if it still sounds emotional, I apologize in advance. I raised my child through hardship. A year has passed, and we still haven't been able to determine the cause of Keto's condition (I know it has to do with what happened, but I don't know what exactly was damaged). Since December 2024, my child has been unwell every single day.

We treated inflammation of the airways and sinuses, but the nosebleeds continued. Blood pressure spikes to 160/110 and suddenly drops to 90/50. Her pulse is constantly above 120. Severe headaches and ringing in the ears lasted for months. When I list these symptoms, know that she experiences them daily.

We received the latest test results yesterday, now they are examining something related to her kidneys (because of the blood pressure). She has undergone tests I had never even heard of before; I didn't know such tests existed. She has been seen by: an endocrinologist, an otolaryngologist, a neurologist. And we have exhausted our wonderful family doctor, Julie Uberi, for an entire year now.

I know many people around me who are in the same condition. I myself went to Rustaveli a few days after a particularly violent dispersal, and I coughed all night because everything there was still saturated with gas or whatever substance it was.

Even if it costs me my life, I will help my child. We will help our country too, but for justice to be restored, I demand punishment for everyone without exception: from those who gave the orders to every single executor.

1 Dec / 2025

About Maiko's case

posted by Anano Samushia

She passed away on April 5. When the investigator and others arrived, of course there were countless questions, and every possible version was discussed, including the fact that her mother had died from an aneurysm, and whether this could have been the same cause. That same night I was summoned to give a statement, supposedly so that the forensic examination would not be delayed. You can imagine the condition I was in when I went to the police station, but I didn't want the examination to be postponed. There, they questioned me in detail about her parents, and I told them that her mother had passed away.

We waited two months for the forensic report. In June, the investigator informed me that the results had arrived, but he could not disclose them yet. He stated that he needed to summon the parents to the station. Once again, I reminded him that he could not summon the parents because the mother was deceased. Eventually, the investigator called Natia and informed her that the forensic report was ready and that she should come to the station together with the parents. Natia explained again that the mother had died, but that she would bring the father. The father went to the station, and do you know the very first thing they asked him?

“Where is your wife?”

Since June, we have been waiting for the prosecutor to close the case. A case that is only five pages long, including the forensic conclusion and to return Maiko's phone, which likely contains countless photos and videos of her.

We don't know what they are waiting for. I go to the police station almost once a week. Sometimes I encounter a considerate officer who genuinely tries to find out something; other times I hear rude responses from an officer slouched in a chair. So far, everything has been in vain.

And today we find out that it may have been cyanide poisoning, that this could be the reason behind everything.

My head is in complete chaos right now, and I am so angry. Only Maiko could calm me down, but now...

One Night, One Eye

posted by Shorena Gabunia

This photo was taken on April 17, 2024. I don't remember exactly whether it was that day or one of the following days, but during one of the protests against the so-called "Russian law," a gas canister exploded right next to my right leg. Of course, this poison was neither the first nor the last I was exposed to, but that night, probably due to excessive exposure to toxic substances, we went through a real nightmare.

My right eye was severely affected, while Levan developed serious breathing problems that lasted for about a month after that day. Afterward, even heavier events followed in my life, and I was crying every day; my eyes were already swollen and damaged. Only months later, when my mother passed away and I cried less, did I realize that my right eye was not recovering. That was when I understood that that night had left me with something permanent.

I am still like this today, one eye is different, and I am taking numerous medications. During last winter's crackdowns, I could no longer go into the epicenter of the protests and mostly stayed around the Opera area, because even exposure from a distance to the chemicals dispersed in the air would almost blind me.

It turns out Ivanishvili "gifted" us cyanide. Am I surprised? Not at all. Every single one of my friends suffered from similar, or even worse, symptoms during those crackdowns. Do I feel like a victim? Not at all. No one among us can be a victim of a pathetic bastard like Ivanishvili, even if we were all to die. Compared to this bitter, miserable nothingness, I will always and everywhere be happier, richer, and freer.



3 Dec / 2025

After the water cannons

posted by Manana Khuchua

This is the condition I discovered when I got home. When they dispersed us with water cannons near Parliament, I was standing on Chitadze Street. They unleashed the water jets, chaos broke out, and I became completely disoriented. People turned toward Rustaveli Metro and started running in that direction. Along with the water, they were also releasing gas, and I realized I had to save myself.

I turned toward Liberty Square Metro instead and separated from the crowd. I hadn't even reached Kashveti Church when I felt a burning sensation on my legs. I decided to push forward and make my way toward Liberty Square Metro. Some guy shouted to me that water cannons were already deployed near Parliament and that the riot police would catch me.

I barely managed to limp my way to Rustaveli Metro. My legs were burning, but I thought it was because my pants were soaked. When I got home and changed my clothes, this is what I saw.



6 Dec / 2025

Lana Gogoberidze comments on the possible use of Camite. aired on TV Pirveli

Against its own people

The first thing that comes to mind is April 9. When I was standing here, some strange creatures came at us with tanks, and then, for some reason, they chased me and my daughter, Nutsa — why, I don't know. One of them had a paddle-like thing... who or what it was, I don't know. They had something covering their faces. That poisonous gas, the shock of it at the time was immense. Yet, in the end, they were forced to reveal what they had used.

And today, faced with this reality... honestly, I can't come to terms with it. It's hard to accept that your own government is fighting against its own people.

8 Dec / 2025

posted by Salome Simonia

Solidarity to Balda

Today, 74-year-old Mzisa Gabeshia spent the entire day sitting outdoors in the center of Martvili. In this way, she expressed solidarity with the mothers and grandmothers of Balda, who have now spent ten consecutive nights under the open sky with one simple demand: the cancellation of a corrupt contract and the return of Balda Canyon to the people.

It is magnificent to witness the perseverance, principled stance, and mutual solidarity of Megrelian women. Truly magnificent and deeply inspiring.



11 Dec / 2025

*Nino Lagidze calls for protest as new regulations further restrict demonstrations on sidewalks.
published by Kate Babunashvili*

Illegal sidewalks

My dear friends, congratulations. In 45 minutes, the year will begin in which we will fully wake up in a dictatorship, because an illegitimate, pro-Russian force that has seized the state trampled the Constitution a year ago and, in an accelerated process, passed a law claiming that we are no longer allowed to stand or protest on sidewalks.

Here I want to remind everyone, especially my friends who come out to large demonstrations, that the path from authoritarianism to dictatorship is not walked only by the oligarch who imposes all this, but is also enabled by a society that does not respond. So it is time to wake up, to become alert, and to stand up. If you don't want tomorrow for the air in your rooms to be shut off, and to be forced to live in the forms and appearances that please Bidzina, then it is time to wake up and come out to Rustaveli to protest.

Because apparently I and my friends are now forbidden even to stand on the sidewalk and speak. So the time has come to join the protest, to mobilize, and to prove to Georgian Dream that we are a united society. A society that is fighting a force that is anti-democratic and that violates every rule and every norm befitting a democratic state.



12 Dec / 2025

Own Christmas tree



*Parallel to the official Christmas tree lighting, protesters illuminated an alternative tree in front of the Parliament building.
video still: Rusudan Jakeli*

Look back on 12 December 2025

Salome Kvaratskhelia note

Years from now, when future generations look back on 12 December 2025, the day Georgia's unconstitutional government banned even standing on the sidewalk, we will have a proud answer:

They did not scare us.
We did not give up.
We could not have acted otherwise.

We are a magnificent people — truly.

16 Dec /2025

*Mzia Amaglobeli speech on the Sakharov Prize Award in EU Parliament.
Read by Irma Dimitridze*

Fight with us and for us

Dear Members of the European Parliament

Receiving the highest human rights award from you is a great honor and a great responsibility. And I accept it on behalf of my colleagues, the journalists who are now fighting in Georgia to save journalism as such. They work tirelessly to make sure that you hear the voice of resistance of Georgia's citizens. That the truth is not silenced.

I accept this award on behalf of all political prisoners who are unjustly imprisoned and convicted for fighting for Georgia's European future.

This award is a proof that our voice, the voice of Georgian citizens is well heard in the European Union. My people have walked a very long and difficult road for that voice to finally reach you, because there was always Russia standing between us. My generation knows well what kind of threat Russia is. And we don't need to turn historical sources for the evidence. We have seen it with our own eyes and remember the years of Soviet occupation. We remember of Georgians brutally beaten with shovels and poisoned with chemicals by Russian troops; we remember the August 2008 war and we live through continued occupation of Georgia. There are still Russian troops on our soil. In the given circumstances under the constant Russian threat, building the democracy wasn't an easy job but we did our best. We witnessed our votes having an impact on elections. Reshaped environment to eradicate corruption in higher education system. Developed high quality journalism and impartial media. Debated the protection of human rights, the obligations of the states and responsibility of the citizens. During these years, a new generation of Georgians learned English and other European languages rather than Russian. We aspired for the world to stop seeing us through the Russian lens. Europe came to know contemporary Georgian writers, artists, and film directors.

We exchanged knowledge, experience, and culture with you, across the Black Sea. We discovered interesting issues, friends and even beloved cities across the Europe. So did you in Georgia. But here no today, in my home country the aspiration toward the European Union is being met with the

repressions. The state has been captured by a regime that serves Russian interests. For more than a year, Georgian citizens have been continuously protesting against the announcement suspending the EU accession process. And you must know that announcement was like an ember, it sparked the fire that has been burning in Georgia ever since. This regime is ruthless: it beats, fines, arrests, and black-mails protesters. It destroys free journalism, abolishes opposition political parties, and imprisons their leaders, effectively dismantles non-governmental organizations, labels those who work in them as foreign agents. And, as we recently learned from a BBC investigation documentary, allegedly it poisons its own citizens using toxic chemical substances. The allegation that requires international investigation and we count on you. Yet this regime has failed to silence protests. Perhaps this is very reason why European Union statements in support Georgian people have been stronger and more precise than ever. And I am deeply grateful for this.

I also wish that these statements turn into an action and that European leaders would use all available mechanisms to exact pressure on autocratic rulers. It is my wish that you stand for Georgian society, its democracy and its European aspirations, the way you stand for the freedom of your own countries. Because in the end it all comes down to this: it must, at least now be unmistakably clear that the force behind the horrors in Belarus, Ukraine, and Georgia is moving closer to the heart of Europe. It is heading toward your homes—and we are merely on its way.

Soon, much of the European world will celebrate Christmas and the New Year. In recent days, I have been thinking about how the leaders of EU and the member states of the US, of the UK and other democratic states would congratulate the rest of the world. What will you tell them about the future? About a new world order and about the peace?

Will you say that the expansion of democratic governance and security is no longer a benefit to humanity? Will you say that we must accept the “illusory peace” and “borders” offered by autocratic and dictatorial forces? Will you say that economic influence takes precedence over the partnerships based on equality, solidarity, and trust? That international law and institutions have lost their power and are incapable of acting, while repressive regimes terrorize citizens fighting for freedom, democracy, justice, and dignity, terrorizes by imprisoning them or forcing them into exile? We remain in Georgia, on the streets of our cities where even holding a

peaceful protest is now banned. We stay in prisons where we have been unlawfully confined.

If freedom loving countries and nations like Georgia and brave, warrior, independent states like Ukraine are left alone in the face of Russia's hybrid warfare or military oppressions, it will be an irreparable historical mistake, for which you and us will have to pay a heavy price.

The fate of our struggle doesn't depend on us alone. Because our struggle is not only about us. We need your solidarity and support. The solidarity of the people of Europe and free individuals across the world.

Fight with us, fight for us! Fight as you would fight for a freedom of your own countries. Use every mechanism at your disposal and do so before its too late. I believe this is possible. I believe in free, democratic and strong Europe.

Thank you.

Mzia

Visual contribution
in order of appearance

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see web installation



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