

Evidence of Torture, Ill-Treatment, illegal persecution and Excessive Force Against Peaceful Protesters in Georgia, Part II (5-9 December, 2024)

As of today, mass protests that began on November 28 continue in Tbilisi and other cities of Georgia. These protests were triggered by the ruling political party, "Georgian Dream," halting Georgia's EU integration process following fraudulent parliamentary elections.

The report on evidence of torture, ill-treatment, illegal persecution and excessive force against peaceful protesters covering the period from November 28 to December 5 can be found [here](#):

As for the period of **December 5-9**, the following systemic and severe human rights violations were recorded:

1. Violent Dispersal of Peaceful Protests

The practice of unlawfully dispersing peaceful protests using excessive force continues. On December 6-7, the police special forces surrounded a peaceful protest on Rustaveli Avenue and dispersed it with extreme brutality. Peaceful citizens who were [encircled were detained using violent methods](#). The police pursued citizens leaving the protest through the streets of Tbilisi until morning.

2. Beatings and Ill-Treatment of Detainees and journalists

As of today, approximately Around 450 persons were arrested, of whom 30 on criminal charges. More than 300 persons have fallen victim to [torture, beatings, and inhumane treatment](#). More than 80 demonstrators needed hospital treatment.

Around 80 [journalists fell victim](#) to violent attacks by police officers or "Titushkis".

The majority of those unlawfully detained during the reporting period (5-9 December) are subjected to beatings and [ill-treatment during and after their arrest](#). Many detainees bear visible signs of physical injuries and beatings.

The torture and ill-treatment of detainees continue [in detention facilities and interrogation rooms](#) as well.

3. Violence by Informal Groups (So-Called "Titushki") Against Citizens and Journalists in Tbilisi

Since December, masked and [armed](#) informal [groups](#), known as "Titushki," have appeared on the streets of Tbilisi. These groups attack citizens and journalists, [inflicting serious physical injuries](#).

Notably, all these [attacks occurred](#) in the [presence of patrol police](#), who neither attempted to prevent the violence nor detain the [perpetrators](#). This clearly indicates collusion [between the police and the "Titushki"](#).

The "Titushki" also stormed the office of the „Akhali“ political party, [physically assaulting](#) the citizens and party representatives present.

4. Repression of Civil Activists and Party Representatives

Unlawful detentions of citizens participating in political protests and members of opposition parties continue, [escalating into repression](#). There have been instances of searches and seizures, illegal [home invasions](#) and arrests without legal grounds or warrants.

Judges do not allow detainees to present information in the courtroom regarding the torture and inhuman treatment they have experienced, claiming that this is not within their responsibility. No judge has submitted a report to the Special Investigation Service regarding cases of beating, ill-treatment, or torture of the detainees. There were two cases heard by Judge Lela Tsagareishvili in which detainees, who had been severely beaten, stated that they were feeling unwell. However, the court did not call for emergency medical assistance (112). 112 was only contacted after the detainees lost consciousness.

Judges predominantly rendered decisions declaring peaceful protest participants guilty of administrative or criminal offenses without any plausible evidence. In many cases, lawyers were not allowed to obtain and adduce their evidence. There was one case involving Judge Tsekvava, where a detainee, who did not have a lawyer, was not given the opportunity to exercise their right to defense.

5. Impunity for Perpetrators Among Police and Violent Group Members

To date, no law enforcement officers or members of violent informal groups - some of whom have been identified - have been held criminally accountable for the torture, ill-treatment, and brutal physical assaults on journalists and peaceful citizens.

6. Accountability for Severe Human Rights Violations

Since November 28, 2024 responsibility for the severe human rights violations lies with the following individuals and institutions:

- Leaders of the ruling party „Georgian Dream“ for creating and endorsing policies that violate fundamental freedoms, and undermine democratic processes:
 - Honorary chair of the GD political party - Bidzina IvaniSvili
 - Prime Minister of the GD political party - Irakli Kobakhidze
- Law enforcement agencies and state security forces for engaging in the unlawful use of force, torture, and ill-treatment of protesters and detainees:
 - Minister of Internal Affairs, Vakhtang Gomelauri
 - First Deputy Minister of MIA- Shalva Bedoidze
 - Deputy Minister of MIA - Ioseb Chelidze
 - Deputy Minister of MIA - Aleksandre Darakhvelidze
 - Deputy Minister of MIA - Giorgi Butkhuzi
 - Director of the Special Tasks Department of the MIA - Zviad Kharazishvili
 - Deputy Director - Mileri Lagazauri
 - Deputy Director - Mirza Kezevadze
 - Director of the Central Criminal Police Department of MIA - Teimuraz Kupatadze
 - Head of the Patrol Police department of MIA - Vazha Siradze
 - Head of the State Security Service – Grigol Liluashvili
 - First deputy head of the state security service – Aleksi Batiashvili
 - Deputy head of the state security service – Levan Akhobadze

- Judicial System for failing to ensure justice and effective investigation torture, for assisting and tolerating informal violent groups:
 - Prosecutor General of Georgia - Giorgi Gabitashvili
 - Head of the Special Investigation Service – Karlo (Koka) Katsitadze
 - Judge at the Tbilisi City Court - Koba Chagunava
 - Judge at the Tbilisi City Court - Lela Tsagareishvili
 - Judge at the Tbilisi City Court - Nino Enukidze
 - Judge at the Tbilisi City Court - Manuchar Tsatsua
 - Judge at the Tbilisi City Court - Zviad Tsekvava
 - Judge at the Tbilisi City Court - Lela Mildemberger

These individuals and entities must face international and domestic scrutiny to ensure accountability and justice for the victims of these abuses.

A coalition of 22 Georgian [civil society organizations addressed](#) multiple international mechanisms to highlight the deteriorating human rights situation in the country. They submitted a communication to the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), and several UN Special Rapporteurs, including those focused on torture, freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of opinion, and the protection of human rights defenders.

This document was prepared by “Georgia's European Orbit” based on publicly available sources, including media footage, victim testimonies, statements from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and reports from the Public Defender's Office. The information provided is intended for informational purposes and reflects the findings of the human rights lawyers based on these sources.