

Message to the international media

*Updated on December 8, 2024

Protesters in Georgia are calling for Western support, including sanctions on the Georgian Dream party, in their fight for fair elections and renewed progress toward EU accession. The role of international media is critical, not only for general reporting but also for in-depth coverage of the violence against journalists and the brutal suppression of protesters.

The ongoing protests are unprecedented in scale, spanning up to [40 Georgian cities](#) (76% of those under Georgian jurisdiction) and [over 40 cities worldwide](#) (1, 2). Tens of thousands of people from diverse sectors participate daily.

Key Points of Concern

1. Journalists Under Attack:

- At least 50 journalists have been injured, some with life-threatening injuries.
- Video evidence shows police officers targeting critical media with direct, deliberate attacks.

Source:

https://cpi.org/2024/12/cpi-condemns-police-brutality-against-journalists-covering-georgian-protests/?fbclid=IwY2xjawG_x01leHRuA2FlbQlXMQABHRmM4W9VWNDWm9cInYjL82tRAbs1l3FqE_PCs2-W3dd_vA9MGAYEprmJ9w_aem_SFSODLKiru0xwnyRTPbSug

2. Targeting of Activists and Leaders:

- Homes and offices of activists, influencers, opposition leaders, and artists have been raided.
- Opposition leaders, artists and activists have been detained. Some detainees report being beaten in police stations and transferred to medical facilities due to injuries.

Source: <https://oc-media.org/georgian-police-begin-raids-on-opposition-parties-and-protest-organisers/>

3. Documented Abuse of Detainees:

More than 400 protesters have been detained. More than 300 people were victims of torture and inhumane treatment. At least 160 have been hospitalized, 121 of whom were protest participants and others from police forces.

Protesters are physically attacked outside the proximity of the protest area, including in entrances, buildings, subway stations and from protester cars.

According to the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association, part of a network of 11 organizations aiding detained protesters:

“Detainees report severe bruises, facial injuries such as nose and jaw fractures, concussions, multiple lacerations, and hematomas. Many have difficulty moving or speaking. Violence from law enforcement officers occurred both during and after arrest.

In police minibuses, detainees were beaten continuously by at least six special forces officers. The officers rotated, with instructions from superiors to target specific areas such as the liver and head, sometimes aiming to break arms or legs.

In one instance, the minibus was covered in blood from prolonged beatings, which were supervised by a senior officer ensuring no fatalities occurred. Detainees were then subjected to further violence, such as being kicked in the face and back, before being transferred to police cars.

Special forces confiscated detainees’ mobile phones, often demanding they unlock them. Many detainees were brought barefoot to medical facilities after their shoes were removed.”

Not a single police officer has been charged.

Sources:

https://gyla.ge/en/post/dakavebulebi-sastikad-nacemia?fbclid=IwY2xjawG_vqxleHRuA2FlbOlXMAABHXuDTi1EALXRcBhyKI_gMOJQh7DmR8VmCbaMfZhseubXmtO83RnNd2-sog_aem_uiCKWUEzZBb2-Q8pS9VfYA

<https://www.interpressnews.ge/en/article/135810-transparency-international-from-november-28-until-now-about-400-people-were-arrested-at-the-rallies-more-than-350-of-them-were-administratively-arrested-26-more-than-300-people-were-victims-of-torture-and-inhumane-treatment/>

<https://www.moh.gov.ge/news.php?lang=1>

For further details on the outcomes of the protests in English language, refer to

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=919391940286473&set=a.455721596653512>