

## **Evidence of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment and persecution against protest participants in Georgia Part III (9-18 December)**

This document was prepared by **Georgia's European Orbit** and the **Human Rights Center of the University of Georgia** using publicly available sources, including media reports, victim testimonies, and statements from NGOs and state agencies. It is intended for informational purposes and presents the findings of human rights lawyers based on these sources.

### **1. The protests that began on November 28 continue in Tbilisi and various other cities across Georgia.**

- Every day, more than ten marches are held with the participation of public servants, students, artists, lawyers, winemakers, doctors, and others.
- Hundreds of businesses have declared a boycott against state events. More than 950 business organizations have publicly joined the [protest statement](#).
- Several demonstrations took place at the Embassy of Hungary in Georgia. Protesters handed embassy representatives information and photos of tortured individuals and appealed for support in imposing international sanctions.

### **2. Arbitrary Detentions**

- The practice of unlawful detention under administrative procedures continues. Citizens disappear from the [streets](#) and even from their [own vehicles](#). For hours, no information is available about their whereabouts or the reasons for their disappearance. It is noteworthy that police officers do not wear identifying uniforms during these arrests.
- Citizens are forcibly detained even when they have [expressed willingness](#) to appear before the court.
- According to [information](#) from 11 Georgian non-governmental organizations that defend detainees' rights, trials have been held for 114 individuals detained under administrative procedures. Of these, 42 were sentenced to imprisonment, 63 were fined, and 9 were issued a warning.

### **3. III Treatment**

- The majority of individuals detained under administrative procedures report incidents of beating, abuse, and pressure by the police following their arrest.
- According to non-governmental organizations, their joint hotline received

[information](#) about the detention of over 450 persons under administrative procedures. The majority of them – around 300 citizens – were victims of torture and other forms of ill-treatment.

- According to the [Public Defender](#) of Georgia, out of 327 detainees whom representatives from the Defender's Office met with, 225 stated that they had been subjected to ill treatment; among them, 157 exhibited visible physical injuries.
- Particularly alarming is the fact that detained women report experiencing [sexual harassment](#) and threats of a sexual nature by the police after their detention.
- Please, find the Information on publicly available documented **cases of torture and inhuman treatment up to December 17** to the following link: <https://shorturl.at/JPk8S>
- As of yet, **0 police** officers have been held accountable for incidents of improper treatment.

#### **4. Judges Render Decisions on the Basis of False Police Testimony**

- In cases involving detainees, [judges fail](#) to consider evidence presented by the defense and instead rely solely on police officers' testimony, which, in most instances, is false.
- Judges show no interest in the locations or conditions under which citizens suffered physical abuse. Moreover, when victims recount instances of torture, judges silence them, stating that such matters do not concern the court.
- Civil society organizations have identified specific police officers who testify [as false witnesses](#) against detainees.

#### **5. Dozens of Individuals Have Been Taken Into Custody on Criminal Charges**

- Criminal proceedings are underway against more than 30 individuals. For information on the criminal cases, please see here: <https://shorturl.at/Nvt8E>
- Among those detained are university professors, students, actors, medical professionals, members of political parties, and other participants in the protests.
- There was an alleged instance of narcotics being planted on a protest participant. Specifically, a citizen returning from the demonstration was charged with illegal [possession of narcotics](#) after being searched and arrested without warrant or the presence of recording devices.

#### **6. Violent Groups, Known as "Titushki," Attack Citizens in Public**

- Masked perpetrators assaulting peaceful citizens near their [homes](#), in the [subway](#), and in other public areas.
- On December 17, opposition politician Giorgi Vashadze [was attacked](#) during live broadcast at the protest. Although the attacker was identified by the media, the police did not apprehend him.
- To date, not a single assailant has been identified or held accountable.

## **7. Continued Threats and Pressure on Public Officials for Political Reasons**

- The government has realized its threats against thousands of public servants who issued critical statements regarding the suspension of Euro-integration. Repressive [legislative amendments](#) have been [adopted](#), enabling the authorities to dismiss mid-level public officials at any time on political grounds, and to appoint individuals to public service positions without competitive selection, diplomas, or relevant qualifications.
- Hundreds of employees of the Labor Inspectorate issued a public [statement](#) alleging that their supervisor, Beka Peradze, threatened them with dismissal for participating in protests and publicly expressing critical opinions.

## **8. Legislative Amendments Restricting Freedom of Assembly and Expression**

- Within three days, the ruling party "Georgian Dream" adopted undemocratic legislative amendments aimed [at limiting the freedom of assembly](#). Under these changes, a police officer may detain an individual without grounds—allegedly for “prevention”—even if that individual has not committed any offense. Furthermore, the amendments introduce vague blanket prohibitions, and fines for certain violations of the rules governing public assemblies have been increased by 20-30 times.

## **9. Attacks on Journalists**

- During the protests, dozens of journalists were physically assaulted by police officers and masked individuals. Approximately 80 journalists were injured.
- No police officer or perpetrator involved in these attacks on journalists has been identified or held accountable.
- For **updated information on the injured journalists**, please visit the following link: <https://shorturl.at/f6AZo>