

Appeal from Members of the Georgian Diaspora in Denmark and South Sweden Regarding the Worsening Situation in Georgia

Your Excellency,

We, members of the Georgian diaspora residing in Denmark and South Sweden, extend our deepest and most sincere gratitude for the unwavering and principled support that your government and citizens have consistently demonstrated toward the people of Georgia. Your solidarity during this critical juncture is both profoundly meaningful and of immeasurable value.

Georgia is currently undergoing a deeply troubling transformation marked by the rapid consolidation of authoritarian rule. An illegitimate government is systematically dismantling the foundations of democracy through repressive legislation, while simultaneously engaging in the brutal persecution of civil activists, the blatant violation of fundamental human rights, and a deliberate attempt to derail the country's Euro-Atlantic integration.

Sustained public protest, along with targeted sanctions imposed by Western partners, has already begun to produce visible effects. This is evident in the shifting tone and behavior of politicians from the ruling party, Georgian Dream. In light of these developments, we respectfully urge you to intensify your sanctions policy, and at this stage, to pay particular attention to the imposition of visa, financial, or other restrictive measures against so-called "false witnesses" and violent police officers.

The term "false witnesses" has been widely adopted by the Georgian public and independent media to describe police officers who, in the absence of credible evidence, or even in blunt contradiction to existing evidence, testify against civil activists, falsely accusing them of various offenses. Based on such fabricated testimonies, courts routinely impose administrative detention or impose heavy fines, while the penitentiary system engages in degrading treatment, and, in some instances, subjects detainees to torture. To date, hundreds of peaceful activists have either been imprisoned or subjected to incommensurate financial penalties as a direct consequence of these false and politically motivated testimonies.

Additionally, we ask you to consider extending sanctions to those police officers who have exhibited extraordinary cruelty during the arrest and detention of protesters. We believe that sanctioning the executors of the repressive apparatus, namely, the "false witnesses" and violent law enforcement officers, would be an effective step toward dismantling the authoritarian grip of the Georgian Dream government.

Not long ago, the United States House of Representatives passed the Georgia Support Act (MEGOBARI-act), by an overwhelming majority. This strongly signals the prospect of an escalation in U.S. sanctions targeting the ruling elite of Georgia. Against this backdrop, we believe it is crucial for European partners to reinforce pressure by implementing coordinated and targeted sanctions to apply both - political and institutional - pressure against the forces driving authoritarianism.

Together with this letter, we are submitting datasets (Database of Political Prosecutors) containing information on individuals, including violent police officers, false witnesses, prosecutors, judges, and other state agents, whom we and our partners consider to be directly complicit in enabling political repression and systemic violence. The dataset has been provided by the civil society organization *Liberty Institute* and the political group *Federalists*, with Ms. Salome Khvadagiani serving as the primary contact (Salome Khvadagiani, Director of Liberty Institute, hotline manager of the Liberty Institute and the Federalists. E-mail: salome.khvadagiani@liberty.ge; mob: +995591135533). In addition to this main document, we are providing you with three additional documents for greater clarity: Case of Anton Cechin; Combined suit 11 defendants; Punitive Fines for Road Blockades -Violation of Freedom of Assembly and Expression in Georgia.

At the same time, we, the Georgians residing in Denmark and South Sweden, stand ready to support and collaborate with you in any way possible to advance this cause.

With highest respect and sincere appreciation,

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- 2) Nana Quparadze
- 3) Nikoloz Tsakadze
- 4) Elene Tsakadze
- 5) Gia Abuladze
- 6) Nino Javakhishvili-Larsen
- 7) Tamar Sadunashvili
- 8) Ketevan Tutberidze
- 9) Nika Gvazava
- 10) Lia Papashvili
- 11) Revaz Burdzgla
- 12) Teona Damgaard
- 13) Mikheil Korkashvili
- 14) Tamara Tchikovani
- 15) Sopio Gverdsiteli
- 16) David Devdariani
- 17) Tamari Askurava
- 18) Nino Samkharadze