



We Demand Investigation of Dispersal, Torture and Brutal Detention of Protest Participants

Union of Human Rights Defenders – Human Rights Center calls on the Special Investigation Service to promptly and effectively investigate the facts of dispersal of peaceful protesters by using disproportionate power on the Rustaveli Avenue on November 29-30, facts of assault on, torture and brutal detention of peaceful protest participants.

Union of HRDs – Human Rights Center actively monitors assemblies and manifestations and provides society with the information about the developments during the protest demonstrations and evaluates how the actions of the state institutions are coherent with the international human rights standards.

In the early mornings on November 29 and 30, representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs brutally dispersed people gathered in the Rustaveli Avenue and used disproportionate power against them. The violence against media representatives and interference in their journalistic activities were particularly alarming. In accordance with the unofficial data, on November 29 and 30, at least 30 journalists became victims of physical violence. Besides that, their equipment was purposefully damaged.

The monitoring revealed that law enforcement officers purposefully chased and physically abused participants of the demonstrations. In some cases, instead implementing the detention procedures in accordance with the law, police officers acted in revenge against the protesters by using physical violence.

Besides that, the media reports show many episodes of groundless use of special means against protesters and journalists, allegedly groundless detentions and purposeful violence during the dispersal of peaceful assemblies, which is proved by the fact that besides main location of the protest demonstration, the protesters were chased and attacked far away from the protest sites.

Offensive actions of the special riot police unit are allegedly encouraged by their impunity guarantees.

Although the law enforcement officers committed alleged criminal offences during the protest demonstrations in April and May 2024, the Special Investigation Service has not yet identified the perpetrator police officers and has not yet interrogated the officials responsible for the facilitation of assemblies. It may have chilling effect on the realization of the right to peaceful assembly and manifestation and encourage new violence facts in future.

Union of HRDs – Human Rights Center