



**PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF HATE SPEECH, HOSTILE RHETORIC, AND  
DISINFORMATION BY GEORGIAN OFFICIALS**

## HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER



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## I. Introduction

Hate speech, hostile rhetoric and disinformation by officials is a precursor to mass violence. Historical examples show how dehumanizing language can pave the way for war crimes and genocide. Since hate speech is not just rhetoric, but a weapon that enables violence - holding perpetrators accountable is crucial to prevent escalation and future atrocities.

In Georgia, the rhetoric employed by officials of the ruling Georgian Dream party against protesters, journalists, and civil society organizations illustrates how hostile speech and disinformation are weaponized to delegitimize dissent and justify repression. Documenting this official rhetoric is essential, not only to expose systematic stigmatization and false narratives that fuel violence, but also to establish accountability mechanisms that can deter future abuses. This aligns with broader international initiatives, such as those advanced by FIDH, which emphasize that hate speech should be treated as a crime against humanity when it directly enables violence and persecution. By situating Georgia's case within this global framework, the analysis underscores the urgent need to confront hate speech as a tool of political control and a threat to democratic development.



## II. Political Background

On November 28, 2024, a statement made by Prime Minister of Georgia regarding the postponement of opening negotiations with the European Union until 2028 was followed by mass protest rallies. Since November 28, 2024, within the framework of the protest demonstrations in Georgia, numerous participants have become victims of various forms of rights violations. These violations primarily included physical violence, torture, and inhuman treatment carried out against demonstrators and media representatives by different subdivisions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and informal violent groups in the context of the protests. **Regarding these violations, Georgian Dream not only failed to provide an appropriate response but often ignored them, and in some cases directly or indirectly encouraged the violence.** Since then the unjust fining/detention of activists, politically motivated arrests of individuals, unlawful dismissals of employees in the public sector, and persecution directed against civil society organizations and human rights defenders became common.

The discrediting campaign carried out by the party Georgian Dream against participants of the protests has primarily manifested in stigmatization, the use of various insulting epithets, the dissemination of disinformation, and the blatant violation of the presumption of innocence of individuals detained on political grounds. Georgian Dream employed the same tactic against

civil society organizations and labelled human rights defenders as “enemies of the country,” “traitors,” and “agents,” and persecuted them through the enforcement of repressive laws.



### III. Official Statements as Hate Speech and Disinformation

#### - Targeting Civil Society

Georgian Dream has pursued a campaign to discredit civil society organizations, characterized mainly by stigmatization, the use of derogatory language, and the spread of false information. Members of the Georgian Dream refer to non-governmental organizations as “allies of the radical opposition” and “agents.” According to their statements, these organizations allegedly use funds to “overthrow legitimately elected governments,” to “carry out revolutionary attempts,” “organize violent demonstrations,” “incite hatred and civil discord,” and “encourage violence,” claiming they are “acting on the orders of a specific country.”<sup>1</sup> The Georgian Dream has been conducting a discrediting campaign against civil society organizations, which primarily involves their stigmatization, the use of insulting rhetoric and dissemination of disinformation.

Starting on May 7, 2024, a coordinated effort was launched involving phone calls that conveyed threats, insults, and other degrading or humiliating remarks to protest participants and their family members, including minors.<sup>2</sup> Dimitri Samkharadze, a Member of the Parliament of Georgia and a member of the ruling Georgian Dream party, was directly involved in this campaign.<sup>3</sup> Similar to the case of the telephone threats, other forms of persecution targeting civil society organizations<sup>4</sup> and media representatives were not investigated<sup>5</sup>. These included the placement of offensive posters, inscriptions, and so-called stencils on the facades of homes and offices as well as on vehicles<sup>6</sup>. Moreover, in some instances, members of the ruling Georgian Dream party themselves were directly involved in organizing these campaigns. On May 31, 2024, Dimitri Samkharadze<sup>7</sup>, a member of Georgian Dream, posted on the social network Facebook videos depicting the damage to the offices of civil society organizations and

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<sup>1</sup> Imedinews.ge, “Statement by Shalva Papuashvili, 03.02.2025, see [link](#); 24.02.2025, see [link](#); 14.04.2025, see [link](#); see [link](#); Statement by Kakha Kaladze, 08.04.2025, see [link](#); 01.10.2025, see [link](#); Statement by Irakli Zarkua, 20.06.2025, see [link](#)

<sup>2</sup> Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, “Opponents of the ‘Agents Law’ Are Still Being Called, But Now from Georgian Numbers,” 08.05.2024. Accessed at [link](#); Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, “Calls to 11-Year-Old Lile, 16-Year-Old Keso, 13-Year-Old Girl, 10-Year-Old Boy – Why Are Children Being Called?” 10.05.2024. [See link](#)

<sup>3</sup> Formula, “Dream Party Deputy Samkharadze Calls, Insults, and Threatens Young People,” 10.05.2024. [See link](#)

<sup>4</sup> International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Statement, “Georgia : Serious deterioration of the situation of human rights defenders”, 26.06.2024; see [link](#)

<sup>5</sup> Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia (2025), Public Defender’s Report “On the State of Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms in Georgia,” p. 79. [See link](#)

<sup>6</sup> Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, “‘They Might Physically Attack Us’ – Threatening Writings Reappear on NGO Offices,” 31.05.2024. [See link](#)

<sup>7</sup> Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, “‘There Is Evidence That Dimitri Samkharadze Is Behind These Actions’ – Chair of the GYLA,” 31.05.2024. [See link](#)

political parties, accompanied by a threatening caption<sup>8</sup>. Such incidents, along with other openly conducted acts of persecution, were left without any appropriate legal response by the Georgian Dream.<sup>9</sup>

On March 17, 2025, authorities froze the bank accounts of several civil society groups and charitable foundations as part of a sabotage investigation. Later, on April 29, unsubstantiated investigative measures were carried out in the homes and offices of these organizations' representatives.<sup>10</sup> Commenting on the issue, Mamuka Mdinardze (Parliamentary Majority Leader in the Georgian Parliament, currently Head of the State Security Service of Georgia) stated that the purpose of the foundations was to incite violence and to "abolish the functions of the state," describing it as "a campaign against the homeland under the so-called "moral" cover." Nino Tsilosani (Member of the Parliament of Georgia from the Georgian Dream party) claimed that the frozen organizations and foundations were "plotting revolutions under the name of charity," while Kakha Kaladze, Mayor of Tbilisi and the Secretary General of the ruling Georgian Dream party, stated that the organizations' funds were being spent on "destroying the country and creating problems for the state."<sup>11</sup> Other members of the Georgian Dream made similar statements, while the television channel Imedi actively participated in discrediting the civil society organizations and foundations, referring to them as "sponsors of radicalism." The investigative actions conducted in the homes and offices of representatives of civil society organizations and foundations were carried out in violation of numerous procedural norms.<sup>12</sup> According to the Georgian Dream member and "Leader of the Parliamentary Majority" Irakli Kirtzkhalia, the "so-called foundations and so-called non-governmental organizations", where the searches and seizures took place were financing the burning of police officers, buildings and a coup. In one of his interviews, Levan Makhashvili, member of the Parliament of Georgia from the Georgian Dream party stated that the activities of the foundations were directly linked to the assistance and incitement of criminal acts; therefore, it was not surprising that the state institutions took corresponding actions against them<sup>13</sup>. Regarding the freezing of the organizations' accounts, members of the Georgian Dream continue to actively spread disinformation and carry out a discrediting campaign. According to the Parliament member Levan Machavariani, the NGOs were allegedly supplying protest participants with equipments: flammable substances, pyrotechnics and "Molotov cocktails," which, in his view, constitute clear signs of sabotage. Irakli Zarkua, Member of the Parliament of Georgia from the Georgian Dream party stated that the finances of civil society

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Media Institute, "ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS REGARDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS COMMITTED DURING THE ONGOING PROTESTS (November 28, 2024 – September 28, 2025) – Monitoring Report" See [link](#)

<sup>10</sup> "Media Institute (2025), 'Persecution of Human Rights Defenders through Arbitrary Investigative Actions,' p. 3. See [link](#) [07.10.2025]."

<sup>11</sup> Imedinews.ge, "Statement by the Prosecutor's Office, 17.03.2025, see [link](#); Statement by Mamuka Mdinardze, 17.03.2025, see [link](#); Statement by Nino Tsilosani, 18.03.2025, see [link](#); Statement by Kakha Kaladze, 20.03.2025, see [link](#); 'Charity-Disguised Funds: Bank Accounts Frozen for Sponsors of Radicalism,' 23.03.2025, see [link](#); Statement by Davit Matikashvili, 18.03.2025, see [link](#); Statement by Eka Seferashvili, 18.03.2025, see [link](#); Statement by Vladimer Bozhadze, 19.03.2025, see [link](#); Statement by Archil Gorduladze, 20.03.2025, see [link](#) [07.10.2025]."

<sup>12</sup> "Media Institute (2025), 'Persecution of Human Rights Defenders through Arbitrary Investigative Actions,' p. 4. See [link](#) [07.10.2025]."

<sup>13</sup> Imedinews.ge, "Statement by Shalva Papuashvili, 29.04.2025, see [link](#); Statement by Aleksandre Darakhvelidze, 30.04.2025, see [link](#); Statement by Irakli Kirtzkhalia, 29.04.2025, see [link](#); Statement by Levan Makhashvili, 30.04.2025, see [link](#) [07.10.2025]."

organizations were used for the “implementation of a revolutionary scenario” and to “purchase equipment for violent acts.” Kakha Kaladze (Mayor of Tbilisi and the Secretary General of the ruling Georgian Dream party) added that “all this could not be covered up by purchasing masks and glasses alone,” since “the attempt to cause unrest in the country, the financing of extremism, the financing of the division of society, and the financing of confrontation” came from outside through the frozen organizations. According to Davit Matikashvili, member of the Parliament of Georgia from the Georgian Dream party, the civil society organization allegedly needed “pepper spray” to use “against a police officer or a specific government official,” and the goal of all this was “destruction, collapsing the government and the return of espionage.” Parliament member Tengiz Sharmanashvili stated that NGOs “purchased various equipments, distributed them to protesters, and incited them to carry out violent actions even against government representatives and buildings.” Levan Makhashvili (member of the Parliament of Georgia from the Georgian Dream party) added that it was regrettable that the organizations, instead of doing work important for the society, were “directly involved in political, revolutionary processes.”<sup>14</sup>

### - Targeting Protest Participants

In their public remarks, Georgian Dream members focused exclusively on labeling protesters’ actions as ‘aggressive attacks.’<sup>15</sup> They avoided acknowledging the use of force against demonstrators in ways that posed serious risks to life and health,<sup>16</sup> as well as incidents of targeted violence by law enforcement - including torture and inhuman treatment - which they portrayed as ‘appropriate responses’ to protest activities.<sup>17</sup>

On June 11, 2024, Shalva Papuashvili (President of the Georgian Parliament and member of the Parliament of Georgia from the Georgian Dream party) accused civil activist Zuka Berdzenishvili of conducting an “organized and politically motivated campaign of terror.”<sup>18</sup> Approximately one hour after Papuashvili published this statement on social media, Berdzenishvili was physically assaulted.<sup>19</sup> This incident, on the one hand, underscores the direct encouragement of violence by members of Georgian Dream. On the other hand, it raises reasonable suspicion regarding the causal link between Papuashvili’s post and the actions of the assailants, as well as more broadly about the party’s support for informal violent groups and the connections that exist between them.

<sup>14</sup> Imedinews.ge, Prosecutor’s Office statement, see [link](#); Levan Machavariani’s statement, 27.08.2025, see [link](#); Irakli Zarkua’s statement, see [link](#); Tengiz Sharmanashvili’s statement, see [link](#); Davit Matikashvili’s statement, 28.08.2025, see [link](#); Kakha Kaladze’s statement, 02.09.2025, see [link](#); Levan Makhashvili’s statement, 03.09.2025, see [link](#) [07.10.2025].

<sup>15</sup> Imedinews.ge, Statement by Aleksandre Darakhvelidze 29.11.2024; See [Link](#); Statement by Kakha Kaladze, 30.11.2024; See [Link](#);

<sup>16</sup> Georgian Young Lawyers’ Association, News Field, “10 Days of Terror Against Peaceful Protest,”; See [Link](#) -, November 29, 2024

<sup>17</sup> First Channel: “Kakha Kaladze – No one has the right to approach a police officer, insult them, throw bottles and stones; such actions will always be followed by an appropriate response.” 29.11.2024; See [Link](#)

<sup>18</sup> Shalva Papuashvili, Facebook post, June 11, 2024, *Shalva Papuashvili Official Page*; [Link](#)

<sup>19</sup> “Civil Activist Zuka Berdzenishvili Attacked,” *Radio Liberty*, June 11, 2024; [Link](#)

Since November 28, 2024, protesters and journalists faced targeted violence and mistreatment from MIA units and informal groups. On November 29, Formula journalist Guram Rogava was assaulted on live by a special forces officer, suffering facial and neck fractures. When asked about the attacker former director of the Special Tasks Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, Zviad Kharazishvili brushed it off, saying essentially “Who is Guram Rogava? I don’t know him, why are you bothering me with this Rogava?” - ismissive and refusing to acknowledge the journalist.<sup>20</sup> In parliament, when Rogava asked about the assault to Nino Tsilosani (Member of the Parliament of Georgia from the Georgian Dream party), she downplayed it as “an unfortunate incident, just someone’s mistake.” She went further, calling Rogava “completely the wrong person” and implying that this “small incident” gave him an excuse to ask “nonsense questions.”<sup>21</sup> The journalist was granted victim status in December 2024, but the perpetrator remains unidentified.

On December 3, 2024, a tear gas capsule allegedly struck 21-year-old Aleksandre Tirkia in the face during the violent dispersal of a protest, leaving him with severe injuries and requiring intensive care. Mamuka Mdinardze (Parliamentary Majority Leader in the Georgian Parliament, currently Head of the State Security Service of Georgia) claimed Tirkia was hit by a “firework” thrown by protesters- though doctors disputed this.<sup>22</sup> The MIA officer responsible is still not identified.

On December 7, 2024, during a live broadcast, a masked violent group so-called “titushki” attacked TV Pirveli journalist Maka Chikhladze and her cameraman Giorgi Shvetsiruli. Notably, two patrol police units were present at the scene but did not intervene.<sup>23</sup> Mamuka Mdinardze, (Parliamentary Majority Leader in the Georgian Parliament, currently Head of the State Security Service of Georgia) commenting on the assault against Chikhladze and her cameraman, claimed the incident was “99% likely a deliberate provocation aimed at reigniting fading tensions for at least a week.”<sup>24</sup> Nino Tsilosani (Member of the Parliament of Georgia from the Georgian Dream party) also linked the attack to protesters, saying it could only have been done by “someone who wanted to misdirect the rallies and provoke violence.”<sup>25</sup> Similar statements were made by MP Vladimir Bozhadze and Tbilisi City Council member Zurab Kadagidze.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Radio Liberty, “The Special Forces Officer Does Not Get Tired’ – Sanctioned Head of Special Forces ‘Khareba’” 04.12.2024; See [Link](#)

<sup>21</sup> Radio Liberty, “You Are the Wrong Person’ – Tsilosani Calls the Attack on Rogava an ‘Unfortunate Incident’ 12.02.2025; See [Link](#)

<sup>22</sup> Radio Liberty, “I Don’t Understand How We Survived’ – When Police Fire Gas Capsules and You End Up in a Crush”, 03.12.2024, See [Link](#); First Channel, “Ingorokva Clinic Announces That 21-Year-Old Aleksandre Tirkia Has Been Removed from Artificial Ventilation, Though His Condition Remains Serious and Critical” 10.12.2025, See [Link](#); Imedinews.ge, *Imedinews.ge, “Mamuka Mdinardze on the 22-Year-Old Injured at the Protest”*, 03.12.2024, See [Link](#)

<sup>23</sup> Netgazeti, “TV Pirveli Journalists Attacked by ‘Titushki’”, 07.12.2024; See [Link](#)

<sup>24</sup> Imedinews.ge, *Imedinews.ge, “Mamuka Mdinardze on the Attack Against TV Pirveli Journalist and Cameraman: An Attack on a Journalist, Especially in This Form, Is Immoral. I Ask Investigative Bodies to Establish the Facts Quickly”*, 07.12.2024; See [Link](#)

<sup>25</sup> Imedinews.ge, “Nino Tsilosani: The Severe Footage of the Attack on TV Pirveli Journalist and Cameraman Could Only Have Been Done by Someone Who Wanted to Provoke Violence. I Hope the Perpetrator Will Be Properly Punished” 08.12.2024; See [Link](#)

<sup>26</sup> Imedinews.ge, “*Vladimir Bozhadze on the Attack Against TV Pirveli Journalist and Cameraman: This Is a Provocation, Committed by Someone Who Wanted More Radicalization and Confrontation – The State Will Act According to the Law*”, 07.12.2024; See [Link](#); [Zurab Kadagidze on the Attack Against TV Pirveli Journalist and Cameraman: At a Time When Processes Should Calm Down, a Severe and Brutal Crime Is Committed Live on Air – Such a Crime Benefits the Enemies of the Country!](#) 07.12.2024; See [Link](#)

The documented incidents reveal a pattern of deliberate rhetoric and actions by Georgian Dream officials that normalize violence and undermine accountability. By framing protesters as aggressors while ignoring severe abuses including torture, inhuman treatment, and targeted assaults on journalists the ruling party fosters an environment of impunity. This systemic disregard for human rights not only erodes democratic principles but also signals an urgent need for independent investigations and robust safeguards to prevent further escalation.

### - Targeting individuals detained on political grounds

Since the protests began on November 28, 2024, around 70 individuals have been detained or imprisoned for political reasons, widely regarded by the public as ‘prisoners of conscience.’ Georgian Dream, through statements by its members and allied media, has actively sought to discredit these individuals spreading false narratives and disregarding the presumption of innocence. Irakli Kobakhidze (Prime Minister of Georgia since February 2024 and Chairman of the ruling Georgian Dream party since May 2025) asserted that those labeled as “prisoners of conscience” are “actually under specific charges due to conscienceless acts.”<sup>27</sup> Kobakhidze and Shalva Papuashvili (President of the Georgian Parliament and member of the Parliament of Georgia from the Georgian Dream party) have also referred to individuals detained on political grounds as “perpetrators of conscience.”<sup>28</sup> Members of Georgian Dream further disregard the existence of political prisoners in Georgia; in Kakha Kaladze’s (Mayor of Tbilisi and the Secretary General of the ruling Georgian Dream party) view, Georgia does not have political prisoners, but rather “politicians who are guilty in specific cases.”<sup>29</sup>

Georgian Dream members have issued numerous disparaging remarks aimed at specific political prisoners. For instance, Mamuka Mdinaradze (Parliamentary Majority Leader in the Georgian Parliament, currently Head of the State Security Service of Georgia) alleged that actor Andro Chichinadze was ‘funded by Russia, like his cousin Elene Khoshtaria,’ and suggested that offering surety was unnecessary for someone truly innocent. Later, Irakli Kobakhidze (Prime Minister of Georgia since February 2024 and Chairman of the ruling Georgian Dream party since May 2025) further undermined Chichinadze’s presumption of innocence by accusing him of involvement in an assault and highlighting his role in a Russian film part of a broader disinformation campaign promoted by Georgian Dream-affiliated media.<sup>30</sup> Mamuka Mdinaradze (Parliamentary Majority Leader in the Georgian Parliament, currently Head of the State Security Service of Georgia) further undermined the presumption of innocence for Andro Chichinadze and other detainees accused of group violence by

<sup>27</sup> Imedinews.ge, “Irakli Kobakhidze: The prisoners who are called ‘prisoners of conscience’ are, in reality, charged with specific offenses due to conscienceless actions,” 15.08.2025, see [link](#)

<sup>28</sup> Imedinews.ge, Statement by Irakli Kobakhidze, 30.09.2025, see [link](#); Statement by Shalva Papuashvili, 01.10.2025, see [link](#)

<sup>29</sup> Imedinews.ge, Statement by Levan Machavariani, 14.03.2025, see [link](#); Statement by Eka Sefashvili, 12.06.2025, see [link](#); Statement by Kakha Kaladze, 03.10.2025, see [link](#)

<sup>30</sup> Imedinews.ge, Statement by Mamuka Mdinaradze, 20.01.2025, see [link](#); 22.01.2025, see [link](#); “Giorgi Gamsakhurdia Writes About the Russian Film ‘Nina’ with Andro Chichinadze,” 20.01.2025, see [link](#); “Formula,” “Chichinadze to Kobakhidze: Can you repeat with me in person what you did yesterday? I don’t think so,” 17.04.2025, see [link](#)

declaring, ‘If you kill someone at a protest and I help you, am I not guilty just because I don’t know you?’ Through this statement, he effectively accused the political prisoners of organized crime, complicity, and other serious offenses.<sup>31</sup>

The Georgian Dream party continues its active campaign to discredit Mzia Amaglobeli, founder of Batumelebi and Netgazeti, who remains a political prisoner. Party members have spread false narratives about the reasons for her detention and repeatedly violated her presumption of innocence. In an effort to mislead the public and tarnish her reputation, Sozar Subari, among others, has played a key role in this smear campaign.<sup>32</sup> Mamuka Mdinardze, (Parliamentary Majority Leader in the Georgian Parliament, currently Head of the State Security Service of Georgia) Irakli Kobakhidze, (Prime Minister of Georgia since February 2024 and Chairman of the ruling Georgian Dream party since May 2025) Irakli Zarkua, (member of the Parliament of Georgia from the Georgian Dream party) and other party members spread statements and gave interviews alleging that Mzia Amaglobeli had placed a sticker on a police officer’s back purportedly the reason for her administrative detention a claim that is entirely unfounded.<sup>33</sup> Both members of the Georgian Dream and propagandist television channels, as well as various social media pages<sup>34</sup>, characterized Mzia Amaglobeli’s slap directed at the head of Batumi Police, Irakli Dgebuadze, as an attack on a police officer and “a step against the state.” This portrayal likely served two purposes: shaping public opinion and legitimizing the charges brought against her. For example, according to Giorgi Volski, Mzia Amaglobeli “inflicted humiliation on the police officer not only for personal revenge but with a specific purpose,” and in a tense situation, “slapping a senior police officer could not be considered only under the hooliganism article.”<sup>35</sup> Statements made by members of the Georgian Dream regarding Mzia Amaglobeli’s hunger strike also served to discredit her. In these statements, her refusal to take food was referred to as a “Mikheil Saakashvili-style hunger strike” and a “weapon of blackmail against the authorities,” and it was claimed that the collective United National Movement was encouraging the journalist to continue her hunger strike “for the purpose of creating a victim.”<sup>36</sup> Notably, members of the Georgian Dream also violated Mzia Amaglobeli’s presumption of innocence. According to Mamuka Mdinardze, (Parliamentary Majority Leader in the Georgian Parliament, currently Head of the State Security Service of Georgia) Mzia Amaglobeli was “acting on instructions,” a claim later repeated on Rustavi 2 television by Irakli Kobakhidze (Prime Minister of Georgia since February 2024 and Chairman of the ruling Georgian Dream party since May 2025).

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<sup>31</sup> “Publika,” “‘I Will Give You a Few Tips’ – Andro Chichinadze Responds to Mamuka Mdinardze,” 08.08.2025; see [link](#)

<sup>32</sup> “Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia.”

<sup>33</sup> Imedinews.ge, Statement by Irakli Zarkua, 01.02.2025, see [link](#); Statement by David Matikashvili, see [link](#); “Batumelebi,” “‘Mzia Amaglobeli Stuck a Sticker on a Policeman’s Back’ – Sozar Subari,” 12.02.2025, see [link](#); “Radio Liberty,” “Mzia Amaglobeli Sues Kobakhidze, Mdinardze, and Subari for Defamation,” 07.05.2025, see [link](#)

<sup>34</sup> Myth Detector (2025), “Mzia Amaglobeli – the target of Georgian Dream, pro-government media, and other anti-Western actors,” see [link](#)

<sup>35</sup> Imedinews.ge, Statement by Archil Gorduladze, 12.01.2025, see [link](#); statement by Tornike Rijvadze, 20.01.2025, see [link](#); statement by Kakha Kaladze, 29.01.2025, see [link](#); statement by Giorgi Volski, 14.01.2025, see [link](#)

<sup>36</sup> Imedinews.ge, Statement by Irakli Kobakhidze, 30.01.2025, see [link](#); statement by Davit Matikashvili, see [link](#); statement by Sozar Subari, 02.02.2025, see [link](#); statement by Mamuka Mdinardze, see [link](#); statement by Levan Machavariani, 04.02.2025, see [link](#)

Furthermore, Nino Tsilosani (Member of the Parliament of Georgia from the Georgian Dream party) added false details to the narrative of Mzia Amaghlobeli “acting on instructions,” asserting that the journalist was operating “by order, with payment, hiring and within the framework of espionage activities.” It is significant to note that a motion submitted by Mzia Amaghlobeli’s lawyers during the court hearing, requesting that Nino Tsilosani and Irakli Kobakhidze be summoned for questioning, was not satisfied by Judge Nino Sakhelashvili.<sup>37</sup>

The Georgian Dream party targeted teacher and activist Nino Datashvili in an effort to discredit her. She was detained on June 20, 2025, by a court marshal on charges of ‘assault.’ To undermine her credibility, the party focused on her health, stressing the alleged ‘need’ for a psychiatric evaluation. According to Davit Matikashvili (Chairman of the Procedural Issues and Rules Committee in the Parliament of Georgia and the member of the Parliament of Georgia from the Georgian Dream party) the behavior observed both inside and outside the courtroom ‘left a certain impression on society,’ reinforcing the supposed necessity of conducting a mental health examination of Nino Datashvili.<sup>38</sup>

It should be emphasized that even after verdicts were delivered, individuals detained on political grounds—and their families—remained targets of smear campaigns and disinformation by Georgian Dream-affiliated TV channels, party supporters, and various social media groups. For example,<sup>39</sup> After Mate Devdize’s verdict was announced, videos began circulating with identical captions stating, ‘How Mate Devdize attacks the police with a truncheon.’ Additionally, TV channels Imedi and POSTV shared a video on Facebook falsely depicting political prisoner Saba Jikia attacking a police officer with a knife—despite the prosecution only accusing him of kicking an officer. Alongside this fabricated footage, ‘POSTV-Analytical’ released an AI-generated illustration showing Jikia holding a knife, and a similar image was distributed portraying political prisoner Anri Kvaratskhelia with a so-called ‘Molotov cocktail.’

Georgian Dream notably employed the parliamentary investigative commission as a tool to detain leaders of opposition-aligned political parties. Despite the clear political motives behind these imprisonments, party members refuse to acknowledge Zura Japaridze, Nika Gvaramia, Nika Melia, and Giorgi Vashadze as political prisoners, asserting that they ‘intentionally failed to appear before the commission’ and ‘deliberately committed the offense.’<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Imedinews.ge, “Mamuka Mdinardze on Mzia Amaghlobeli: Let’s not portray as a hero a woman who acted on orders,” 03.02.2025, see [link](#); *Batumelebi*, “Irakli Kobakhidze violates Mzia Amaghlobeli’s presumption of innocence – lawyer,” 17.04.2025, see [link](#); *Publika*, “The judge did not grant Amaghlobeli’s lawyers’ motions to have Kobakhidze and Tsilosani questioned,” 14.07.2025, see [link](#)

<sup>38</sup> Imedinews.ge, “Davit Matikashvili on Nino Datashvili’s examination: All of this is the responsibility of the investigative authorities, and everything is proceeding in accordance with the rules established by the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code,” 06.08.2025, see [link](#)

<sup>39</sup> International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (2025), “Propagandist media, ‘experts,’ and trolls associated with Georgian Dream against those imprisoned on political grounds,” see [link](#) [05.10.2025].

<sup>40</sup> “Radio Liberty,” “Behind Bars – How Opposition Politicians Ended Up in Prison (This Time),” 02.07.2025, see [link](#); *Imedinews.ge*, statement by Mamuka Mdinardze, 28.05.2025, see [link](#); 17.07.2025, see [link](#); statement by Nino Tsilosani, 01.07.2025, see [link](#) [05.10.2025].

The systematic targeting of individuals detained on political grounds illustrates a deliberate strategy by Georgian Dream to delegitimize dissent and erode democratic safeguards. Through disinformation, public humiliation, and repeated violations of the presumption of innocence, the ruling party has weaponized rhetoric and media influence to justify politically motivated detentions. These actions not only undermine the rule of law but also foster an environment of fear and polarization, where opposition voices are criminalized and public trust in institutions is severely compromised. Immediate reforms and independent oversight are essential to halt this pattern and restore fundamental rights.



## IV. International Framework

The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), interpreted by the European Court of Human Rights, balances freedom of expression with the prohibition of hate speech. The Court has consistently held that speech inciting violence or undermining democratic institutions is not protected under Article 10.

The UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech (2019) emphasizes a human-rights-based approach, urging states to adopt preventive measures, strengthen accountability, and ensure that responses do not infringe on legitimate free expression. The OSCE/ODIHR Guidelines similarly call for monitoring and sanctioning hate speech by public officials, recognizing its potential to escalate into violence.

Organizations such as the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) advocate for treating hate speech as a serious international crime when it enables violence. It calls for integrating hate speech monitoring into transitional justice and accountability mechanisms, ensuring that perpetrators face consequences.

Georgia, as a party to ICCPR and ECHR, is legally bound to prevent and sanction hate speech. The rhetoric by Georgian officials targeting protesters, journalists, and civil society actors violates these obligations and undermines democratic governance.



## V. Recommendations and Conclusion

The evidence demonstrates that hate speech, hostile rhetoric, and disinformation by Georgian officials are not isolated incidents but part of a systemic strategy to delegitimize dissent, stigmatize civil society, and justify repression. Such practices erode democratic institutions, undermine human rights, and create an environment conducive to violence. Georgia's obligations under international law including ICCPR and ECHR require immediate and effective measures to prevent these violations.

It is important to

1. Ensure Accountability
  - Establish independent bodies to investigate and sanction hate speech and disinformation by public officials.
  - Ensure judicial oversight and transparency in all proceedings.
2. Strengthen Civil Society
  - Support NGOs and media in documenting hate speech and disinformation campaigns.
  - Create secure channels for reporting threats and harassment.
3. Ensure International Engagement
  - Utilize UN and OSCE mechanisms for technical assistance and monitoring.
  - Advocate for inclusion of hate speech accountability in EU accession negotiations.
4. Ensure Public Awareness and Education
  - Launch nationwide campaigns promoting tolerance and countering disinformation.
  - Integrate media literacy and human rights education into school curricula.