

Transparency International EU

The global coalition against corruption

In solidarity with Georgian civil society and the people of Georgia

Pia Engelbrecht-Bogdanov · Tuesday, December 17th, 2024

The following letter was signed by Transparency International EU and the undersigned organisations and individuals.

10 December 2024

As human rights defenders and activists across the globe, we are alarmed by the Georgian authorities' efforts to stifle civil society voices and suppress peaceful protests. Our colleagues and partners in Georgia are being threatened and prosecuted, simply for standing up to protect human rights and civic freedoms.

To our friends and allies in Georgia, please know that we stand with you as you courageously oppose your government's attempts to shrink civic space, undermine civil society organizations and social movements, suppress independent media, and erode political plurality. We stand in unwavering solidarity with the people of Georgia in your brave fight for freedom and democracy, and we join your calls to the international community (including international financial institutions, governments and the European Union) to condemn these attacks.

Georgia's civic space has further eroded in the past months, with the passing of the law "[on transparency of foreign influence](#)" in May 2024, despite widespread opposition. The months leading up to the parliamentary elections, held on 26 October 2024, have also been characterized by significant attacks on democracy, as highlighted also in a joint motion for an [EU resolution](#) that denounces alleged electoral fraud, serious irregularities in the electoral process, and a climate of fear (including through the arrests, home raids and intimidation of opposition politicians, civil society leaders, journalists, and other critical voices).

Georgia's ruling party representatives and their proxies repeatedly [label](#) civil society as "centers of liberal fascism" and "foreign agents", accusing them of instigating violations and openly

threatening to prosecute them.

Over the past week, more than 400 demonstrators have been detained and subjected to police violence and [inhumane treatment](#). Peaceful protestors are chased and beaten by masked groups. Georgia's ombudsperson [described](#) this as "intentional, severe violence for the purpose of punishment constitutes an act of torture." On 7 December, masked thugs [attacked journalists](#), who were covering the demonstration. On 3 and 4 December, the police [raided](#) the homes of activists and the offices of political parties, without [presenting search warrants or giving reasons](#) for the search. Despite numerous reports and footage documenting these abuses, no accountability measures have been taken against police officers who used excessive force.

This is a brutal attack on freedoms of speech and assembly, as well as on basic and fundamental rights for a democratic and pluralist society, that affects all of us. It is an attempt to dehumanize and stigmatize civil society activity, something that runs contrary to Georgia's human rights commitments, as well as international human rights standards and values.

Before the law on foreign influence was passed, civil society from around the globe had [called on financial institutions](#) operating in Georgia to condemn it. Now, in the face of these renewed attacks, once again we call on these institutions to: use their leverage to promote an open civic space, as this is [key to achieve development objectives](#); to ensure that Georgian civil society and citizens can safely exercise their right to participation and freedom of expression; and to ensure that their financial support does not contribute to human rights violations and the ongoing repression of civil society.

We call on international financial institutions, governments and other international partners of Georgia to publicly condemn this attack on human rights and democracy and express their support to Georgian civil society and people of Georgia who demand democracy and human rights.

SIGNATORIES

ORGANISATIONS

1. Aid Watch | Australia

2. ALTSEAN-Burma | Myanmar

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3. Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) | Philippines
 4. Ang Aroroy Ay Alagaan (4As) | Philippines
 5. Anti-Jindal & Anti-POSCO Movement | India
 6. Armenian Forests Environmental NGO | Armenia
 7. Arnika | Czech Republic
 8. ARTICLE 19 Europe
 9. Asia Indigenous Peoples Network on Extractive Industries and Energy (AIPNEE) | Asia
 10. Asia Pacific Network of Environmental Defenders | Asia
 11. Asia-Pacific Gathering on Human Rights and Extractives (AP-Gathering) | Asia and the Pacific
 12. Asociación de Desarrollo para los Pueblos Indígenas de la Amazonía Peruana | Latin America
 13. Assembly of the Indigenous Peoples of the Isthmus in Defense of the Land and Territory (APIIDTT) | Mexico
 14. Association for International Affairs (AMO) in Prague | Czech Republic
 15. Balkani Wildlife Society | Bulgaria
 16. BankTrack | Netherlands

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17. Batani Foundation | Russia/USA
 18. Bir Duino | Kyrgyzstan
 19. Blueprint for Free Speech | Germany
 20. Both ENDS | The Netherlands
 21. Caritas Czech Republic | Czech Republic
 22. CEE Bankwatch Network
 23. Centre for Community Mobilization and Support NGO | Armenia
 24. Civic Advisory Hub (CAH)| Africa
 25. Civil Platform Poti Citizens for their Rights | Georgia
 26. Cohesión Comunitaria e Innovación Social A.C. | Mexico
 27. Community Development Advocacy Foundation (CODAF) | Nigeria
 28. Community Empowerment and Social Justice Network (CEMSOJ) | Nepal
 29. Community Resource Centre (CRC) | Thailand
 30. COMPPART Foundation for Justice and Peacebuilding | Nigeria

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31. Convergence of Initiatives for Environmental Justice (CIEJ) | Philippines
 32. Convergence of Youth for Environmental Justice (CYEJ) | Philippines
 33. Coopera | Germany
 34. Crude Accountability | USA
 35. Defenders in Development campaign | Global
 36. East African Crude Oil Host communities (EACOP HC) | Uganda
 37. EHA “Green World”, Ukraine
 38. Ekoltava | Ukraine
 39. Ekta Parishad | India
 40. Endorois Indigenous Women Empowerment Network (EIWEN) | Kenya
 41. Energy Act for Ukraine Foundation | Ukraine
 42. Environmental Club Eremurus | Ukraine
 43. Equitable Cambodia | Cambodia
 44. European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD) | Europe

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45. FORZA | Ukraine
 46. GAIA Asia Pacific | Asia
 47. Global Rights I Nigeria
 48. Government Accountability Project | USA
 49. Green Foster Action | Uganda
 50. Growthwatch | India
 51. Human Rights Center – Spaces for Community Defense, Flourishing and Support | Mexico
 52. ICO “Environment – People – Law” | Ukraine
 53. Indian Social Action Forum | India
 54. Indigenous Women Legal Awareness Group (INWOLAG) | Nepal
 55. Initiative for Right View (IRV) | Bangladesh
 56. Institute of regional sustainable development | Ukraine
 57. International Accountability Project | Global
 58. International Committee of indigenous Peoples of Russia |Russia | EU | USA

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59. International Rivers | Global
 60. Jamaa Resource Initiatives | Kenya
 61. JUHUDI Community Support Center I Omar Kofa Komora I Kenya I East Africa
 62. Justice and Empowerment Organization (JEO) Tanzania.
 63. KALIPUNAN ng mga Kilusang Masa (Gathering of Mass Movements) | Philippines
 64. Kallopp Humanitarian and Environmental Center | Nigeria
 65. Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights | Kazakhstan
 66. Kilos Maralita | Philippines
 67. KIOS Foundation | Finland
 68. Koalisi Rakyat untuk Hak atas Air (KRuHA) | Indonesia
 69. Lawyers' Association for Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples (LAHURNIP) | Nepal
 70. LBH ANGSAANA, Indonesia
 71. Lumière Synergie pour le Développement | Senegal
 72. Movimiento Ecofeminista de El Salvador| El Salvador

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73. NESEHNUTÍ | Czech Republic
 74. NGO Black Sea Women's Club
 75. NGO Center for Regional Initiatives (ASTREA) | Ukraine
 76. NGO CHESNO Movement | Ukraine
 77. NGO Ecoclub | Ukraine
 78. NGO Ekoltava, Ukraine
 79. NGO Forum on ADB | Asia
 80. NGO Plato | Ukraine
 81. NGO Ro3kvit Urban Coalition | Ukraine
 82. NGO "Ecosphera" | Ukraine
 83. NGO "UEC "Green Wave" | Ukraine
 84. Oyu Tolgoi Watch | Mongolia
 85. Pain aux Indigents et Appui à l'auto-Promotion (PIAP) | DRC
 86. Participatory Research & Action Network (PRAAN) | Bangladesh

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87. Partido Manggagawa (Workers' Party) | Philippines
 88. PODER | México
 89. Public Association "Dignity" | Kazakhstan
 90. Razom We Stand
 91. Recourse | The Netherlands
 92. Rivers without Boundaries | Mongolia
 93. Rozviy Youth Climate Initiative | Ukraine
 94. Secours de la Femme Rurale au Développement (SFRD) | DRC
 95. Sentro ng Nagkakaisa at Progresibong Manggagawa (SENTRO) | Philippines
 96. Sibuyanons Against Mining (SAM) | Philippines
 97. Southern Africa Doctors for Human Rights (SADHR) | Africa
 98. Tame Ko Teemahane women's foundation | Botswana
 99. Transparency International EU | Europe
 100. Transparency International Ireland | Ireland

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101. Trend Asia | Indonesia
 102. U-Cycle | Ukraine
 103. Ukraine Nature Network | Germany/Ukraine
 104. Urgewald | Germany
 105. Uzbek Forum for Human Rights | Germany/Uzbekistan
 106. WAE-HEAL | Tanzania
 107. Whistleblowing International Network | Global
 108. World March of Women | Philippines
 109. Zero Waste Lviv | Ukraine
 110. Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights (ZADHR) | Zimbabwe

Individuals

1. Ravi Rebbapragada (SAMATA) | India
2. Shahinaz Adel (Environmental Lawyer) | Egypt

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3. Farida Sharifullina (civic activist against forced eviction) | Uzbekistan
 4. Jeff W. Ssebagala (Witness Radio) | Uganda
 5. Atokhon Ghaniev | Tajikistan
 6. Ritu Thapa | Nepal
 7. Chalani Rubesinghe | Sri Lanka
 8. Sahra Aadan (Coalition of Somali Human Rights Defenders) | Somalia
 9. Yuyun Indradi | Indonesia
 10. Yuliia Melnyk (climate activist), Ukraine
 11. Ganna Gladkykh | Sweden
 12. Norman Jiwan I Indonesia
 13. Mirvari Gahramanli Azerbaijan
 14. Tanya Lee Roberts Davis (International Rivers) | Canada/Thailand
 15. Nazeli Vardanyan | Armenia
 16. Badhon Areng | Bangladesh

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