

# 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. Kallop 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 ANGSANA, 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 Jiwani | 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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