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DH-DD(2026)366

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Meeting: 1563rd meeting (June 2026) (DH)

Communication from NGOs (European Human Rights Advocacy Centre and Georgian Young Lawyers Association) (05/03/2026) in the case of Tsaava and Others v. Georgia (Application No. 13186/20).

Information made available under Rule 9.2 of the Rules of the Committee of Ministers for the supervision of the execution of judgments and of the terms of friendly settlements.

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Réunion : 1563e réunion (juin 2026) (DH)

Communication d'ONG (European Human Rights Advocacy Centre et Georgian Young Lawyers Association) (05/03/2026) dans l'affaire Tsaava et autres c. Géorgie (requête n° 13186/20) ***[anglais uniquement]***

Informations mises à disposition en vertu de la Règle 9.2 des Règles du Comité des Ministres pour la surveillance de l'exécution des arrêts et des termes des règlements amiables.

DH-DD(2026)366: Rule 9.2 Communication from NGOs in Tsaava and Others v. Georgia.
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05 March 2026

Re: Tsaava and Others v Georgia, App. No. 13186/20 and others, 11 December 2025 (Leading case, Pending procedure) – submission pursuant to Rule 9(2) of the Committee of Ministers' Rules for the Supervision of the Execution of Judgments – due to be classified at the 1553rd meeting (March 2026) (DH).

This submission is made in accordance with Rule 9(2) of the Rules of the Committee of Ministers (CM) for the supervision of the execution of judgments and the terms of friendly settlement. The submission is made by the European Human Rights Advocacy Centre (EHRAC) and the Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA), who also acted as representatives for two applications that formed part of this Judgment (app. nos. 20129/21 and 20175/21)

This submission focuses solely on the classification of the above-mentioned case.

The applicants agree with the already determined 'leading' classification of this case, given that the issues raised in this judgment require broad general measures to prevent their re-occurrence - namely changes to legislation to bring Georgian regulation on the use of less lethal weapons, particularly kinetic impact projectiles (rubber bullets), in compliance with the standards set down by the Court in its judgment; as

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well as changes to practices and procedures in the dispersal of protests and the effective investigation into improper and disproportionate uses of force dispersals.

Additionally, the applicants submit that this case requires enhanced supervision by the Committee of Ministers given that the case, in both its individual and general measures required, highlights complex and structural issues, namely:

1) In this case, the Grand Chamber set down explicit Article 46 indications concerning both individual measures (namely to conduct an effective investigation) and general measures (to put in place adequate safeguards for the use of kinetic impact projectiles) (see judgment, paras 464-466). The applicants submit that close supervision by the Committee is required to ensure that these Article 46 indications are directly addressed by the authorities in their respective action plans.
2) Further, the authorities' obligation to conduct an effective investigation into the disproportionate use of force at the 2019 protest requires close supervision by the Committee, given the ongoing resistance by Georgian authorities to conduct an effective investigation to hold those responsible to account. These failures by the authorities regarding the responsibility of the law enforcement officers have greatly increased the systemic impunity and the chilling effect stemming from it. This unfortunately is explicitly visible in the violent dispersals by the government of the protests held in the country following the 20 June 2019 protest. This culminated in many alleged violations of Article 3 of the Convention during the November-December 2024 protests, to which no police officers have been held accountable to date.
3) Finally, the general measures in this case go beyond the regulation and use of rubber bullets to the broader issue of the misuse of, and regulatory framework for, less-lethal weapons in Georgia. The ongoing suppression of protests in Georgia through disproportionate and unlawful use of less-lethal weapons forms a key part of the question as to whether Georgia is implementing general measures to prevent re-occurrence. Contrary to its obligation to improve its regulatory framework, the government is going in the opposite direction by weakening the already existing flawed practice and legislation related to the use of less-lethal weapons.

The applicants submit that this case requires separate and individual consideration and should not be included in any existing groups of cases against Georgia. Whilst this case raises issues that are related to existing execution groups (e.g., concerning ill-treatment by police and lack of investigation in the Tsintsabze group; or disruption of the right to protest in the Makarashvili group), this case raises distinct issues on the use of disproportionate force via less-lethal weapons to interfere with peaceful protest and journalistic freedom, the proper and adequate regulatory framework for the use of less-lethal weapons, and the systemic shortcomings on conducting effective investigations into misuse of force by less-lethal weapons.





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