

CRACKDOWN ON CIVIL SOCIETY, POLITICAL PROSECUTIONS AND TORTURE IN GEORGIA



ABOUT US

The **Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA)** is a membership-based human rights watchdog founded in 1994. Our mission is to protect human rights and promote the rule of law throughout Georgia.

Over the years, GYLA has played a key role in strengthening democracy, advancing justice, and defending the rights of individuals. In 2025, GYLA was honored with the **Defender of Democracy Award** for its outstanding contribution to the promotion of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law in Georgia.



<https://gyla.ge/en>



1. CRACKDOWN ON CIVIL SOCIETY

Since the last UPR review, the ruling Georgian Dream (GD) party has intensified a systematic crackdown on human rights and democratic freedoms. Core civil and political rights, particularly the freedoms of assembly, association, and expression, have been severely restricted through violent dispersals of protests, repressive legislation, and widespread police brutality.

Civil society organizations and human rights defenders continue to face persistent pressure. Since 2024, the ruling Georgian Dream party has adopted a number of laws aimed at discrediting, undermining, and defunding civil society organizations. These include the Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence, the Foreign Agents Registration Act, and amendments to the Law on Grants. These laws would impose heavy fines, including imprisonment, and burdensome obligations that further restrict their ability to operate freely and independently.

2. POLITICAL PROSECUTIONS AND THE RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL

Since spring 2024, and particularly from 28 November 2024, criminal and administrative law mechanisms, including the Administrative Offences Code, have been systematically used against demonstrators. The charges, violations of the presumption of innocence by high-ranking officials, and strict criminal policy indicate political persecution by the ruling Georgian Dream party to suppress dissent. Administrative proceedings have similarly been weaponized to repress protests and civic dissent.

Observation of cases reveals selective justice, lack of judicial independence, and professional deficiencies. Final judgments often lack sufficient evidence to prove guilt beyond reasonable doubt, undermining trust in the judiciary, the rule of law, and increasing the risk of politically motivated prosecutions.

3. PRACTICE OF TORTURE IN GEORGIA

Torture and ill-treatment have become a grave concern in Georgia since November 2024. During protests in April-May 2024, some instances of ill-treatment reached the threshold of torture, but since November 2024, the state has systematically used torture and police violence to suppress protests in Georgia. The scale of the violence, coordination of law enforcement units, matching victim statements, repeated patterns, and the state's lack of response indicate the systematic and organized nature of torture and ill-treatment.

No state institution in Georgia has taken meaningful steps to protect victims of torture or other forms of repression. Following the abolition of the State Inspector's Service in 2025, concerns over the independence and effectiveness of the Special Investigation Service (SIS) intensified. To date, not a single case has been properly investigated.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Repeal the Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence, the Foreign Agents Registration Act and the Amendments to the Law on Grants.
2. Releasing political prisoners prosecuted for exercising their rights to freedom of assembly and expression.
3. Cease the misuse of administrative and criminal proceedings to target peaceful protest participants.
4. Perform thorough and prompt investigations into the conduct of high-ranking officials, particularly those responsible for planning and supervising law enforcement activities.

OUR REPORTS:

Human Rights Crisis in Georgia Following
the 2024 Parliamentary Elections



THE RESULTS OF MONITORING POLITICALLY
MOTIVATED CASES RELATED TO DETAINEES
DURING PROTESTS IN 2024-2025 AT FIRST
INSTANCE COURTS

