

Dear Partners and Colleagues,

We are writing on behalf of the Georgian NGO Development and Engagement Platform to inquire about the possibility of emergency funds to support activists and demonstrators in Georgia who have been unjustly targeted by oppressive measures implemented by the current government.

As you may know, the political processes in Georgia are at a critical juncture. The country is fighting for a free and European future, resisting efforts to revert toward Russia's influence, authoritarianism, and dictatorship.

In recent months, the government has taken alarming steps, including adopting unconstitutional laws, manipulating elections, and using excessive force, including torture and prosecution, against demonstrators. Below, we provide a timeline and evidence detailing these developments for your consideration.

In the spring of 2024, the Georgian Parliament introduced and passed a Russian-style "Foreign Agents" law and announced an oppressive anti-LGBTQ+ legislative package. These measures triggered widespread protests, which were violently suppressed by the ruling Georgian Dream party. Activists reported receiving threatening phone calls, being physically assaulted by unidentified groups, and having graffiti targeting their workplaces and homes. Evidence and more details about the spring events can be found here: [Tbilisi Tide](#).

In October 2024, Georgia held elections that were marred by widespread irregularities, including intimidation of public sector employees and individuals receiving state social assistance. These elections were not recognized as free or fair by Georgia's strategic partners, including the EU and the United States. Evidence from observers and testimonies from ordinary citizens can be found here: [WeVote](#).

In November 2024, Irakli Kobakhidze, who is referred to as the Prime Minister of Georgia, announced that the government would refuse grants from the EU and halt negotiations for EU accession until 2028. This announcement was perceived by Georgian citizens as a clear shift away from the EU integration path.

In response, massive protests erupted, and as of today, they have continued for 54 consecutive days. During this time, the Georgian public has witnessed unprecedented levels of violence, torture, excessive use of force, and repression against demonstrators. The scale of ill-treatment has been condemned by Amnesty International, the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), and other international organizations. Their statements and supporting evidence can be found here:

- [OMCT Statement](#)
- [Amnesty International Statement](#)

Despite using excessive force, the government has not been able to shut down peaceful protests. In response, they adopted draconian laws aimed at suppressing activists and dissent. These new laws, introduced in December 2024, impose harsh penalties for peaceful actions such as placing protest stickers on public property and allow for the detention of individuals suspected of planning to participate in

protests. The government has increasingly targeted journalists and human rights defenders using these laws to silence critical voices and prevent any public expression against its policies. [Amnesty International Article on New Laws](#)

Currently, hundreds of people are being targeted with administrative sanctions, summoned to court, and subjected to multiple fines, with many forced to pay extremely high penalties. For instance, individuals are being fined for 5,000 GEL (around 1,700 EUR) with some facing these fines multiple times, for activities such as blocking roads or wearing masks during public gatherings. These excessive fines are part of a broader strategy to intimidate and deter individuals from participating in protests or expressing dissent. The financial burden placed on activists, journalists, and ordinary citizens not only impacts their personal livelihoods but also serves as a powerful tool of political repression, aiming to silence opposition and prevent public demonstrations of discontent.

Due to this ongoing oppression, our organization is requesting emergency funds to support activists who have been unjustly fined and are unable to pay the excessively high penalties imposed on them. These fines have placed a significant financial strain on many individuals who are simply exercising their fundamental rights to protest and voice dissent.

The funds will be used to provide immediate financial relief to those who have been unfairly targeted, ensuring they are not further burdened by punitive measures designed to suppress their activism and silence their voices.

We deeply appreciate your consideration of this urgent request and would be grateful for your support.

We are happy to answer questions and provide more details in case of interest.

Thank you for your time and commitment to human rights.

Sincerely,

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